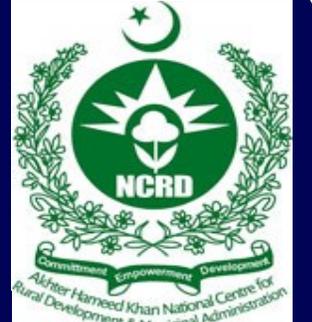




GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION
AKHTAR HAMEED KHAN NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RURAL
DEVELOPMENT (AHKNCRD)
ISLAMABAD



NEWSLETTER

Vol: VIII Issue: II Apr-Jun 2025

VISION

“Socio-economic empowerment of rural and the under-privileged communities for sustainable development”

MISSION

“Knowledge-based capacity building of the Public & development sectors engaged in rural development”



Mr. Inamullah Khan,
Secretary, Establishment
Division, Islamabad



View of the Main Building of NCRD



Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan,
Director General,
NCRD, Islamabad

AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative International Training Programme on “Irrigation Systems and Water Management” 08-17 April, 2025



Group photo of Delegates with Director General (NCRD), Members of Diplomatic Core and other dignitaries

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Irrigation Systems and Water Management play a vital role in enhancing agricultural productivity, ensuring food security, and sustaining rural livelihoods. Efficient water management is essential in regions facing water scarcity and climate variability. Modern irrigation systems such as drip and sprinkler irrigation not only conserve water but also improve crop yield and resource efficiency. Equally important are traditional methods, like karez and canal systems, which still serve many rural areas. Integrated water resource management (IWRM) approaches emphasize the equitable distribution, participatory governance, and environmental sustainability of water use. Strengthening rural water governance, investing in infrastructure, and training farmers in water-efficient practices are critical for resilient rural development and poverty

alleviation. In the light of the importance of the subject matter, Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD) in collaboration with African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) organized an international training workshop titled “Irrigation Systems and Water Management” during 08-17 April, 2025. The workshop was inaugurated on April 09, 2025.

International participants from 13 Asian and African member countries including Pakistan attended the training programme. 05 Asian and 08 African continents were represented in the programme. The training programme was inaugurated on April 09, 2025.

The ceremony was virtually attended by Secretary General AARDO, Dr. Manoj

Nardeosingh, Assistant Secretary General AARDO, Mr. Rami Mahmoud Abdel Halim Qtaishat and other officials from AARDO. The session was also attended by members of diplomatic corps, including Md. Aminul Islam Khan, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Islamabad; Amb. Daniel Mumina Ntanda, Deputy Head of Mission, Kenya High Commission, Islamabad; Auwala Garba, Third Secretary, Nigeria High Commission, Islamabad; and Abdulraheem Y. Hasan, Deputy Head of Mission & Counsellor, Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as well as distinguished guests belonging to various Government departments and nation-building organizations including Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir, Former Director General, NCRD; Dr. Robina

AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative International Training Programme on "Irrigation Systems and Water Management," 08-17 April, 2025



Grp. Photo of Delegates, NCRD Officers during a field visit

Wahaj, Senior Land and Water Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Islamabad; Malik Fateh Khan, Regional Head, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP); Mr. Abdul Ahad, Deputy Secretary, Establishment Division; Dr. Shabbir Hussain, CEO ORECON Consulting & Former Chief of Party USAID, Islamabad; Brig. (R) Aslam Khan, President, Rural Development Foundation, Islamabad; Dr. M. Azeem Khan, Chief Agriculture Advisor, Lackson Group of Companies, Islamabad & Former Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council; Mr. Tariq Nazir, District Program Officer ICT, National Rural Support Programme; and Ms. Samia Rashid, CEO & Founder, E-PROHUB and Skill Trainer.

The main objectives of the workshop were to familiarize the participants with prevailing situation of water resources in Afro-Asian region; identify and discuss major issues in management of water resources; & deliberate on the state policies and strategies; and share experiences and best practices in irrigation and water management and suggest suitable measures to overcome the challenges.

In his welcome address, Director General NCRD, Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan, expressed great honor at the opening of the AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative International Training Programme on "Irrigation Systems and Water Management." He welcomed the delegates from AARDO member countries, delegates of the diplomatic corps and other dignitaries and commended the efforts of AARDO officials, especially Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh, Secretary General AARDO, for organizing the event in Pakistan.

During his virtual address, Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh, Secretary General, AARDO, expressed his appreciation for the strong partnership between AARDO and NCRD, terming it a model of South-South cooperation. He applauded the tireless efforts of the NCRD team under the dynamic leadership of Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan, Director General NCRD, for successfully organizing this timely and relevant international training workshop. Highlighting the theme "Irrigation System and Water Management", Dr. Nardeosingh emphasized its significance in achieving sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring food security amidst increasing climate-related challenges. He lauded Pakistan's continued engagement with AARDO and reaffirmed the Organization's commitment to supporting member countries through knowledge-sharing and capacity building.

In his address, the Chief Guest Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir, Former Director General expressed great honor at the opening of the AARDO-AHKNCRD Collaborative International Training Workshop on "Irrigation System and Water Management." He mentioned that with agriculture at our core, Pakistan faces water stress aggravated by climate change. He expressed a strong presumption that the Training Programme, complemented by in-house sessions and field visits, would provide profound insights to the participants and experts from the AARDO member countries.

