

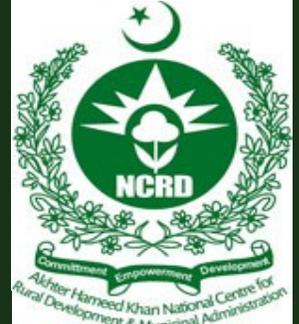


Establishment Division

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

# NEWSLETTER

Vol: V Issue: III Jul-Sep 2022



## 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”

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Mr. Inamullah Khan,  
Secretary, Establishment Division



Main Building of NCRD Complex



Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan  
Director General, NCRD

## Director General NCRD Attends CIRDAP’s 37th Technical Committee Meeting

The Technical Committee (TC) of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is composed of the heads of all CIRDAP Link Institutions, the Director General of FAO or a representative; a representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); the Director General of CIRDAP, and an integrated rural development (IRD) expert. It is an advisory body, which meets annually, the TC provides professional inputs, and assists in the implementation of the Centre’s programmes and projects in the member countries.

Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan, Director General NCRD attended 37th Meeting of the TC of CIRDAP, held at Bangkok, Thailand, from September 9-12, 2022. DG NCRD represented Pakistan in the TC meeting. The meeting was hosted and chaired by Thailand as member country of CIRDAP.

The session was opened by Dr. Yusharto Huntoungyo, M.Pd, Director General of Village Administration, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of the Republic of Indonesia, as outgoing chairman of TC. He thanked CIRDAP for organizing the TC meeting physically after almost three years owing to onset of Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Cherdasak Virapat, Director General, CIRDAP, thanked Dr. Huntoungyo-



Delegates and Observers while Attending the Meeting of CIRDAP’s TC-37

go for his services, unwavering support and leadership as Chairman TC.

DG NCRD urged CIRDAP to organized international training programmes in Pakistan and facilitate participants from its member countries to attend the programmes particularly on the subjects of irrigation system, water management, disaster risk management, and climate change.

Alongside the TC meeting proceedings, awarding ceremony of the Aziz-ul-Huq Rural Development Medal for 2022, was also held on September 9, 2022. The medal was awarded to Benazir

Income Support Programme (BISP), Government of Pakistan, for its impactful achievements in relation to rural development and poverty alleviation in Pakistan. Director General NCRD received the Medal on behalf of the Government of Pakistan and thanked CIRDAP for awarding BISP the medal. He added that role played by the institutions and programmes of social safety nets by the Government of Pakistan especially through BISP, have significantly reduced poverty in the country.

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand also arranged a study tour for the delegates to Mab Aung Natural Agriculture Centre in Ban Bueng district on September 11, 2022. The visiting delegates appreciated the training sessions for improving rural livelihoods and sustainable agriculture in light of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of the recently crowned King Rama IX the Great of Thailand.

The delegates also attended the 11th Global South-South Development Expo 2022 organized by UNESCAP and the Government of Thailand at the UNCC on September 12, 2022. The overarching theme of the conference was ‘Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Covid-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future’.



Director General, NCRD, Receiving Aziz-ul-Huq Rural Development Medal

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## The 79th Session of AARDO's Liaison Committee held in New Delhi, India

The Liaison Committee (LC) of African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) is an advisory body whose main function is to advise the AARDO Secretariat. It also reviews the activities of the Organization and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee of AARDO. It is membered by representatives of the diplomatic missions based in New Delhi of AARDO member countries as well as the representative of the Government of India.

The 79th Session of LC was held in New Delhi, India on September 28, 2022. The Session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Kwaku Asomah-Cheremeh, High Commissioner of Republic of Ghana to India as Chairman of the LC. Secretary General of AARDO attended the event as Member Secretary while the Assistant Secretary General AARDO was also present. Delegation from the High Commission of Pakistan to India, attended the Session and represented Pakistan.

The business session started with adoption of the provisional agenda and report of the previous (78th) session of LC and review of the follow-up

actions / recommendations on the decisions taken thereupon. The Committee took note of the Human Resource Development programmes, Pilot Projects and activities of the six Regional Offices of AARDO. Furthermore, the LC reviewed the status of membership contribution as well as efforts for strengthening member relations during January-June 2022.



