

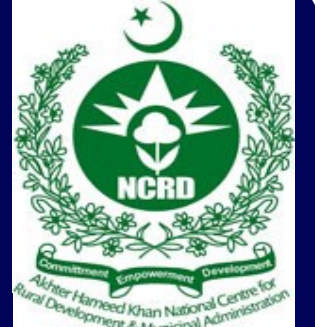


Establishment Division

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

# NEWSLETTER

Vol: VIII Issue: IV Oct-Dec 2025



Commitment Empowerment Development  
Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for  
Rural Development & Municipal Administration

## 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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Barrister Nabeel A. Awan,  
Secretary, Establishment  
Division, Islamabad



View of the Main Building of NCRD



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

## AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative International Training Workshop on "Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation" (October 15-23, 2025)



Group photo of Participants, Members of Diplomatic Corps, NCRD Officers and Distinguished Guests with the worthy Chief Guest of the ceremony

Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD) conducted an International Training Workshop on "Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation" in collaboration with African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) at NCRD during October 15-23, 2025. Twenty-one (21) delegates from 12 AARDO member countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Eswatini (Kingdom of Swaziland), Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Zambia, attended this training programme.

The training programme was inaugurated on October 16, 2025 by worthy chief guest, Barrister Nabeel A. Awan, Secretary, Establishment Division, Islamabad.

AARDO Secretariat was also represented by Mr. Aslam Khan, Head Finance and Coordinator to Regional AARDO Office for South and Central Asia. In addition from the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Dr. Maen Khreasat, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Pakistan; H.E. Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan, High Commissioner, Bangladesh; H. E Mr. Abdul Aziz Issa, and Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon in Pakistan. The ceremony was also graced by the presence of eminent dignitaries including; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan, Former Dean, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI); Mr. Raheel Nazir, Chief Executive Officer, Rah e Nau Constellation; and Mr. Arif Rasheed Goheer, Executive Director, Global Impact

Studies Centre. The ceremony was also joined by Former Director Generals including Dr. Zafar Qadir; Mr. Muhammad Asghar Chaudhary; Mr. Arshad Ahmed; and Mr. Jamil Ahmed, and senior Officers from Establishment Division and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The main objectives of the workshop were to enhance participants' understanding of climate change and its impacts on disasters and vulnerabilities; to equip participants with practical tools and strategies for effective disaster preparedness, response, and recovery; and, to promote sharing of knowledge for integrating climate adaptation into disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning and policies.

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## AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative International Training Workshop on "Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation," (from previous page)

The training programme was designed in such a way that participants could have a theoretical perspective of Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation, as well as exposure to on-ground management facilities and systems in Pakistan.

As part of the training workshop, participants were taken on field visits to key institutions engaged in disaster management, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture. The visits included: National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) of NDMA; Islamabad; Punjab Rescue Headquarter (Rescue 1122), Lahore; Barani Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), Chakwal; Soil Water Conservation Research Institute (SAWCRI), Chakwal; Centre of Excellence for Olive Research & Training (CEFORT), Chakwal; Dhara-bi Dam, Chakwal; Forest Department of Punjab, Murree; and Pakistan Meteorological Department, Islamabad.



Secretary, Establishment Division (Centre), Director General, NCRD (to his right) and Head of Finance Division and Coordinator for Regional Offices (South and Central Asia), AARDO (to his left)

The topics covered during the classroom sessions included: "Ice-breaking Session: Introduction to the Culture of Pakistan" by Dr. Saadia Saeed, Asso-

ciatedness" by Mr. Raheel Nazir, CEO, Rah e Nau Constellation, Islamabad; Community Resilience: Case Studies" by Ms. Rida Raheel, Co-Founder, Rah e Nau Constellation, Islamabad; "Climate Change and Disaster Risks in Asia and Africa" and "International Negotiations on Climate Change and Disaster Management" by Mr. Arif Rasheed Goheer, Executive Director, Global Climate Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), Islamabad; and "Nature based Solutions for Disaster Management and Climate Change Resilience" by Mr. Zulqarnain Tariq, Coordinator for Climate Change and Agriculture, World Wide Fund for Nature Pakistan.

ciate Professor, Quaid e Azam University (QAU), Islamabad; "Disaster Management and Pakistan" by Air Commodore (R) Tanveer Piracha, Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM); "Community Resilience: Strategies for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Pre-

Participants appreciated NCRD for bringing together experts and participants from diverse backgrounds, fostering knowledge exchange and practical learning. Many highlighted that the workshop deepened their understanding of disaster risks and climate adaptation strategies.