The training programme was designed in such a way that the worthy participants could have theoretical perspective of Irrigation Systems and Water Management as well as have exposure of few on-ground management facilities and systems in Pakistan.

As part of the training workshop, participants were taken on field visits to key institutions including the Irrigation Research Centre in Gujranwala, Punjab; Rawal Watershed Field Station, Islamabad; Dhoke Talian Dam, District Chakwal; Tarbela Dam; Barani Agriculture Research Institute (BARI); Soil water Conservation Research Institute (SAWCRI); Dharabi Dam; and Pakistan Council for Water Resources (PCRWR).

The classroom sessions of the training course included: "Water Security and Sustainable Development: Current and Future Challenges" and "Water Resources and Irrigation Management in Pakistan" delivered by Dr. Qazi Tallat Mehmood, Chief Engineer Federal Flood Commission, Ministry of Water Resources; "Challenges and opportunities of Water Management in the Indus Basin in Pakistan" by Engr. Mushtaq Ahmed Gill, Former Director General, On-Farm water Management, Punjab and Chief Executive officer SACAN (South Asian Cooperation in Agriculture Network); "Flood Water Management/Spate Irrigation System of Pakistan" by Dr. Nauman Latif, Director Climate, Energy and water Resources Research Institute (CAWRI) of National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC); "Water Quality: Issues and Management" was discussed by Dr. Shakeel Badshah of Pakistan Council for Water Resources (PCRWR); 'Advanced Technologies in Irrigation and Water Management' by Mr. Muhammad Maqsood, Senior water Management Specialist from Food and agriculture Organization (FAO); and "Smart Irrigation for Climate Adaptation and Food Security" by Dr. Parwez Amir, Senior Advisor Partnership, Islamabad.

Every drop counts—manage water wisely

Efficient irrigation sustains life and livelihoods

Smart water management is smart climate action

Every drop counts—manage water wisely

Efficient irrigation sustains life and livelihoods

Smart water management is smart climate action

AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative National Seminar on “Good Governance: Issues and Possible Solutions,” 22 May, 2025



Grp. Photo of Panelists with Director (Trg.), NCRD Officers & Participants

Accountability
turns power
into responsi-
bility.

Citizen partic-
ipation is the
heartbeat of
good govern-
ance.

Good govern-
ance is meas-
ured by how
the most vul-
nerable are
treated.

Good governance is critical for effective public service delivery, social justice, and sustainable development. However, many countries face persistent challenges such as weak institutional capacity, lack of transparency, corruption, inadequate accountability mechanisms, and limited citizen participation. These issues undermine trust in government and hinder progress. To address them, it is essential to strengthen institutional frameworks, adopt digital tools to improve transparency, enforce strict anti-corruption measures, and build the capacity of public officials. Promoting participatory governance by involving communities in decision-making processes and ensuring timely access to information can also enhance accountability and responsiveness. By implementing these solutions, governments can create more inclusive, efficient, and credible systems that better serve their citizens.

In the light of the importance of the subject matter, AHKNCRD organized a Seminar on “Good Governance: Issues and Possible Solutions”, on 22 May, 2025 in collaboration with African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO). The seminar aimed to deepen understanding of governance and its diverse dimensions in relation to service delivery, explore best practices from developing countries, review key policies and initiatives of the Government of Pakistan, and offer a platform for participants to share experiences on how effective governance can improve services nationwide.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, Director (Training, NCRD). During the inaugural session, he welcomed the partici-

pants and emphasized the critical importance of strengthening governance systems to achieve sustainable socio-economic development. He highlighted that effective governance requires capable leadership, strong institutions, and active citizen engagement to address the complex challenges facing Pakistan today. Dr. Abdul Rehman underscored that the seminar aimed to provide a platform for dialogue, learning, and collaboration among practitioners, policymakers, and civil society actors. He encouraged participants to share their experiences openly and to translate the insights gained into practical reforms within their organizations.

The technical sessions and engaging discussions were led by renowned resource persons. The session included a number of insightful presentations by distinguished speakers who shared diverse perspectives on governance, drawing connections between global experiences and Pakistan’s evolving governance landscape.

Mr. Zafarullah Khan, a respected civic educator based in Islamabad, introduced participants to the key concepts and principles of governance, explaining how global frameworks such as good governance standards, transparency benchmarks, and participatory models can be adapted to local contexts to improve institutional performance. He underscored the importance of civic education in nurturing an informed citizenry capable of engaging constructively with governance processes.

Mr. Shahbaz Aftab, Founder and Advocate at Level-3 Leaders, delved into the complexities of leadership in governance, highlighting common challenges such as capacity gaps, ethical dilemmas, and resistance to reform. He presented

practical strategies and case examples to cultivate transformational leadership, accountability, and innovation within public institutions.

Dr. Khalid Rehman, Chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies, emphasized the indispensable role of civil society in holding governments accountable and bridging the gap between citizens and decision-makers. He discussed mechanisms for promoting transparency, monitoring public policies, and advocating for social justice.

The session ended with Q&A and wrap-up discussion, where all panelists engaged with participants’ questions, shared lessons learned, and encouraged attendees to play an active role in advancing good governance practices and fostering democratic values in Pakistan.

