

Minutes for the 'Consultative Meeting on Crop Production

Consultative meeting was held on 5th September 2018 (Wednesday) at RSPN HO Islamabad, following members participated this event:

- 1) Mr. Banaras Khan, Project Officer, FAO, Islamabad,
- 2) Dr. Yaqoob Mujahid, Harvest Plus, NARC, Islamabad,
- 3) Dr. M. Yousuf, Coordinator – RICE, NARC/PARC, Islamabad,
- 4) Mr. Hyder Abbas, Wheat section, NARC, Islamabad,
- 5) Mr. Deedar A Bhutto, Coordinator Agriculture AAP, Government of Sindh, Karachi,
- 6) Mr. Mustafa Nangraj, Deputy Coordinator Agriculture AAP, Government of Sindh, Karachi,
- 7) Mr. Khaleel A. Tetley, Chief Operating Officer, RSPN, Islamabad,
- 8) Mr. Bashir Anjum, Specialist Social Sector/Manager Special Project Wing, RSPN, Islamabad,
- 9) Rabia Rauf, Technical Coordinator FSL/WASH, Action Against Hunger, Islamabad,
- 10) Rao Ayub Khan, Senior Technical Manager Agriculture, Action Against Hunger, Karachi.

The Agenda of this consultative meeting was as follows:

	Topics	Lead by
1	Welcome Remarks	Mr. Khaleel Tetley
2	Purpose of Meeting	Mr. Bashir Anjum (RSPN)
3	Introduction to Crop Production intervention in Sindh	Mr. Bashir Anjum
4	Discussion on material / Crop production technology to be disseminated to small farmers	Rao Ayub Khan / Discussion
5	Discussion on preparation of pictorial material to be used for farmers meeting.	Discussions
6	Vote of thanks	RSPN
7	Lunch.	

Welcome remarks by Mr. Khaleel Tetlay:

COO RSPN welcome to all participants in consultative meeting, He said that this meeting is participating by the representatives & officials from NARC-Islamabad (Government of Pakistan), Government of Sindh, United Nations (FAO), International Organization (Harvest Plus), Action Against Hunger and the host of this event The RSPN, Agriculture is included in our priority thematic areas, and also the key stakeholders of PINS ER3 program, under which we are working with Government of Sindh in ten districts of Sindh funded by EU.

Opening remarks:

Mr. Bashir Anjum shared a brief overview of agriculture & food security component of PINS program with participants, He said that under PINS program we have to increase capacity /support small farmers having 1-5 acres of agriculture land in our targeted 10 districts, as "Food crops" for Sindh include wheat and rice. As the next sowing season is of wheat, so during this meeting while considering the Wheat crop, first we will focus / Identify the key messages of "Crop Production Technology on Wheat," and secondly the methodology of dissemination these messages to targeted communities.

This meeting was set up to reach a consensus on:

1. What sort of information needs to be given to the farmers?
2. How should this information be disseminated? Pictorial form, a documentary or just verbal communication?
3. How often should meetings be held with the local farmers to convey this information?

Presentation of Wheat Production Technology:

A presentation on Wheat Production Technology was shared with meeting participants by Mr. Rao Ayub Khan, covering the pre & post-harvest management of Wheat crop,

Key Messages Identified:

- 1) Appropriate time of Wheat Crop sowing,
- 2) Information about Seed including Seed varieties, type of seed (Certified Seed), sources of seed availability, seed treatment,
- 3) Land preparation & Sowing methods,
- 4) Balance use of fertilizer including Role of Zinc as micro nutrient and green manuring,
- 5) Damages of weeds in Wheat crop production,
- 6) Critical periods of irrigation water for wheat cultivation,
- 7) Harvesting Techniques,
- 8) Proper Wheat storage.

Input from participants:

- The table below explains the information that needs to be gathered for regions/districts of Sindh to tailor crop production in the province.

Region	Districts	Time of Sowing	Seed Variety	Relevant Fertilizer
Northern Sindh				
Central Sindh				
Southern Sindh				

- Zero Tillage practice has been advised for wheat. This technique would help conserve water.
- Land preparation: improved land preparation and sowing methods such as drill sowing need to be introduced.
- Seed variety should be heat tolerance, short duration, local environment acceptable,
- Do not burn land after crop reaping.
- Information dissemination at three stages instead of one:
 1. Stage 1: First meeting should be held in October, a month before land preparation. The agricultural workers will discuss information regarding land preparation, seed sowing, fertilizer and irrigations. This covers up to first 45 days of the crop's life.
 2. Stage 2: Hold second meeting in December / January. This will deal with the overall crop management, fertilizer application and water.
 3. Stage 3: Meeting will be held in February or early March. This would include the last water step to post harvest instructions.

Decisions taken:

- 1) As FAO-UN have already developed a pictorial resource curriculum and Soil Fertility Atlas of Pakistan, FAO is willing to share a soft copy of this resource material to RSPN for its printing, editing and use under PINS program,
- 2) After required modification, Document of Crop Production Technology on Wheat will be share with Coordinator Agriculture AAP for their final inputs and endorsement, this document will be printing as technical leaflet for RSPs staff,
- 3) Next meeting will be held in Hyderabad/Karachi on the 29th of September.