

Status of Cloud Seeding in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Cloud seeding is a cost benefit and environmental friendly technology and the present study is undertaken to review the status of cloud seeding and its future prospects in Pakistan. The science of weather modification includes augmenting precipitation, fog dispersion, hail, lightning suppression and hurricane modification. To augment precipitation (Cloud seeding) is however the general desires in order to meet the ever - increasing demand of water supply throughout the world. The basic objective of the study was to highlight the needs of the technology in Pakistan regarding its different aspects. Seeding potentials for different cloud systems and meteorological factors prevailing over the country are assessed. Post project assessment of cloud seeding activity in Pakistan is carried out as case study. It is ascertained that suitability of clouds and real time assessment are important determinants in cloud seeding. It is recommended that clouds should be used for better water management. It is highlighted keeping in view the cost/benefit ratio and environmental aspect of the technology. There is need to carry out analysis to capture the huge amounts of atmospheric energy such as lightning and thunder in the near future to meet the requirements of sustainable energy sources.

Key words: cloud seeding, precipitation, artificial raining, and seeding agents.