At the conclusion of the seminar, the participants expressed their appreciation for the thoughtful design and practical relevance of the sessions. They commended NCRD for bringing together experienced speakers and creating an open environment for meaningful dialogue on governance challenges and solutions. Many participants noted that the discussions had broadened their understanding of leadership, civic engagement, and the role of civil society in strengthening accountability. They also shared that the seminar equipped them with valuable strategies and tools they could apply in their respective departments and communities. In their feedback, participants thanked the organizers for their efforts in promoting professional development and fostering a collective commitment to improving governance practices in Pakistan.

Strong nations are built on the strength of their people.

Nation building begins with unity and ends with shared progress.

A developed nation is the result of determined citizens.

Responsibility is the first act of true citizenship.

AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative National Seminar on “Nation Building and Responsible Citizenship,” 29 May, 2025



Grp. Photo of Hon'ble Panelists, Director (T) NCRD, NCRD Officers & Seminar Participants

Nation-building is a comprehensive effort to strengthen a country's institutions, promote unity among its people, and drive sustainable economic, social, and cultural progress. It involves creating a shared sense of identity and purpose that transcends individual differences, enabling communities to work together toward common goals. At the core of this process is responsible citizenship, which requires individuals to be informed, engaged, and committed to upholding the principles of justice, equality, and respect for diversity. Responsible citizens actively participate in democratic processes, follow the rule of law, and contribute to the welfare of society through volunteerism, accountability, and constructive dialogue. By embracing these roles, citizens not only help build resilient institutions and vibrant communities but also lay the foundation for a more inclusive, prosperous, and cohesive nation.

Keep in view the importance of subject matter, NCRD organized a one day seminar on “Nation Building and Responsible Citizenship.” The training was joined by a total of 45 participants from across the country.

In his welcome address, Director (Training), Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, expressed great honor at the opening of the AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative seminar on “Nation Building and Responsible Citizenship.” He welcomed the participants for joining the seminar.

The seminar invited three eminent resource persons for the technical sessions.

Mr. Wahaj us Siraj emphasized that nation building is not limited to the

work of governments alone but requires the active involvement of every citizen. He explained that creating strong institutions, fostering economic growth, and strengthening social cohesion depend on individuals understanding their responsibilities toward society. Responsible citizenship means being aware of one's rights and duties, showing respect for laws and diversity, and contributing positively to the community. He highlighted that in an increasingly interconnected and fast-changing world, citizens who are ethical, informed, and engaged play a vital role in building a resilient and progressive nation.

Dr. Khurrum Elahi reflected on how the thoughts and vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal continue to guide the idea of national integration in Pakistan. He shared that Quaid's emphasis on unity, faith, and discipline laid the foundation for a cohesive society, while Iqbal's philosophy inspired self-awareness, dignity, and collective purpose. Dr. Elahi underscored that embracing these values is essential to bridge regional, ethnic, and linguistic divides and to nurture a sense of shared destiny. He encouraged participants to draw inspiration from these leaders' messages to strengthen social bonds and promote tolerance and harmony.

In his session, Mr. Zafar Ullah Khan outlined practical steps for advancing nation building and cultivating responsible citizenship in Pakistan. He stressed the importance of civic education to help people understand how their participation and accountability impact governance and development. He also called for stronger community engagement, inclusive policymaking, and efforts to empower marginalized groups. As a way forward, he urged

institutions, civil society, and citizens to work hand in hand to promote transparency, uphold democratic values, and create opportunities for meaningful civic participation. This collective effort, he concluded, is key to building a prosperous and united nation.

During the concluding ceremony, participants lauded the training programme for its rich content, expert sessions, and interactive learning environment. They appreciated how the discussions on nation building and responsible citizenship deepened their understanding of the pivotal role individuals and communities play in shaping a cohesive and progressive society. Many remarked that Mr. Wahaj us Siraj's session clearly illustrated how strong institutions are built not only through policies but also through the everyday contributions of citizens who uphold integrity, accountability, and civic values. The reflections by Dr. Khurrum Elahi on the messages of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal provided a renewed sense of purpose and unity, reminding everyone that national integration requires a shared commitment to tolerance, respect, and collective progress.

Participants also valued Mr. Zafar Ullah Khan's practical insights on the way forward, especially his emphasis on civic education, inclusive engagement, and empowering underrepresented groups to take active roles in public life. The interactive discussions and group activities helped participants connect theoretical concepts with real-world practices and encouraged them to reflect on how they could apply these principles within their communities and workplaces.

AARDO-AHKNCRD Collaborative International Online Training Programme on “Social Mobilization and Community Engagement for Rural Development,” June 23-26, 2025

AARDO-AHKNCRD organized a four day Online training programme on Social Mobilization and Community Engagement for Rural Development” from June 23-26, 2025.

The objectives of the programme included the following: to discuss the approach of enabling individuals and groups to take control of their lives and actively participate in decision-making processes affecting their communities; to educate participants on important aspects of community health education, sanitation, and social justice to promote informed decision-making; to emphasize the development of skills and leadership within communities so they can effectively address local challenges and manage projects; and to provide a forum for sharing experiences and strategies regarding the role of social mobilization and community engagement.