Delegates from Member Countries of AARDO while Attending the 79th Session of the Liaison Committee

It also took cognizance of the programmes to be organized by AARDO during October 2022-March 2023.

Moreover, the Committee decided to hold its next (80th) Session on 28th March 2023 and, approved a list of Special Invitees to attend therein, as Observers. On the sideline of the 79th Session of Liaison

Committee and in the context of AARDO's jubilee celebration, a Technology awareness and outreach event, in hybrid mode, was organised by AARDO at the same venue to create awareness and accelerate the transfer of affordable technology among AARDO member countries. In this ceremony, selected affordable technologies such as ground water level measuring device, treadle pump, oil extractor, soil organic carbon detection kit and taraltech water purifying device to eliminate water borne diseases and solar operated lantern were presented to interested member countries. This event was a joint initiative of AARDO and the office of the Principal Scientific Officer to Government of India. Excellencies and senior diplomats from Embassies/High Commissions in New Delhi were handed over earmarked technological devices for onward transmission to their respective capitals.

The meeting ended with a concluding remark from H.E. Mr. Kwaku Asomah-Cheremeh, High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana to India and Hon Chairman of the Liaison Committee which was followed by a group photo and a vote of thanks.

## Exposure Visit of Participants of 1<sup>st</sup> Mandatory Promotion Training Course for Municipal Officers (Finance), Local Government Service, Government of Punjab, to NCRD

A delegation comprising of the participants of 1<sup>st</sup> Mandatory Promotion Training Course for Municipal Officers (Finance), Local Government Service, Government of Punjab, and the host team from Punjab Local Government Academy (PLGA), Lalamusa, Gujrat—paid one-day exposure visit to NCRD on August 10, 2022. The delegation consisted of 28 Municipal Officers (Finance) headed by Mr. Najeeb Aslam, Director PLGA, Lalamusa.

While warmly welcoming the delegation, Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan, Director General, NCRD, appreciated efforts of PLGA, Lalamusa in adding much technical and entertainment value to the first of its kind training programme arranged for the municipal officers of local governments under the Government of Punjab. He added that exposure to other federating units of the country would enhance horizon of the thought

paradigm of the visiting delegates, and prove much beneficial in performing their duties.

DG NCRD presented a comprehensive introduction of the Centre especially its international training programmes and fully-funded opportuni-



Director General, Director (Trg.) & Director (Admn.), NCRD along with the Visiting Delegation Members

ties it facilitates in collaboration with international organizations such as African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). He apprised the delegation that NCRD is the link institution from Pakistan to liaise with the said organizations working for promotion of rural development and poverty alle-

viation particularly through its capacity building programmes in the member countries. He added that NCRD as a platform is always ready to facilitate professional nourishment of eligible Pakistani candidates through such capacity building programmes.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Mr. Najeeb Aslam, Director PLGA, Lalamusa, thanked NCRD for hosting the delegation and expressed his appreciation of the role NCRD is playing as an apex capacity building institution of the Federal Government of Pakistan for rural development and poverty alleviation. He stated that PLGA Lalamusa would keenly try to avail the opportunities of international training and exposure programmes facilitated by NCRD through its mandated international connections. The event ended with exchange of souvenirs between NCRD and PLGA and a group photograph at the end.

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## AARDO'S REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA AT NCRD

- African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) has six Regional Offices at Egypt (for North-eastern Africa); Ghana (for Western Africa); Zambia (for Southern Africa); Korea (for Far East); Jordan (for the Middle East); and Pakistan (for South & Central Asia).
- The Sixth Regional Office for South & Central Asia was established in January, 2013, and is housed at NCRD, Islamabad.
- Director General NCRD is the ex-officio Regional Representative of AARDO for South & Central Asia.

## NCRD-AARDO Regional Office's Collaborative One-Day National Policy Seminar on "Nation-Building and Responsible Citizenship: Issues & Way Forward"

Strong national unity is among the most fundamental sources of national cohesion and integration. Socio-economic issues such as poverty, unemployment, ethnic & religious tensions, unbridled population growth leading to urban sprawling, etc.—have an adverse impact on nation-building. To ensure seamless nation-building, responsible citizenship needs to be adhered to. In order to achieve national building, countries formulate their policies and implementation strategies keeping the factor of nation-building actively aided by responsible citizenship at the center-stage.

