



To

1. Cotton Commissioner, M/O NFS&R, Islamabad
2. Additional Secretary Task Force, Punjab, Lahore.
3. Additional Secretary Task Force, South Punjab, Multan.
4. Chief Executive, PARB, 72-G-Block, Johar Town, Lahore.
5. Director General Agri. (Ext. & AR), Punjab, Lahore.
6. Director General (Pest Warning & Quality Control) Punjab, Lahore.
7. Chief Scientist Agri. (Research), AARI, Faisalabad.
8. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Dean Faculty of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan.
9. Regional Director, FSC&RD, Lahore.
10. Director, Crop Reporting Services, Lahore.
11. Director of Agriculture (Information), Punjab, Lahore.
12. Director Agri. Ext. Bahawalpur Division

Subject: SEVENTH MEETING OF COTTON PLANNING COMMITTEE-- 2021

I am directed to convey you that "Seventh Meeting of Cotton Planning Committee-2021" is scheduled on 24.05.2021 (Monday) at 02:00 P.M. in the Committee Room of Regional Agriculture Research Institute, Bahawalpur under the Chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture, Punjab, Lahore. Minutes of the meeting of the 6th Meeting of Cotton Planning Committee – 2021 are hereby attached for perusal and further necessary action. Agenda of the meeting is given as under:

1. Implementation status of decisions taken in last meeting held on 06.05.2021. (Director Cotton)
2. Sowing position of cotton (D.G. Agri. Ext. & AR, Director Crop Reporting Services, Lahore).
3. Current pest position (DG (PW&QCP)
4. Cotton advisory (15th – 31th May) (DG Agri. Ext.)
5. Any other issue with the permission of the Chair.

It is, therefore, requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting on scheduled date, time & venue.


(DR. SAGHIR AHMAD)
DIRECTOR COTTON

CC:

- Minister of Agriculture, Punjab, Lahore.
- Secretary to Government of the Punjab, Agriculture Department, Lahore
- Secretary Agriculture, South Punjab, MRI, Old Shujabad Road, Multan.
- Vice Chancellor, MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan.
- Principal Scientist, Regional Agriculture Research Institute, Bahawalpur with the request to make arrangement for this meeting.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF COTTON PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 06.05.2021

Sixth Cotton Planning Committee meeting was held in the Committee Room No.2 New Minister Block, Lahore on 06.05.2021 (Monday) at 01.00 P.M. Mr. Syed Hussain Jahanian Gardezi, Minister for Agriculture Punjab, chaired the meeting. The Secretary Agriculture South Punjab, Additional Secretary (Task Force) South Punjab, Chief Scientist AARI Faisalabad, Chief Executive PARB; DGA (Ext. & AR); DG (PW & QCP); Dean Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, MNSUA, Multan; Director, Cotton Research Institute, Multan, Director Crop Reporting Services, Lahore and Deputy Director of Agriculture Information, Punjab attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached herewith. The proceeding of the meeting started with the recitation of Ayat from the Holy Quran.

The Chair, in his opening remarks, said that the cotton crop has been at its lower ebb during 2020-21, and now we have to utilize all available resources to make cotton production profitable. Director Cotton presented the agenda of the meeting. He explained the international scenario of cotton. He added that adopting IPM techniques and management of crop with effective pesticides can enhance yield per acre and make it profitable.

The Chair questioned the implementation status of the decisions taken in the last meeting. All responsible officers, i.e., DGA (Ext. & AR), Chief Scientist AARI., Faisalabad DG (PW & QCP), and Director Crop Reporting, briefed that all decisions of the previous meeting were implemented, and each of them gave separate presentations on the implementation status of different tasks.

The DGA (Ext. & AR) briefed the house that the cotton sowing is about 11% less than the last year. He also informed the house about the seed traceability of different districts, and its verification process is also in progress. He said that the Multan district showed 100% traceability which is doubtful. The Secretary Agriculture South Punjab said that he would get it verified independently. The Chair directed DGA (Ext. & AR) to tally these figures with FSC & RD. The Chair also directed Director Information for a TV commercial on seed traceability. DGA (Ext. & AR) further briefed the house about farmers' training program, E-credit scheme, and Kharif crop insurance funds distribution. He further informed the house that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research had made no progress about import of PB ropes so far. He also presented the IPM manual to the Chair. The Chair directed to send it to the experts for review.

The Chief Scientist Agri. (Research) gave presentation on the monitoring of farmers' training program conducted by Agriculture (Ext. & AR) department. He said that in four districts, i.e., Bhakkar, Sahiwal, T.T. Singh and Rajanpur, the monitors have reported some weaknesses in the farmers' training programs. The Chair directed DGA (Ext. & AR) to implement farmers' training program according to schedule.

The DG (PW & QCP) briefed the house about the current insect pest position and hot spots in various districts of Punjab. According to data, the incidence of whitefly, Jassid, PBW is higher than the last year, especially in Multan, Lodhran, Sahiwal and Bahawalpur. He also highlighted the alarming threat of fall armyworm.