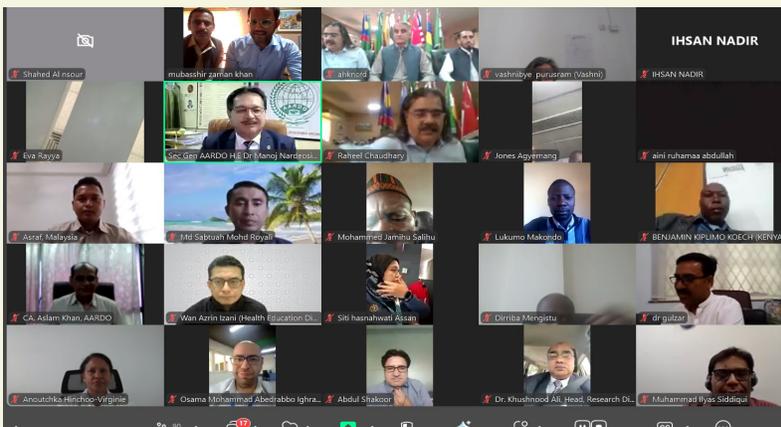
The objectives of the programme included the following: to discuss the approach of enabling individuals and groups to take control of their lives and actively participate in decision-making processes affecting their communities; to educate

participants on important aspects of community health education, sanitation, and social justice to

A total of 82 participants joined from Pakistan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zambia, Jordan, Sudan, Philippines, Nigeria, Egypt, Malawi, Oman, Kenya, Morocco, Eswatini, Gambia, South Africa, Nepal, Syria and Sri Lanka. Both inaugural and concluding ceremonies were virtually joined by Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh, Secretary General AARDO and other AARDO Officials.

Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan, Director General NCRD, thanked AARDO for their valuable support and collaboration in organizing the event.

Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh highlighted the critical role of empowering communities to drive their own development. He emphasized that social mobilization is essential not only for addressing poverty and inequality but also for fostering resilience and self-reliance among rural populations. He appreciated NCRD’s commitment to building capacities at the grassroots level and underscored AARDO’s dedication to supporting member countries in strengthening participatory approaches.



Snapshot of the online training programme

promote informed decision-making; to emphasize the development of skills and leadership within communities so they can effectively address local challenges and manage projects; and to provide a forum for sharing experiences and strategies regarding the role of social mobilization and community engagement.

LG&RD Department Gilgit-Baltistan Delegation visits NCRD, 05 May, 2025

On May 05, 2025, the National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD) had the honor of hosting a delegation from the LG&RD Department of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The visit aimed to explore avenues for collaboration in the field of capacity building. The delegation was led by Raja Mirza Karim (Deputy Director) and included Mr. Ali Haider (Deputy Director) and Mr. Malik Mushtaq (Deputy Director).

The primary objective of the visit was to study administrative structures, operational models, and training frameworks currently being implemented at NCRD, with the vision to replicate similar systems in Gilgit-Baltistan. The delegation expressed a keen interest in exploring the establishment of a Local Government & Rural Development Research and Training Institute (LG&RD RTI) in Gilgit-Baltistan. This proposed institute aims to provide targeted capacity-building programs, research support, and policy guidance to local government officials in the region.

The meeting with the delegation was chaired by

Director General NCRD, Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan. The session was attended by officers of NCRD, including Mr. Mubasshir Zaman, Deputy Director; Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Jamil, Research Officer; and Ms. Maira Razzaq, Assistant Director.

During the visit, the team thoroughly reviewed various training modules, curricula, and institu-

decentralization efforts, enabling institutional development and human resource enhancement in Gilgit-Baltistan’s local governance landscape. The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan has expressed its commitment to advancing rural development through structured training programs and evidence-based policymaking, with NCRD positioned

as a strategic partner in this initiative. The delegation lauded the dedicated efforts of the NCRD team in the domain of capacity building and rural development, acknowledging their commitment to designing and implementing impactful training programmes, fostering knowledge exchange, and promoting sustainable development practices. At the end of



Group photo of DG NCRD, NCRD Officers, delegates and meeting coordinator

tional facilities available at NCRD. NCRD team assured full technical and institutional support to the LG&RD Department of Gilgit-Baltistan in realizing their vision for a dedicated Research and Training Institute-RTI.

This visit marked a significant step towards strengthening intergovernmental cooperation and

the meeting, the delegation was given a tour of the NCRD premises, showcasing its training facilities and ongoing initiatives. The tour helped the visiting officials gain a practical understanding of how a dedicated training and research institute functions, further reinforcing their interest in establishing a similar model in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Training Course on “Socio-economic Development & SDGs’ Status,” 21-25 April, 25

Socioeconomic development is a critical component of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to address global challenges and improve the well-being of all people. Assessing the status of SDGs involves monitoring progress towards targets related to poverty alleviation, education, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and more. By tracking indicators such as income levels, access to basic services, and employment rates, countries can gauge their advancement towards sustainable development and identify areas requiring greater attention and investment.

Keeping in view the importance of SDGs, NCRD organized a five days’ training course on “Socioeconomic Development and SDGs’ Status” from April 21-25, 2025. The training program was attended by 46 participants from diverse backgrounds and areas the country.