## Meeting of Ambassadors with Director General NCRD, 21 October, 2025

On October 21, 2025, being AARDO's Centre of Excellence, Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development AHKNCRD had the honor of hosting six esteemed diplomatic representatives from prospective AARDO member countries.

The distinguished representatives included H.E. Dalagha Sadat from Afghanistan, H.E. Alisher Duschanov from Uzbekistan, H.E. Samir Ahmadili from Azerbaijan, H.E. Aminjon Guldoza from Tajikistan, H.E. Raheem Mutahari Raad from Iran, and Mr. Tobyshakov Olzhas Bauyrzhanuly from Kazakhstan.

DG NCRD welcomed the delegation and apprised them of the functions of NCRD and AARDO's capacity building programmes. The meeting underscored NCRD's commitment to fostering international cooperation in rural

development. The delegation engaged in a productive meeting with the Director General, NCRD, focusing on strengthening cooperation and exploring membership opportunities.

pressed their sincere gratitude to the Director General, NCRD, for hosting the meeting and facilitating a productive discussion.



Glimpse from the meeting. Director General, NCRD, briefing the Dignitaries

The meeting's agenda centered around introducing the work and functions of AARDO, discussing mutual benefits of cooperation in rural development, particularly with the Republic of Kazakhstan, and exploring the possibility of Kazakhstan joining AARDO as a member. The delegation ex-

The NCRD team present during the meeting included Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, Director (Training); Mr. Ahsan Jamil, Research Officer, who played a key role in coordinating the meeting and ensuring its success; and Ms. Maira Razzaq, Assistant Director, NCRD.

The meeting was a significant step towards strengthening ties between NCRD and the prospective AARDO member countries, paving the way for future collaborations and knowledge sharing in the field of rural development. The representatives appreciated the warm hospitality extended by the NCRD team and expressed their eagerness to move forward with the proposed cooperation and membership.

## AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative One-day Seminar on “Responsible Citizenry for Nation Building,” 02 October, 2025

AHKNCRD in collaboration with the Regional Office of African Asian Rural Development Organizations (AARDO), successfully organized a one-day seminar titled “Responsible Citizenry for Nation Building” on October 2, 2025.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, Director (Training), AHKNCRD, who warmly welcomed the participants and expressed sincere appreciation to the distinguished resource persons for sharing their expertise on this critical national subject. In his inaugural address, Dr. Niazi emphasized the need to cultivate a strong sense of civic responsibility, unity, and collective purpose among citizens. He presented an overview of the nation-building process and highlighted how responsible citizenship serves as a cornerstone for sustainable development, democratic stability, and social cohesion in Pakistan. His remarks set a constructive and reflective tone for the day’s deliberations.

The panel discussion was led by eminent re-

source persons including Mr. Zubair Safdar (Student Service Department Riphah International University, Islamabad), Mr. Abid Iqbal Khari



Glimpse from the seminar proceedings

(Positive Pakistan, Islamabad), and Mr. Zafar Ullah Khan (Civic Educator, Islamabad), who shared valuable insights on various dimensions of responsible citizenry and national integration.

Mr. Zubair Safdar underscored the importance of core values such as hard work, honesty, and sincerity, describing them as essential attributes for citi-

zens striving to contribute positively to nation building. Mr. Abid Iqbal Khari reflected on the philosophy of national integration, drawing inspiration from the poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and the visionary statements of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to highlight the moral, ideological, and ethical foundations of a cohesive and united nation. Mr. Zafar Ullah Khan, presented a comprehensive roadmap for national integration and prosperity, outlining the fundamental roles and responsibilities of citizens in achieving long-term national goals and strengthening democratic and social institutions.

The seminar adopted an interactive format, encouraging active participation from the audience through open discussions and a question-and-answer session. This engagement enabled participants to share their perspectives, seek practical guidance, and reflect on their own roles as responsible citizens within their communities and professional spheres.

## AHKNCRD-AARDO Collaborative One-day Seminar on “Governance and Service Delivery—Issues and Way Forward,” 18 December, 2025

Good governance and effective service delivery are fundamental to sustainable development, social cohesion, and public trust in institutions.