The Chair directed DGA (Ext. & AR) and DG (PW & QCP) to take necessary measures to combat this insect. DG (PW & QCP) informed the house about the progress of the meeting with pesticides companies to resolve the burning issue of the ineffectiveness of pesticides. He said that pesticides companies raised their concerns about the protocol developed by MNSUA and CRI Multan to evaluate whitefly-related products effectiveness and also objected that these protocols were not discussed with the private sector. He suggested for constitution committee to re-evaluate the efficacy of pesticides having representatives from PCPA & Crop Life, and the development of a mechanism for cancellation of ineffective chemistries as well as necessary amendments in law.

The Secretary Agriculture South Punjab said that the objections of the private sector might have some weight. Still, no one can deny that efficacy results of MNSUA, CRI, and CCRI Multan as these solid references prove that farmers' complaints regarding the ineffectiveness of pesticides during the last cotton season were not only justified but also need immediate redressal. He further said that section 3 (a) of Agriculture Pesticide Ordinance 1971 (Fed) & Punjab Agriculture Pesticide Act 2012 quotes ineffective pesticides as adulterated ones; however, that section was not being implemented by PW&QCP Department in letter and spirit. The distributor companies were being issued licenses without getting efficacy certificates from them, and the government laboratories don't have entomologists to test it. He suggested that the distributors be asked to provide efficacy certificate from their own ISO certified labs with the help of five agriculture graduates, which they are bound to hire in any case. The DGA (Ext. & AR) said that when a pesticide is imported and registered, its efficacy testing is made by the Department of Plant Protection, Karachi, with the help of provincial field formation. The distributors are bound to mention their efficacy against pests on their retail packing. The Chair directed the DG (PW & QCP) to ensure that every distributor has been hiring five agriculture graduates and running ISO certified labs as required by law. He further said that if the companies are already providing efficacy certification on their retail packing, that's good; otherwise, they should give efficacy certification against the targeted pests for each batch. The Chair also directed the Secretary Agriculture South Punjab to put up a plan of action to ensure the effectiveness of pesticides for the cotton crop as required by law to be abided by the distributors. He also directed the DGA (Ext. & AR) and DG (PW & QCP) to provide all support to the Secretary in this regard.

The Secretary of Agriculture South Punjab also highlighted that the importers and manufacturers are bound by rule 12-A to provide retail packing to the distributors. However, there are complaints that some distributors receive unpacked pesticides from importers illegally. The DG (PW & QCP) said that his team ensures that no distributor should get unpacked pesticides from importers and formulators. If any complaint is received, the company is handled strictly in accordance with the law. The Chair directed the DG (PW & QCP) to launch a campaign to ensure the implementation of this rule throughout Punjab and put a presentation in this regard on this issue. The Chair also suggested that pesticides companies should conduct demonstration plots to show the effectiveness of their pesticides. The DG (PW & QCP) said that he has already planned to have at least one demonstration from every distribution company in all cotton-growing Tehsils, and he shall present details in the next meeting.

The Director Crop Reporting services briefed that cotton sowing will be 10-11% less than the last year. He also informed that Rs. 250 million were distributed among 42935 farmers in 11 Tehsil of South Punjab under cotton crop insurance. The Chair directed to put up a one-page note on cotton crop insurance.

The Deputy Director Information briefed the house about the summary of different publicities on print media, electronic/digital media and radio broadcasts. The Secretary Agriculture South Punjab said that the cotton advisory is being issued from South Punjab; however, the newspapers and electronic media in Sahiwal, Faisalabad and other cotton-growing districts beyond South Punjab are not publishing the same. He suggested that these areas should also be focused on by the Information Department to disseminate cotton advisory.

After detailed discussion and deliberation, following decisions were taken:

- TV Commercials of seed traceability etc.
Responsibility: Director information
- Uploading of all new technologies and manuals on web sites, especially cotton calendar for 2021
Responsibility: Director information
- Review of IPM manual by the experts from UAF, MNS-UAM & CRI
Responsibility: DGA (Ext & AR)
- Selection of progressive farmers for implementation of IPM Programme should be attached with scheduled and mapping
Responsibility: DGA (Ext & AR)
- Perusal for import of PB Ropes
Responsibility: DGA (Ext & AR)
- Tracking of certified seed and varieties
Responsibility: Director Crop Reporting
- Cross-checking of traceability report of seed in Multan
Responsibility: Additional Secretary Task Force, South Punjab
- Submission of a One-page note on crop insurance (Cotton) to the Minister for Agriculture
Responsibility: Director crop Reporting
- Plan & implementation methodology of demonstration plots by the pesticide companies in every cotton-growing Tehsil
Responsibility: DG (PW & QCP)
- Presentation on existing system of efficacy details or certification being given by different companies on packings of cotton related pesticides
Responsibility: DG (PW & QCP)

- Whether distributors are receiving packed or unpacked pesticides from importers?
Details of any action on violation during the whole last year be given
Responsibility: DG (PW & QCP)
- Actionable Plan to resolve the issue of the effectiveness of pesticides
Responsibility: Secretary Agriculture South Punjab
- Next (Seventh) meeting of Cotton Planning Committee will be held at Bahawalpur
Responsibility: Director Cotton
- Further meetings in Lahore will be held in the auditorium of agriculture house, keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic
Responsibility: DGA (Ext & AR)

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by the Chair to all the participants