Eminent resource persons that delivered tech-

anical sessions during the programme included: Mr. Muhammad Ali Kemal, Chief (SDG)/Project Director Federal Sustainable Development Goals Section (Ministry of Planning, Development &

Mr. Haseeb Kiyani, Chief Executive Officer, PakAid, Senior Consultant, World Bank/ BISP; Dr. Ahsan Abbas, Assistant Professor, National Defence University (NDU); and Dr. Khushbakht Hina, Head, Dept. of Educational Sciences, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad.



One of the training sessions in progress

Special Initiative); Mr. Khalid Rehman, Chairman, Institute of Policy Studies; Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Resilient Future International; Dr. M. Irfan Khan, Former Professor / Dean, International Islamic University (IIUI); Mr. Ammar Jaffri, Former Additional DG FIA, Founder Digital Pakistan, and Chairman SDGs Academy Private Limited; Dr. Shabbir Hussain, CEO ORECON Consulting & Former Chief of Party USAID;

While talking to the participants, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, Director Training, NCRD, emphasized the critical role of capacity building in achieving the SDGs at the grassroots level. He highlighted that socio-economic development cannot be achieved in isolation and requires an integrated approach involving effective governance, inclusive planning, and strong institutional coordination. He urged participants to apply the knowledge gained during the course within their respective departments and communities, noting that empowered and informed officials are key drivers of sustainable change.

Trg. Workshop on “Professional Ethics for Efficiency and Management,” 28-30 Apr, 2025

Professional ethics are fundamental pillars for ensuring efficiency and effective management in any field. Upholding ethical standards is crucial for fostering trust, integrity, and accountability within an organization or profession. By adhering to ethical principles, professionals demonstrate respect for stakeholders, maintain confidentiality, and strive for transparency in their actions. Embracing professional ethics not only strengthens the reputation of individuals and organizations but also contributes to sustainable success and positive outcomes in diverse professional settings. NCRD organized a three days’ training workshop on “Professional Ethics for Efficiency and Management” from April 28-30, 2025, which was attended by 67 participants from different regions of the country.

The eminent resource persons that were invited to impart technical and issue-oriented

knowledge on subject matter included Mr. Shahbaz Aftab, CEO, Schuitema, Rawalpindi; Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, CEO Resilient Future International Pvt. Ltd.; Ms. Erum Rizvi, Communications

such as work ethics, personal character, professionalism, empathy, religious perspectives, and leadership qualities. Through their expertise, participants gained valuable insights into navigating ethical dilemmas and upholding integrity in their professional endeavors.



Group Photo of Participants with Director (Trg.), NCRD

Consultant, Adventures Academy & Director, Communications, Adroit; Dr. Khurram Elahi, Assistant Professor, PIDE, Islamabad; and Mr. Usman Aakash, Director, Ave Rose Education System, Islamabad.

The resource persons provided a comprehensive overview of professional ethics, covering topics

The participants praised the quality of discussions and resolved to adopting the use of digital avenues for meeting the modern challenges in the course on Professional Ethics for Efficiency and Management.

In his concluding remarks, the Director Training, NCRD, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi emphasized the importance of professional ethics and integrity as essential foundations for effective socio-economic development. He underscored that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires not only technical knowledge and strategic planning but also a strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in public service.

Training Course “Social Research Methodology and Techniques,” 05-09 May, 2025

Social Research Methodology and Techniques are vital tools for understanding complex societal issues, informing evidence-based policies, and designing effective development interventions. By employing systematic approaches to data collection, analysis, and interpretation, social research enables practitioners and policymakers to uncover patterns, measure impacts, and identify the real needs of communities.

In recognition of the importance of social research, NCRD organized a 5-day training course whose major objectives were to enhance participants' understanding of social research methodology, strengthen their skills in designing and conducting studies, and equip them with practical tools for data analysis and reporting. The course aimed to build the capacity of professionals to generate reliable evidence for policy formulation and effective program implementation.

Dr. Khushbakht Hina, Associate Professor and Director QEC at NUML Islamabad, delivered an

insightful session focusing on the intersection of research and sustainable development.

Dr. Qasim Mahmood, Assistant Professor at NUML Islamabad, conducted a focused session on conceptualizing research constructs and understanding the scientific research process.

bad, led a concise session on technical issues in research tools, offering solutions to enhance their effectiveness. He explained key concepts of validity and reliability, emphasizing how to ensure research instruments accurately measure what they intend to and produce consistent results.



Group photo of Participants with Director (Training)

Dr. Umm-e-Laila, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Governance and Public Policy at NUST Islamabad, delivered an engaging session on data collection techniques for both quantitative and qualitative research.

Dr. Obaid Ullah, Manager QEC at NUML Islama-

Ms. Rabia Zafar, Consultant Researcher at Jhpiego Islamabad, conducted a practical session introducing SPSS Statistics. She guided participants through setting up SPSS data sheets, demonstrating how to import and export data efficiently. She also discussed Inferential Statistics (1-Way ANOVA) and simple and multiple linear regression.