Strong governance ensures transparency, accountability, rule of law, and inclusive decision-making, which in turn enhances the efficiency and responsiveness of public services. Keeping in view the importance of subject matter, AHKNCRD in collaboration with the African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) organized a one-day policy seminar on “Governance and Service Delivery—

Issues and Way Forward” on December , 2025.

An interactive and inclusive learning approach was adopted throughout the programme to actively engage participants and encourage meaningful knowledge exchange. Participants were provided with ample opportunities to share their practical experiences, insights, and

perspectives with one another, as well as with the resource persons.



Group photo of participants with Panelists and NCRD Officers after the seminar

To enrich the academic and practical dimensions of the programme, eminent resource persons from renowned departments and organizations based in Islamabad were invited to deliver lectures in accordance with the programme schedule. The resource persons included Mr. Zafarullah Khan, Civic Educator, Islamabad; Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Resilient Future Interna-

tional, Islamabad; and Dr. Khalid Rehman, Chairman, Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad. Each of the speakers brought extensive expertise and diverse professional experience,

which significantly contributed to the quality and relevance of the discussions.

The seminar highlighted governance and service delivery as evolving systems that require continuous improvement to meet the changing needs of citizens. Discussions focused on strengthening coordination among institutions, enhancing administrative efficiency, and improving the translation of policies into effective on-ground actions.

Participants shared experiences on how responsive governance, transparency, and inclusive decision-making can positively influence the quality and reach of public services, particularly at the community and local government levels.

The programme witnessed active participation from a total of fifty (50) participants.

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## Trg. Workshop on “Data Analytics for Policy Planning and Programme Design”

Data analytics plays a pivotal role in modern policy planning and programme design by enabling evidence-based decision-making and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of interventions. By systematically collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data, policymakers can identify trends, assess needs, and measure the impact of existing programmes. This ensures that resources are allocated strategically, policies are tailored to real-world conditions, and interventions address priority issues effectively. Moreover, data-driven insights enhance transparency, accountability, and adaptive planning, allowing governments and organizations to respond proactively to emerging challenges and achieve better developmental outcomes for communities.

The programme was designed with multiple objectives aimed at enhancing participants' understanding and practical skills in data analytics for policy and programme design. It sought to introduce core analytics concepts and demonstrate how these tools can be applied to answer

key policy questions. Participants were guided through a comprehensive, end-to-end workflow, encompassing problem framing, data acquisition, cleaning, analysis, visualization, and interpretation, ensuring a hands-on and practical learning experience. The programme also emphasized the

reviewed to promote responsible use of data. Finally, the programme provided a collaborative forum for participants to share experiences, insights, and best practices, fostering peer learning and professional networking.

A total of four distinguished resource persons were invited to lead the sessions, bringing a wealth of expertise from renowned academic institutions in Islamabad. The speakers included Dr. Sundus Younis, Assistant Professor at the Department of Engineering Management (DEM), NUST; Dr. Ammara Nawaz Cheema, Chairperson of the Department of Statistics & Data Analytical Sciences, Air University; Dr. Hammad Tanveer Butt, Assistant Professor at the College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (CEME), NUST; and Dr. Imran Akhtar, Professor at the School of Interdisciplinary Engineering & Science (SINES), NUST. Each resource person contributed their specialized knowledge and practical insights, enriching the learning experience and providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of data analytics and its applications in policy planning and programme design.



Group photo of Participants with Director (Training)

application of these methods to real Pakistani use-cases, including targeting, monitoring and evaluation, and fiscal prioritization, making the learning directly relevant to local contexts. In addition, governance considerations such as data ethics, privacy, security, and proper documentation were

## Trg. Course on “Managing Water Resources: Challenges and Solutions,” 27-31 Oct, 2025

Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD) organized a five-day training course on “Managing Water Resources: Challenges and Solution” from October 27-31, 2025.