In order to discuss various issues affecting the national fabric and nation-building in the country, NCRD orga-

nized a one-day national policy seminar on 'Nation-Building and Responsible Citizenship: Issues & Way Forward' in collaboration with African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) on September 6, 2022. The seminar was attended by participants from all parts of the country.

flits and socio-economic injustice, lack of regard for national identity, neglect of ethical and moral values, lack of awareness about rights and duties of the citizens, and weak state institutions.

The resource persons invited to deliver the sessions included: Mr. Zulfiqar Ali, Director, Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad; Mr. Shahid Cheema, Chief (Employment & Research), Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Islamabad; and, Mr. Asmatullah Khan, Civic Educator, Islamabad.

Starting the technical sessions and discussions, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali discussed concept and importance of nation-building. He defined national-building as process of national integration and

rights and duties in their respective polities. He stated that weak democratic and development institutions coupled with uninspiring leadership of the country lead to weakening of national integration. He added that lack of awareness and dismal law & order situation also causes lackluster adherence to national duties as citizens.

Mr. Asmatullah Khan, delved into the role of citizens in nation building. He stated that citizens have an equal responsibility to build their nation compared to state and social institutions. The mutually reinforcing factors weave the national fabric in a complex way such that the state constitution is implemented in positive spirit.



Director General, NCRD along with the Panel Members, Director (Trg.) & A Few Other Officers of NCRD, and the Seminar Participants

consolidation to unify the people's identity, achieve national stability and development in a country. He stressed that ethical and moral values in all spheres of life based on ideological foundations can cement the national unity. His focus was on participatory approach and the participants described their individual views about national unity and integration. A plethora of different views and comments made way for comprehensive understanding of the vast subject.

Mr. Shahid Cheema discussed local and global connections for responsible citizenship in the country. He defined the concept of responsible citizenship and how various communities in the world behave with regards to the balance of

Important policy recommendations presented during the sessions to promote national integrity and nation building in the country include: institutional reforms for local good governance; vigorous measures to address issues of the marginalized sections of society; stable democracy, economic growth and equitable distribution of resources; creation of a welfare society addressing the basic needs of the downtrodden; spreading awareness about rights and duties of the citizens; promotion of ethical and moral principles and values; and, judicial reforms for cheap and speedy justice.

In the end, the participants thanked NCRD for organizing the event on such an important subject.

## Training Course on “Project Proposal Writing for Development Projects”

Modern-day project development is a brick-by-brick implementation mechanism stressing on all of the development components especially project proposal writing. It not only provides the comprehensive picture of a project but also lays the foundation of its success. However, the practice of project proposal writing in Pakistan mostly lacks adherence to globally adopted standards and required writing techniques. As a result, many potential projects do not even see the light of the day.

In order to enlighten with the project proposal writing techniques and other essentials of a standard proposal development, NCRD organized a five days’ training course on “Project Proposal Writing” from July 25-29, 2022, which was attended by 37 participants from many parts of the country.

Key resource persons invited to deliver the technical sessions during the programme included: Dr. Faisal Anwar Malik, former Group Head, Centre on Rural Economy, Islamabad; Mr.

Saleem Khattak, Chief, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Islamabad; Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, CEO, Resilient Future International Pvt. Ltd., Islamabad; and, Ms. Nadia Hussain, Assistant Chief, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Islamabad.

failure of a project proposal.

During the sessions, it was discussed that project proposals need to be based on generally accepted criteria consisting of the component parts and quality mechanism. Moreover, the hands-on mock exercises were also conducted on practicing development of logical framework, planning sheets, assessment criteria for project proposal, and effective budget proposal, etc. The participants also shared currently prevalent practice in development of project proposals in their respective public sector as well as non-governmental organizations.

During the concluding ceremony, the participants appreciated the role of NCRD in conducting the training programme free of

charge for the participants from different sectors and backgrounds. They suggested to conduct more programmes on such topics related to project development in future. They also praised the quality of resource persons invited and the group exercises conducted.