Finally, Mr. Raheel Nazir Chaudhary, CEO of Rah-e-Nau Constellations, delivered a detailed session on research proposal and design. He explained how to develop a clear, structured proposal, outlining key components such as objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes. He also shared a step-by-step writing plan to help participants craft compelling and well-organized research proposals aligned with academic and professional standards.

Trg. Workshop on “Human Development for Socio-economic Progress,” 12-14 May, 2025

Human development serves as the cornerstone for driving socio-economic progress, as empowered individuals are essential agents of change within communities. By investing in education, healthcare, and skill development, societies can unlock the potential of their citizens, fostering innovation, productivity, and inclusive growth. A focus on human development not only enhances individual well-being but also promotes social cohesion and economic resilience, laying a solid foundation for sustainable development and prosperity.

Keeping in mind the above-mentioned purpose, NCRD organized a three days' training workshop on “Human Development for Socio-Economic Progress” from May 12-14, 2025, which was attended by participants from different regions of the country.

The course covered a diverse range of topics, beginning with an examination of human development and economic growth within a comparative framework. Discussions extended to the alignment of national goals with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the importance of targeted strategies

for advancing human development. Government policies and initiatives aimed at enhancing human welfare were analyzed, alongside an exploration of key metrics such as the Human Development Index (HDI). Moral and ethical considerations

disparities and promote community participation in the pursuit of holistic human development in Pakistan.

Eminent resource persons including Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan, Former Professor/ Dean, International Islamic University, Islamabad; Ms. Aiman Amjad, Assistant Chief, SDGs Section, Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives; Dr. Shahzad Iqbal Sham, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad; Ms. Shabana Nawaz, Director (Social Welfare), Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad; Dr. Arif Leghari, Director, Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad; and Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Resilient Future International, Islamabad.



A glimpse from one of the training sessions in progress

were also critically examined as impediments to progress, while highlighting the significance of social and emotional well-being in human development. Human security, human rights, and gender justice emerged as crucial pillars for inclusive socio-economic development, underscoring the imperative of addressing disparities and fostering responsible citizenship. The course underscored the vital role of education in human capital formation and poverty eradication, aiming to bridge

In the end, the participants lauded the efforts of NCRD in shedding light on the various dimensions of human development, including education, health, livelihood enhancement, and social inclusion. They also thanked NCRD for equipping them with practical insights, analytical tools, and strategies that would enable them to contribute more effectively to socio-economic progress and policy development in Pakistan.

Please visit us on www.ncrd.gov.pk

You can apply online to participate in any of the programs.

Trg. Workshop on “Effective Governance for Service Delivery,” 19-21 May, 2025

NCRD organized a three-day training workshop on “Effective Governance for Service Delivery” from May 19-21, 2025. The programme was joined by officers from different regions of the country.

The major objectives of the training workshop were to help participants learn about the theme of governance and its various aspects with respect to effective service delivery, to discuss best practices of governance from around the developing world, and to provide an

overview of the policies and initiatives undertaken by the Government of Pakistan to strengthen governance in the country. Additionally, the workshop aimed to offer a forum for sharing relevant experiences and insights on the role of good governance in ensuring better public services nationwide.

The technical sessions were facilitated by eminent resource persons including Dr. Usman

Mustafa, Consultant and Cotton Commissioner, Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Islamabad; Dr. Imran Ihsan, Head of Depart-

ments including Introduction & Significance of Effective Governance for Service Delivery; Principles & Frameworks of Effective Governance; Gov-



Glimpse from one of the classroom sessions

ment, Creative Intelligence Department, Air University, Islamabad; Dr. Ume Laila, Associate Professor, Dept. of Governance & Public Policy, National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), Islamabad; Mr. Haseeb Ahmed Kiyani,

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), PakAID, Islamabad; and Dr. Ahsan Abbas, Associate Professor, National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad.

The training workshop covered a wide range of

Government Policies & Initiatives for Effective Governance in Pakistan; Innovation, Technology & Action Planning for Effective Governance; Digital Divide, Accessibility & Inclusivity w.r.t. E-

Governance; Global Trends & Best Practices of Governance; Tools, Strategies & Accountability Mechanisms for Effective Governance;

Capacity Building of Human Capital for Effective Governance in Pakistan; Citizen Engagement & Social Mobilization for Effective Governance; Inclusive and Citizen-centric Governance; and Group Work: Designing Action Plans for Improvement in Governance.

The training concluded with insightful discussions and a renewed commitment to enhancing governance practices, promoting responsible citizenship, and applying the knowledge gained to improve service delivery in respective communities.

Trg. Course on “Managing Water Resources: Challenges & Solutions ,” 19-23 May, 2025

From May 19-23, 2025, National Center for Rural Development (NCRD) organized a five-day training course titled “Managing Water Resources: Challenges and Solutions.”

A total of 34 participants belonging to different departments and organizations joined the training workshop. The participants represented public, non-governmental and academic sectors from all over the country.