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 distinguished resource persons were invited to deliver the sessions, representing a diverse range of expertise from key government departments, research institutions, and international collaborations in Islamabad. The speakers included Mr. Sajeel Saeed, Director (Policy and Research) at the Ministry of Water Resources; Mr. Rao Irshad Ali, Former Chairman of the Indus River System Authority; Mr. Shakeel Badshah, Research Officer at PCRWR; Dr. Ghulam Rasul, Advisor at the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center; Engr. Muhammad Asif, Scientific Officer at the Climate Energy Water Research Institute (CEWRI), NARC; Engr. Zafar Iqbal, Superintendent

ing Engineer Floods at the Federal Flood Commission; and Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Malik, Former Director of PCRWR. Each resource person shared their specialized knowledge and practical insights, contributing significantly to the depth and quality

management, along with water quality assessment, treatment, and testing techniques. The course also addressed the impacts of climate change on water resources, the adoption of water-saving technologies, and practical applications for efficient usage. Additionally, participants learned about flood risk management, existing flood control practices, strategies for water conservation and development, and the challenges and opportunities associated with wastewater management, equipping them with both theoretical knowledge and practical insights for sustainable water management.

The participants assessed the training programme at the conclusion of the course by completing the overall training evaluation proforma.

During the closing ceremony, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, Director (Training), NCRD, also obtained verbal feedback from the participants. Overall, the responses were positive, and the participants expressed appreciation for the efforts of the training team. Following a short feedback session, the Director (Training), NCRD, awarded certificates to the participants, after which a group photograph was taken.



A glimpse from one of the training sessions in progress

of discussions on water resources management, research, and policy planning.

The training course covered a comprehensive range of topics designed to enhance participants' understanding of water resources and their management in Pakistan. The contents included an overview of the country's water resources, followed by discussions on water governance, policies, and associated challenges. Sessions explored both threats and opportunities in water resource

## Trg. Course on “Alternate Energy Resources– Potential & Prospects,” 10-14 Nov, 2025

NCRD successfully organized a five-day training workshop on "Alternate Energy Resources– Potential and Prospects" from November 10-14, 2025.

The programme aimed to enhance understanding of alternate energy resources by sharing key concepts, technologies, and approaches with the participants. It focused on exploring how these resources can serve as viable solutions to the country's energy crisis, promoting sustainable and efficient energy use. Additionally, the programme provided a collaborative forum for participants to exchange experiences and insights regarding the availability, utilization, and potential of alternate energy resources across different regions of the country, fostering practical learning and knowledge sharing.

The course offered a comprehensive understanding of alternate and renewable energy resources, emphasizing their critical role in addressing Pakistan's ongoing energy challenges. It began with an analysis of the energy crisis in Pakistan,

exploring the underlying issues and potential strategies for sustainable solutions. Participants were introduced to national policies and plans aimed at promoting renewable energy, providing a policy-oriented framework for practical applications. The programme provided detailed insights

approaches in their own contexts. Sessions also explored waste-to-energy technologies, highlighting how waste can be transformed into a valuable energy resource, and examined the contribution of renewable energy to food security. Furthermore, multi-sectoral initiatives on energy efficiency and conservation were discussed, along with hands-on guidance on designing solar systems for domestic usage, ensuring participants gained both practical skills and strategic understanding for effective implementation.

At the concluding ceremony of the Training Course, Director Training, NCRD, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, emphasized the critical importance of alternate energy resources in addressing the country's energy challenges and promoting sustainable development. He highlighted

how building knowledge and technical capacity in renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and waste-to-energy solutions, can empower professionals to implement innovative and practical solutions in their respective sectors.



Group photo of participants with the Course Coordinator during the field visit

into wind and solar energy, covering their potential, real-world applications, system designing, and emerging concepts in solar technology. Best practices and lessons learned from pioneers and leaders in the renewable energy sector were shared, inspiring participants to apply innovative

## Training Course on “Planning & Management of Dev. Projects,” 24-28 November, 2025

NCRD organized a five days' training course on "Planning and Management of Development Projects" from November 24-28, 2025.

The objectives of the programme included: to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to plan and manage development projects effectively; to enable participants to identify and mitigate risks associated with development projects; and to enable participants to monitor and evaluate development projects to ensure that they are meeting their objectives.

The course comprised of intellectual and participatory sessions based on delivery of technical sessions coupled with participatory discussions. Different themes and subjects pertaining to Planning and Management of Development Projects were covered during the programme.

A total of seven (07) Resource Persons were invited to deliver the sessions who belonged to the following institutes and departments: Mr. Hazaar Bux Mahar, Deputy Chief (Governance Section), Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Islamabad; Mr. Shahid Minhas, Senior Advisor, Capacity Development, SDPI, Islamabad; Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, Chief Executive

Officer, Resilient Future International, Islamabad; Dr. Faisal Anwar Malik, Former Director, Centre for Rural Economy, Islamabad; Mr. Sahibzada Asfandyar, Deputy Project Director, Danish Schools, M/o Federal ducation & Professional

inviting valuable feedback from the participants, certificates were distributed and group photo taken outside the training hall.