Participants with Director General, NCRD, Director (Trg.) NCRD and the Coordinator

Apart from covering the technical writing skills, the programme contents included rationale of proposal writing, phases of a project cycle, the role of language in project proposal writing, narrative writing, budget proposal writing, ingredients of a successful proposal, and reasons of

## Training Course on “Community Participation for Good Governance”

Democratic evolution started off with the practice of direct democracy in the ancient Greece. Its main characteristics included community participation which is still considered as a cornerstone for good governance in modern era.

With the aim to sensitize Government Officers and other stakeholders about the importance of this concept, NCRD conducted a five days’ training programme on “Community Participation for Good Governance” from August 1-5, 2022. A total of 36 participants from various parts of the country attended the programme.

Key resource persons who delivered the sessions included: Mr. Shahid Cheema, Chief (Employment & Research), Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Islamabad; Syed Hussain Bukhari, Deputy Director, National Commission on Human Development (NCHD), Islama-

bad; Dr. Usman Mustafa, former Joint Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad; and Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, International Development Consultant, Islamabad.

Mr. Shahid Cheema discussed the concept of governance as the ability and manner in which deci-

countability procedures for better participation of general public in governance related matters.

Mr. Aftab Alam Khan stated that right to information act is an important instrument for general public to ensure good governance. He added that constitutional measures enable people to improve on good governance according to the requirements and local needs.

Apart from these discussion points, a few case studies in relation to community participation in the country were also discussed. Social engagement as a contributing factor towards community participation for good governance was highly stressed upon. The role of Citizen’s Portal in



Participants with Director General, NCRD, Director (Trg.) NCRD and the Coordinator

sions are taken and implemented through the vested authority in order to achieve desirable and targeted results. Dr. Usman Mustafa highlighted the main problems communities are facing in playing their positive role in good governance. He stressed on better communication infrastructure and ac-

social accountability was also highlighted and discussed.

The participants thanked NCRD for organizing the programme during concluding ceremony followed by award of certificates.

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## PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK

- Participants of the training programs at NCRD appreciate use of technological tools for conducting training programs on modern lines at the Centre.
- NCRD has significantly increased its outreach to government departments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and general public for dissemination of relevant information and advertisement of training programs being conducted at the Centre.
- NCRD has been conducting training programs on various topics related to Rural Development, that cater to current issues, needs and national focus.

## Training Course on “Environmental Impact Assessment for Development Projects”

NCRD organized a five days' training course on “Environment Impact Assessment for Development Projects” from August 15-19, 2022, which was attended by 34 participants from all parts of the country.

Key resource persons invited to deliver sessions during the programme included: Dr. Usman Mustafa, Team Leader M&IE, Prime Minister's Project Management Unit, Islamabad; Mr. Zia ul Islam, former Director, Pakistan Environmental Protection

Multiple topics and aspects related to development projects and their impact on environment were discussed at length. It was highlighted that there is a lack of due consideration on part of the development sector for environment and eco-systems in the world. This has re-

developed in this regard, however, complete compliance of environment management plans need to be ensured.

Furthermore, processes and procedures for conducting EIA in Pakistan were also discussed during the technical sessions. Policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks for EIA formulated by the federal and provincial governments for environmental protection were also part of the discussions. Besides, process of filing and review of EIA reports as well as post-approval envi-



Participants with Director General, NCRD, Director (Trg.) NCRD and the Coordinator

Agency (Pak EPA), Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad; Dr. Mazhar Hayat, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Islamabad; and, Dr. Mohsina Zubair, Deputy Director, Pak EPA, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad.

sulted in gradual and consistent damage to the natural living conditions for mankind and other living beings. It was discussed that EIA protocols are important for sustainable development and the methods, tools and techniques have been

ronmental monitoring & evaluation of development projects, were also analyzed.

The training programme ended with a hope for positive impact on the participants' professional lives.

## Training Course on “Poverty Alleviation: Challenges & Solutions”

NCRD organized a five days' training course on ‘Poverty Alleviation: Challenges & Solutions’ from August 22-26, 2022. A total of 27 participants from all parts of the country attended the training programme.