The training course comprised of 4 to 5 sessions daily. The intellectual and participatory sessions were based on delivery of lectures coupled with participatory discussions as well as a questions-and-answers session at the end of each session. A total

of Seven Resource Persons were invited to deliver the sessions including Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Former Chairman, Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Islamabad; Mr. Rao Irshad Ali, Former Chairman, Indus River System Authority (IRSA), Islamabad; Mr. Shakeel Badshah, Senior Research Officer, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Islamabad; Dr. Perwaiz Amir, Senior Adviser and Board Director,

Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP), Islamabad; Engr. Muhammad Asif, Scientific Officer, Climate Energy Water Research Institute (CEWRI), National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad; Engr. Zafar Iqbal, Superintending Engi-

neers Threats & opportunities; Water Quality Assessment & Management; Water Quality: Treatment & Testing; Climate Change and Water Resource Management; Water Saving Technologies & Applications; Floods Risk Management in Pakistan; Existing Flood Management Practices; and Water Conservation & Development.



Group photo of workshop Participants with Director (Training) NCRD

neer Floods, Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Islamabad; and Dr. Ghani Akbar, Senior Scientific Officer, National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad.

The contents included in the training course were Overview of Water Resources in Pakistan; Water Governance in Pakistan – Policy and Challenges; Water Resource Management in Pakistan;

In his concluding remarks, Director (Training) NCRD, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, appreciated the active participation and keen interest shown by all participants. He emphasized that managing water resources is a critical challenge requiring collaborative efforts, innovative thinking, and practical solutions. He commended the resource persons for sharing their valuable expertise on a wide range of topics—from water

governance and conservation to flood management and climate change impacts. He highlighted that the insights gained during the five-day training would not only enhance the participants’ professional capacities but also contribute meaningfully to sustainable water resource management in Pakistan. He encouraged everyone to apply the knowledge and strategies learned in their respective organizations and communities.

Training Course on “Emerging Trends in Smart Agriculture,” 26-30 May, 2025

NCRD organized a five-day training course on "Emerging Trends in Smart Agriculture" from May 26-30, 2025. The programme was joined by officers from different regions mainly from departments of agriculture.

The participants also included farmers from various regions of Pakistan. The major objectives of the training programme involved to familiarize participants with the latest advancements and technologies in agriculture; to equip the participants with practical knowledge and skills essential for the successful integration of emerging trends in agriculture; and to facilitate networking and collaboration among

participants, encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences related to emerging trends in agriculture.

The course comprised intellectual and participatory sessions that combined the delivery of technical content with engaging discussions among participants. Various themes related to "Emerging Trends in Agriculture" in development projects were explored in depth, including

an overview of Pakistan's agriculture sector, the potential of smart farming with AI and IoT, and the current trends and future prospects of live-

institutes and departments: Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, Chief Advisor, Concave Agriculture & Lakson Group of Companies/ Ex-Chairman, PARC,



Director (Trg.) NCRD, Course Coordinator and Participants after the Concluding Ceremony

stock farming. Sessions also addressed critical topics such as water resources management, agricultural mechanization, regenerative and precision agriculture practices, advancing climate-smart techniques, and effective digital marketing strategies to grow businesses in the agriculture sector.

A total of seven Resource Persons were invited to deliver the sessions who belonged to the following

Saleem, Director, Center for Precision Agriculture, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi; Mr. Muhammad Arif Goheer, Executive Director, Global Climate Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), Islamabad; and Dr. Imran Ahsan, Head of Department, Creative Intelligence Department, Air, University, Islamabad.

The training concluded with insightful discussions to enhancing smart agriculture for sustainable development in Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Naveed Tahir, Director, IGEO/Project Director, DDSDP, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi; Engr. Ahmad Kamal, Former Chairman, Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Islamabad; Dr. Hafiz Sultan Mehmood, Director, Agriculture Engineering Institute, NARC, Islamabad; Dr. Shoaib Rashid

Trg. Workshop on “Eco-Tourism for Sustainable Development,” 26-28 May, 2025

AHKNCRD organized a three day training workshop on “Eco-Tourism for Sustainable Development” from May 26-28, 2025.

A total of five resource persons were invited to deliver the sessions, each bringing valuable expertise from their respective fields. The speakers included Mr. Munir Ahmed, Executive Director of Devcom Islamabad; Mr. Zafarullah Siddiqui, Former Joint Secretary and Managing Director of PTDC, Malam Jabba Tourist Resort; Mr. Muhammad Aurangzaib, Programme Manager for Environment and Agriculture at EV-K2-CNR Islamabad; Mr. Aftab Rana, Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism

Development Corporation Islamabad; and Mr. Abu Zafar Sadiq, President of the Alpine Club of Pakistan. Their diverse professional backgrounds enriched the programme with practical insights and a multi-disciplinary perspective.

The contents included in the training course covered a broad range of topics essential to understanding and advancing ecotourism in Pakistan. Participants explored the concept and op-

portunities of ecotourism, its guiding principles and practices, and the critical nexus between ecotourism and sustainable development. Sessions also focused on government policies and initiatives aimed at promoting ecotourism, strate-

The training programme was evaluated by the participants at the end using the overall training course proforma, providing structured feedback on the quality, relevance, and effectiveness of the sessions. During the closing ceremony, Dr. Abdul

Rehman Khan Niazi, Director (Training), NCRD, also invited verbal feedback to hear participants' reflections firsthand. Generally, the feedback was favourable, with participants expressing their appreciation for the thoughtful design of the course, the diverse expertise of the resource persons, and the engaging mix of technical presentations and interactive discussions. Many highlighted that the training had significantly enhanced their understanding of ecotourism, sustainable development, and community-based



Classroom session in progress

gies for fostering entrepreneurship and local employment, and approaches to conserving natural resources through responsible tourism. Additional modules addressed the planning and management process of ecotourism projects, cultural heritage and community-based tourism, a case study highlighting practical experiences from Pakistan, and insights into adventure tourism and outdoor recreational activities.

tourism opportunities in Pakistan.