During the valedictory ceremony of the training course, participants shared highly positive feedback and expressed appreciation for the relevance and practical value of the programme. They highlighted that the course enhanced their understanding of project planning tools, management frameworks, and implementation strategies, which are directly applicable to their professional responsibilities. Participants also commended the interactive sessions, experienced resource persons, and opportunities for peer learning, noting that the training strengthened their capacity to design, manage, and monitor development projects more effectively.

Overall, the course was regarded as a valuable learning experience that contributed meaningfully to professional development and improved project management practices. The programme was concluded with a hope that the training course would have added much to the knowledge and thought paradigm of the participants regarding the subject topic.



Group photo of participants with Director General, NCRD

Training; Mr. Atiq ur Rehman, Director, Asian Centre for Organization Development, Islamabad; and Dr. Muhammad Ali Talpur, Joint Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. The participants lauded the efforts of NCRD in shedding light on the various dimensions of poverty alleviation and social inclusion.

The concluding session was chaired by Mr. Israr Mohammad Khan, Director General, NCRD. After

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## Trg. Workshop on “Ethical Leadership & Management at Workplace,” 01-05 Dec, 2025

AHKNCRD organized a three day training workshop on “Ethical Leadership and Management at Workplace” from December 01-05, 2025.

A total of five resource persons were invited to deliver the sessions, each bringing valuable expertise from their respective fields. The speakers

included Dr. Umm-e-Laila, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Governance & Public Policy, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad; Dr. Faisal Anwar Malik, Former Head, Centre for Rural Economy, Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Islamabad; Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, CEO, Resilient Future International Pvt. Ltd., Islamabad; Mr. Raheel Nazir Chaudhary, Development Professional, Islamabad; and Dr. Usman

Mustafa, ME&IE Consultant, National Programme for Improvement of Water Courses, Federal Water Management Cell, Ministry of Food Security & Research, Islamabad.

Their diverse professional backgrounds enriched the programme with practical insights and a

multidisciplinary perspective.

The contents included in the training course covered a broad range of topics essential to understanding ethical leadership and effective management in the workplace. The course comprised intellectually stimulating and participatory ses-



Group photo of Participants with Director (Training)

sions, combining the delivery of technical inputs with interactive discussions and experience sharing. Various themes and subjects related to ethical values, professional integrity, responsible decision-making, accountability, teamwork, and leadership practices were explored to strengthen par-

ticipants’ managerial and leadership capabilities. The participatory approach encouraged critical thinking and reflection, enabling participants to relate ethical principles to real workplace situations and apply them for fostering a positive, transparent, and productive organizational culture.

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 ethical leadership and management.

## Trg. Workshop on “Emotional Intelligence for Workplace Success,” 08-12 Dec, 2025

A 5-day training workshop on "Emotional Intelligence for workplace Success" was held from December 08-12, 2025.

The main objectives of the workshop were to strengthen participants’ emotional and interpersonal competencies for improved professional effectiveness. The workshop aimed to enhance self-awareness by enabling participants to better understand their emotions, strengths, and areas for improvement in workplace settings. It also focused on improving self-regulation and empathy, equipping participants with the skills to manage emotional responses constructively and build stronger connections with colleagues. Additionally, the workshop sought to develop interpersonal skills to support effective communication, conflict resolution, and teamwork, thereby contributing to a more productive, collaborative, and positive work environment.

To deliver the technical sessions, AHKNCRD invited a diverse group of experienced resource persons from various organizations and departments. These included Ms. Nausheen Yasir, a

Wellness Coach and Personal Development Trainer from Islamabad; Mr. Abdul Wahab, Chief Executive Officer of Motivators, Islamabad; Mr. Zubair Safdar, Director at Riphah International University, Islamabad; and Mr. Aftab Alam Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Resilient Future Internation-



Glimpse from one of the training sessions

al, Islamabad. The sessions were further enriched by the expertise of Ms. Riffat Shams, Managing Director of the Human Resource Learning Centre, Islamabad; Ms. Rida Raheel, Co-founder of Ray e Nau Constellations, Islamabad; Syeda Zahra Gillani, a Clinical Psychologist and Certified Clinical Trauma Specialist, Islamabad; and Ms. Samia Rashid, CEO and Founder of E-PROHUB.