Among the key resource persons who delivered the technical sessions during the programme included: Dr. Haroon Sarwar, Deputy Chief, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Islamabad; Dr. Umer Farooq, former Member (Social Sciences), Pakistan Agricultural Research

Programme (BISP), Islamabad; and Dr. Khalid Rehman, Chairman, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad.

The technical sessions commenced with the discussion of the concept of poverty and its multi-pronged existence in socio-

dimensional poverty index was the main deliberation index. During the following sessions, various policies and programmes of the Government were highlighted and their success evaluated under the current circumstances in the country. Moreover, contribution of

following institutions and programmes towards poverty alleviation was also covered in the discussions: Akhuwat Foundation, BISP, PPAF and Al-Khidmat Foundation. Poverty alleviation on sustainable basis in Islamic framework was also discussed



Participants with Director (Trg.) NCRD and the Course Coordinator

Council (PARC), Islamabad; Ms. Ayesha Salma, Group Head of Quality Assurance, Research & Design, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Islamabad; Mr. Haseeb Kiyani, Senior Consultant, Benazir Income Support

economic arena in a society. Also, various globally adopted poverty measurement tools were discussed in order to comprehend different poverty quantification and interpretation mechanisms, indexes and scales. Among them, multi-

comprehensively. The participants highlighted regional and local issues related to poverty which added to the diverse range of approaches to discuss the issue and steps being taken to address it.

## Training Course on “Water Resource Management—Issues & Way Forward”

Pakistan has had a well-stretched irrigation network through the most part of its agronomical history. However, the water resources and irrigation systems have lately been under stress owing to rapid population rise, climate change, resource utilization issues, inefficient irrigation practices and various management issues. As a result, if the issue is not timely addressed, water scarcity is being projected to hit the economy of Pakistan sometime in foreseeable future.

In order to highlight major issues in water resource management and discuss workable solutions, NCRD organized a five days’ training course on ‘Water Resource Management—Issues & Way Forward’ from August 29-September 2, 2021. The programme was attended by 32 participants from all parts of the country.

Notable resource persons who delivered technical sessions during the programme included: Mr. Zia ur Rehman Hashmi, Head, Water Resources and Glaciology Section, Global Climate

Impact Studies Centre, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad; Engr. Zafar Islam, Senior Scientific Officer, National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC); Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Senior Engineer, Federal Flood Commission; Mr. Arshad Ashraf, Senior Scientific Officer, National Agricultural

accessibility, major issues leading to water scarcity propelled by water wastage. Furthermore, rainwater harvesting and various irrigation techniques based on water conservation, such as sprinkle and drip irrigation, were also stressed by the resource persons. In addition, the Government policies, programmes and initiatives were also highlighted along with the emphasis on adapting to climate change and resultant multi-pronged impacts on water resources. In this context, the current unprecedented floods in the country were comprehensively analyzed along with the related issues of water management.

While talking to the participants during concluding ceremony, Mr. Abdur Razaq, Director (Admn.), NCRD, stated that well-informed policymaking and strenuous efforts in implementation are required or else the country might keep facing the disastrous spells of floods and other disasters in future as well. He hoped that the programme had contributed well towards developing a comprehensive understanding of water management issues and solutions in the country.



Participants with Director (Admn.) NCRD, Director (Trg.) NCRD and the Course Coordinator

Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad; and, Engr. Muhammad Asif, Scientific Officer, Natural Resources Division, NARC, Islamabad.

During the programme, it was highlighted that, despite lowering levels of water availability and

## Training Course on “Innovations in Library Management”

Digital revolution has transformed learning mediums and the role of library management throughout the world. Online access to facilities has revolutionized availability and management of information and knowledge for the purpose of learning. In developing countries like Pakistan, innovation in library in keeping with the global trends can considerably bridge the gap between information seekers and providers.

With the above-mentioned aim, NCRD organized a five days’ training course on “Innovation in Library Management” from September 12-16, 2022, which was attended by 50 participants from different regions of the country.