The participants commended the training team for their dedication and the smooth organization of the programme. After the feedback session, the Director distributed certificates to the participants as recognition of their successful completion of the course, followed by a group photograph to mark the conclusion of the event.



ANNUAL TRAINING PLAN (ATP) 2025-26

Training Courses			
S#	Title	Date	Coordinator
1	Office Management: Rules and Procedures	Jul 14-18, 2025	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
2	Environmental Concerns- Issues & Practices	Jul 21-25, 2025	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director
3	Social Mobilization and Community Engagement for Rural Development	Jul 28-Aug 01, 2025	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
4	Poverty Alleviation: Challenges & Solutions	Aug 18-22, 2025	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer
5	Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Projects	Sep 08-12, 2025	Mr. Mubashir Zaman Deputy Director
6	Project Proposal Writing	Sep 15-19, 2025	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer
7	Socio-economic Development & SDGs' Status	Sep 22-26, 2025	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director
8	Emerging Trends in Agriculture	Sep 29-Oct 03, 2025	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
9	Managing Water Resources: Challenges and Solutions	27-31 Oct, 2025	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
10	Planning and Management of Development Projects	Nov 24-28, 2025	Mr. Mubashir Zaman Deputy Director
11	Alternate Energy Resources – Potential & Prospects	10-14 Nov, 2025	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director
12	Gender Mainstreaming for Socio-economic Development	Dec 08-12, 2025	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
13	Local Governance: A Key to Development	Dec 15-19, 2025	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
14	Food Security & Safety – Issues and Way Forward	Dec 29, 2025-Jan 02, 2026	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
15	Business Management for Small and Medium Enterprises	Jan 05-09, 2026	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
16	Livestock Management for Income Generation	Feb 09-13, 2026	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer
17	Solid Waste Management-Issues and Options	Feb 09-13, 2026	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director
18	Disaster Risk Management - Issues & Strategies	Mar 30-Apr 03, 2026	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
19	Social Protection in Pakistan: Programs and Strategies	Apr 06-10, 2025	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer
20	Climate Change – Mitigation and Adaptation	Apr 13-17, 2026	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
21	Artificial Intelligence & Digitalization in Libraries	May 04-08, 2026	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
22	Research Methodologies for Socio-economic Issues	May 11-15, 2026	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director

National Seminars in Collaboration with AARDO			
S#	Title	Date	Coordinator
1	Responsible Citizenry for Nation Building	Oct 02, 2025	Mr. Mubashir Zaman Khan, Deputy Director
2	Rural & Eco- Tourism for Sustainable Development	Oct 30-31, 2025	Mr. Mubashir Zaman Khan,
3	Governance and Service Delivery: Issues & Way Forward	Dec 18, 2025	Mr. Mubashir Zaman Khan,
4	Climate Change: Implications and Adaptation	Apr 16, 2026	Mr. Mubashir Zaman Khan,
International Training Programmes in Collaboration with AARDO and CIRDAP			
S#	Title	Date	Coordinator
1	Social Safety Nets : Challenges & Opportunities (Online) (AARDO)	Sep 22-25, 2025	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
2	Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation (AARDO)	Oct 15-23, 2025	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director
3	Irrigation Systems and Water Management (AARDO)	Jan 14-23, 2026	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer
4	Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation (CIRDAP)	19-26 Apr, 2026	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
5	Social Mobilization and Community Engagement for Rural Development (Online) (AARDO)	Apr 27-30, 2026	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
Training Workshops			
S#	Title	Date	Coordinator
1	Effective Governance for Service Delivery	Jul 21-23, 2025	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer
2	Human Rights & Development : Challenges & Opportunities	Aug 04-06, 2025	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
3	Management of Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation	Aug 11-13, 2025	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director
4	Eco-Tourism for Sustainable Development	Aug 18-20, 2025	Mr. Bilal Raza Assistant Director
5	Professional Ethics for Efficiency and Management	Aug 25-27, 2025	Mr. Mubashir Zaman Khan, Deputy Director
6	Report Writing Skills for Development Projects	Sep 01-03, 2025	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
7	Data Analytics for Policy Planning and Programme Design	Oct 06-08, 2025	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer
8	Ethical Leadership and Management at Work Place	Dec 01-05, 2025	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer
9	Emotional Intelligence for Workplace Success	Dec 08-12, 2025	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director
10	Digital Marketing & Entrepreneurship	Feb 02-04, 2026	Mr. Hanifullah, Research Officer
11	Communication & Presentation Skills for Professionals	Mar 30-Apr 01, 2026	Ms. Maira Razzaq Assistant Director
12	Human Development for Socio Economic Progress	Apr 27-29, 2026	Mr. M. Ahsan Jamil Research Officer

Note: The Schedule of Training Programmes is subject to change. Therefore, please confirm from concerned programme coordinators before sending nominations.



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