The workshop covered a comprehensive range of

topics centered on Emotional Intelligence and its importance in professional environments. It began with an introduction to Emotional Intelligence, providing a foundational understanding of its core concepts, followed by a discussion on its practical applications in the workplace. Participants explored how Emotional Intelligence influences team dynamics and supports Level 3 leadership by enhancing self-awareness, relationship management, and decision-making. The workshop also addressed methods for measuring and evaluating Emotional Intelligence, along with strategies for managing stress and resolving conflict effectively. Emphasis was placed on empathy and effective communication in

professional settings, as well as on developing a positive and inclusive work culture. In addition, the sessions highlighted how Emotional Intelligence can be integrated into overall organizational performance, including its relevance in remote and hybrid work environments. The workshop concluded with real-world case studies that demonstrated the practical impact of Emotional Intelligence in diverse organizational contexts.

## Trg. Course on “Gender Mainstreaming for Socio-economic Development,” 08-12 Dec, 2025

Gender mainstreaming is essential for promoting inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development by ensuring that the needs, perspectives, and contributions of all genders are systematically integrated into policies, programmes, and institutional practices. It helps address structural inequalities, improves access to opportunities and resources, and enhances the effectiveness and impact of development interventions. By embedding a gender-responsive approach in planning, implementation, and monitoring, organizations can foster fair decision-making, strengthen social cohesion, and contribute to improved socio-economic outcomes. Gender mainstreaming also supports good governance and accountability by promoting equal participation and empowering individuals to actively contribute to development processes.

In view of the importance of subject matter, AHKNCRD organized an intensive five-day training course on “Gender Mainstreaming for Socio-economic Development” from December 08-12, 2025.

The programme was enriched by the participation of a diverse group of eminent resource persons. The resource persons included Mr. Waqar Shirazi, Former Director, Country Operations, BISP; Ms. Shabana Nawaz, Director, Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad; Ms. Sabahet Nasim, Gender

Professor, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi; and Mr. Ashir Tanveer, Gender and Capacity Building Specialist. Their collective insights, practical experiences, and multidisciplinary perspectives significantly contributed to informed discussions and enhanced participants’ understanding of gender mainstreaming and inclusive development.



A glimpse of one of the training sessions

and Human Rights Specialist; Dr. Fozia Kanwal, Manager Climate Change, Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy; Saith Usama J. Chitrani, Managing Director, Explore for Exposure; Dr. Ali Kemal, Chief Employment and Research, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives; Dr. Gulshan Irshad, Associate

The programme was designed to build participants’ understanding of gender-responsive development through clearly defined objectives. It aimed to acquaint participants with the concept of gender mainstreaming and highlight its significance and impact on overall development processes. The programme also sought to familiarize participants with various dimensions of women’s empowerment, along with an overview of government initiatives and policies supporting gender equality.

In addition, it provided a collaborative forum for participants to share experiences, best practices, and insights on promoting gender mainstreaming for inclusive and sustainable development. Overall, the training and achieved its intended objectives.

## Trg. Course on “Local Governance: A Key to Development,” 15-19 Dec, 2025

Local governance plays a pivotal role in driving development by bringing decision-making closer to communities and ensuring that policies and services are responsive to local needs. Effective local governance strengthens accountability, transparency, and citizen participation, enabling better planning and delivery of essential services such as health, education, water, and sanitation. By empowering local institutions and fostering community engagement, local governance supports inclusive growth, enhances social cohesion, and contributes to sustainable development outcomes at the grassroots level.

NCRD organized a five-day training course on “Local Governance: A Key to Development” from 15-19 December, 2025.

The major objectives of the training course were to enhance participants’ understanding of local governance systems and their role in promoting sustainable development. The course aimed to build capacity in effective planning, decision-making, and service delivery at the local level, while fostering transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. Additionally, it sought to

equip participants with practical knowledge and tools to strengthen institutional performance, address community needs efficiently, and contribute meaningfully to inclusive and participatory development processes.

explored the importance of accountability, transparency, and citizen engagement in fostering trust and ensuring that local development initiatives address the real needs of communities. The training further examined practical approaches to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of local governance,



Group photo of Participants with Director (Training)