During the programme, sessions were delivered on learning installation, features and working of the software Koha. Exercises were conducted also about E-Books management, creation of virtual libraries and creation of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

One of the key resource persons, Mr. Zeeshan Ullah Khattak, Librarian, Islamia College, Peshawar, introduced the concept of library automation in detail. Mr. Habib Akhter Jaffri, Principal Librarian, Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre, Islamabad, discussed DSpace man-

agement and explained the working and benefits of the DSpace database software. He delivered a detailed session on OPAC customization in Koha. He stated that online catalogues with easy and comprehensive access are an essential need in this technological age and the libraries throughout the country need to upgrade their systems on the modern lines. This will also help in promotion of learning and acquiring knowledge. In the end, Dr. Amjad Khan, Assistant Professor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, discussed response and adaptation from library science professionals to ‘Covid-19 info-demic’ on social media.

While talking to the participants, Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan, Director General, NCRD, emphasized on importance of using digital resources for acquiring and sharing knowledge in the digital age. He stated that efficiency of a library also depends upon convenient digital access of its data to its users. He stressed on coping with the global standards in library management.

The participants also visited the NCRD Library. They explored data sources and praised the quality of the reading material available in the library.



Participants with Director General, NCRD, Director (Trg.), and the Deputy Director (Trg.), NCRD

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**CURRENT FOCUS**

NCRD is currently concentrating more on the current issues, knowledge exchange and practices so that people can benefit from the experiences of one another and that knowledge just does not remain abstract and un-applied.

**Training Course on “Alternate Energy Resources: Potential & Prospects”**

NCRD conducted a five days’ training course on “Alternate Energy Resources in Pakistan: Potential and Prospects” from September 19-23, 2022. A total of 18 participants attended the programme, who belonged to various regions of the country.

The rationale of conducting the programme lies in the fact that Pakistan has been an energy-starved country in its recent history and a great need is felt for adopting alternative energy resources in order to address the rising energy demand and to ensure cheap energy generation. Energy shortfalls have a direct negative impact on industrial and household consumption that in return impede economic growth.

Some of the keynote resource persons invited to deliver sessions, included:

Syed Aqeel Hussain Jaffari, Director (Alternate Energy), Power Alternate Energy Development Board (AEDB), Islamabad; Dr. Afzal Hussain Kamboh, Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET), Ministry of Science & Technology, Islamabad; and

especially the employable proportion of youth, puts great pressure to meet the rising energy demands. In order to overcome it, existing national policies and implementation initiatives were also discussed in order to utilize alternative energy resources for the said purpose.



Participants with Director (Admn.), NCRD, Director (Trg.), NCRD and the Coordinator

Engr. Muhammad Asif, Scientific Officer, PARC, Islamabad.

During the sessions, various causes of energy shortfall in Pakistan were discussed at length. Pakistan is a growing economy and the rising population,

highlighted during the final day of the programme.

Field visits to AEDB and NARC were also undertaken for briefing and practical exposure.

Various renewable energy resources and their development potential were also explored. Thermal, biogas, wind and solar energy along with their application to replace traditional dependence on fossil fuels, were also emphasized. Moreover, multi-sectoral energy efficiency initiatives were also

**Training Course on “Food Security—Issues & Mitigation Strategies”**

Despite being an agrarian economy, Pakistan has been facing an increasing challenge of food security in recent years because of rapidly increasing population, urbanization and lack of agriculture adaptation to climate change and modernization techniques.

Keeping in view issues related to food security in the country, NCRD organized a five days’ training programme on this national pressing issue with the title of ‘Food Security—Issues & Mitigation Strategies’ from September 26-30, 2022. A total of 32 participants from all parts of the country attended the training programme.

Keynote resource persons of the programme were: Dr. Pervez Amir, Environmental Policy Analyst & Re-

gional Member, South Asia Global Water Partnership, Islamabad; Dr. Muhammad Aslam Gill, former Food Security Commissioner, Islamabad; Mr. Muhammad Arif Rasheed Goheer, Head, Agriculture Section, Climate Impact Studies

was discussed at great length. It is reported that around 65% of Pakistan’s population is facing food insecurity in one form or another. Among various mitigation techniques, special emphasis was laid on adopting climate smart agriculture. Furthermore, the resource persons stressed on regional cooperation among upper and lower riparians for addressing water related issues in their respective countries. Moreover, lack of nutrition quality is a closely linked challenge as depicted by prevalence of stunted growth in children in the country currently lying at around 45%.