During the training on Local Governance, participants engaged in in-depth discussions on the structure, functions, and responsibilities of local government institutions, emphasizing their critical role in facilitating community development. Key topics included the legal and policy frameworks governing local bodies, mechanisms for participatory planning, and strategies for improving service delivery in areas such as health, education, water, and sanitation. Participants also ex-

ploring the importance of accountability, transparency, and citizen engagement in fostering trust and ensuring that local development initiatives address the real needs of communities. The training further examined practical approaches to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of local governance, including resource mobilization, budget planning, monitoring and evaluation, and the use of technology in public service management. Challenges faced by local governments, such as coordination with higher levels of administration, capacity constraints, and policy implementation gaps, were likely addressed alongside potential solutions and best practices. During the concluding ceremony of the course, Director (Training), Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan

Niazi, emphasized the critical importance of effective local governance in driving sustainable development and improving the quality of life at the community level. He highlighted how strong local institutions, coupled with transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, can ensure that development initiatives are responsive to local needs. He encouraged the participants to apply the knowledge and best practices gained during the training to strengthen governance.

## Trg. Course on “Food Security and Safety– Issues & Way Forward,” 29 Dec, 25-02 Jan, 26

Food security and safety are fundamental to public health, economic stability, and sustainable development. Ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of safe and nutritious food helps improve health outcomes, reduce poverty, and enhance productivity. Strong food safety systems also protect consumers, build trust in food markets, and support national and global food systems resilience.

Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD) organized a five day training course on “Food Security & Safety – Issues and Way Forward” from December 29, 2025– January 02, 2026.

The training course comprised of 4 to 5 sessions daily. The intellectual and participatory ses-

sions were based on delivery of lectures coupled with participatory discussions as well as a questions-and-answers session at the end of each session.

The objectives of the programme included discussing basic concepts and approaches of food security; familiarizing the participants with food security status in Pakistan; and providing a forum for sharing strategies with regard to food security in the country.

The event was attended by a total of 25 respected participants from public, non-governmental and academic sectors from all over the country.

A total of eight resource persons were invited to deliver the sessions, representing various departments and organizations. They included Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, Chief Advisor at Lackson Group of Companies, Islamabad; Dr. Muhammad Amin, former Chief of ATD at the Agri-

culture Policy Institute, Islamabad; Dr. Atta-ur Rehman Khan, Consultant Nutritionist and Chairman of SIGNS International, also a Research Affiliate at King Abdullah International Medical Research Centre, Riyadh, KSA; Mr. Shakeel Badshah, Water Quality Specialist at Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources, Islamabad; Dr.

challenges related to malnutrition and possible resolutions were discussed, as well as the critical role of water resources in ensuring food security. The course also addressed environment-smart agricultural practices, the impacts of climate change on food and nutrition security in Pakistan, best practices in food safety, and the contribution

of the livestock and poultry sectors to strengthening food security.

The participants assessed the training programme at the conclusion of the course by completing the overall training evaluation proforma.

The participants were also given a chance to give their verbal feedback where they expressed their sincere appreciation for the training course on ‘Food Security and Safety – Issues & Way

Forward,’ describing it as eye-opening, timely, and highly relevant. They acknowledged that the sessions enhanced their understanding of current challenges while providing practical tools and strategies to improve food safety and security. Participants praised the expertise of the resource persons and the clarity with which complex concepts were delivered, making them accessible and actionable. They also valued the interactive discussions, which encouraged knowledge sharing and collaboration. Overall, they emphasized that the training was essential for strengthening food systems and committed to applying the knowledge gained in their respective roles.

During the closing ceremony, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Niazi, Director (Training), NCRD, also obtained verbal feedback from the participants. Overall, the responses were positive, and the participants expressed appreciation for the efforts of the training team.



Glimpse from one of the classroom sessions of the training course

Aslam Gill, former Food Commissioner at the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Islamabad; Mr. Arif Rasheed Goheer, Executive Director of GCISC, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad; Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan, Dean of Faculty of Basic & Applied Sciences at International Islamic University, Islamabad; and Dr. M. Iqbal Anjum, Principal Scientific Officer at Land Resource Centre, Animal Sciences Institute, NARC, Islamabad.

The training course covered a comprehensive range of topics aimed at strengthening participants’ understanding of food security and safety in both national and global contexts. The contents included an overview of the status and challenges of food security in Pakistan, with emphasis on food availability, access, affordability, and nutrition. Sessions explored the role of agriculture in enhancing food and nutrition security, alongside a global perspective on food security issues. Key

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