Participants with Director General, NCRD and Director (Trg.), NCRD and Course Coordinator

Centre, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad; and, Ms. Nomeena Anis, Nutrition Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Islamabad.

During the sessions, the exacerbating situation of food insecurity especially in wake of the massive floods in the coun-

Participants of the programme expressed their satisfaction over the quality of constructive discussions conducted by the resource persons in the programme.

### Director General NCRD Attends Roundtable Conference on “Human Security and Sustainable Development Goals”

Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan, Director General, NCRD attended one-day roundtable conference on ‘Human Security and Sustainable Development Goals’ organized by SDGs Academy and Centre of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR), Islamabad, on September 22, 2022.

While opening the conference, Mr. Ammar Jaffri, President and Founder SDGs Academy as well as COPAIR, stated that promotion of the cause of sustainable development goals of the United Nations under its Agenda 2030, has been his landmark struggle for last few years in Pakistan. He added that human security is among the most important issues related to the SDGs as Pakistan is not only a developing country but also fifth most populous country in the world marred with a host of socio-economic issues pertaining to the modern concept of human security. Therefore, he added, the conference was being conducted on the theme to explore ways to address various issues as part of an effort to achieve the SDGs targets by 2030.

Director General NCRD among all other participants of the

event expressed his views particularly in light of population explosion, urban-rural disparities and exacerbating socio-economic inequalities in the country. He stated that NCRD as an apex capacity



Director General NCRD along with Other Conference Members

building institution of the Federal Government, regularly conducts training and sensitization programmes on all components of human security that include: economy, food, health, environment, personal security and community. He added that

enabling the population that mostly comprises of youth is the most effective way to ensure achievement of socio-economic progress in the country. He also appreciated efforts of Mr. Ammar Jaffri in promoting the cause of SDGs in Pakistan and conducting a host of events on the SDGs.

Other participants in the conference also shared their views and suggestions relevant to their respective professional interests and fields. Variety of backgrounds meant a comprehensive discussion was held on multiple facets of human security in the country.

While concluding the event, Ms. Amna Munawwar Awan, Advisor COPAIR and Director, City University, Peshawar, thanked the participants for attending the event and making valuable comments and suggestions on the subject. Mr. Ammar Jaffri stated that it is the joint responsibility of both public and non-governmental organizations and communities to strive for achieving the nationalized targets of SDGs which will help in enlisting the country in the comity of developed and most respected nations in the world.

### Training Programmes at NCRD During October-December 2022

Sr. No.	Training Programme	Dates	Coordinator
1.	Eco-Tourism for Sustainable Development	October 03-05, 2022	Mr. Bilal Raza, Assistant Director
2.	Gender Mainstreaming for Socio-economic Development	October 10-14, 2022	Mr. Bilal Raza, Assistant Director
3.	Small and Medium Enterprises for Employment Generation	October 17-21, 2022	Ms. Kiran Butt, Sr. Librarian
4.	Social Safety Nets for Socio-economic Development	October 24-28, 2022	Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Jamil, Research Officer
5.	Management of Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation	Oct 31 - Nov 02, 2022	Mr. Bilal Raza, Assistant Director
6.	NCRD-AARDO Collaborative International Training Programme on ‘Irrigation Systems and Water Management’	November 08-17, 2022	Mr. Mubasshir Zaman, Deputy Director (Trg)
7.	NCRD-AARDO Collaborative One-Day National Policy Seminar on ‘Climate Change: Issues, Mitigation and Adaptation’	November 24, 2022	Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Director (Trg), & Mr. Bilal Raza, Assistant Director
8.	Digital Transformation in Librarianship	Nov 28 - Dec 02, 2022	Ms. Kiran Butt, Sr. Librarian
9.	Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Projects	December 05-09, 2022	Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Jamil, Research Officer
10.	Disaster Management – Issues and Strategies	December 12-16, 2022	Mr. Mubasshir Zaman, Deputy Director (Trg)
11.	Socio-economic Development & SDGs’ Status	December 19-23, 2022	Mr. Bilal Raza, Assistant Director
12.	Public Private Partnership: Issues & Policies	December 26-28, 2022	Mr. Zahid Hussain, Research Officer

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