

Subject: MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSION HELD ON 16.01.2017 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, PUNJAB AT DARBAR HALL CIVIL SECRETARIAT, LAHORE

Chair:

Mr. Naeem Akhtar Khan Bhaba, Minister for Agriculture, Punjab. Date & Venue: 16.01.2017 at 11:00 am, Darbar Hall, Civil Secretariat, Lahore. List of Participants attached (Annex-A).

The meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran. The chair welcomed the participants and invited Secretary Agriculture to brief the house about the purpose of the meeting and presented brief sector snapshot. Secretary Agriculture Commission took the Commission through the agenda for the day.

Deliberations and decisions taken on different issues / agenda items are given as under:

Sr. #	Issues /Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision	Action by
1	To approve decisions made in 3rd meeting of Agriculture Commission regarding following Sub-Committees. a. Formulation of Agriculture Policy. b. Decapping of Meat and Milk prices.	Secretary, Agriculture Commission apprised the house that brief inception report has been submitted by the sub-committee.	The Department will hire a team of consultant to add further to the Draft Agriculture Policy submitted before its presentation to Agriculture Commission meeting chaired by Chief Minister.	Agriculture Department
		The recommendations of the Sub-Committee constituted under the convenership of Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Khan Manhais regarding decapping of milk & meat prices already discussed and unanimously approved in 3 rd meeting of Agriculture Commission held on 2 nd December, 2016. Minister Finance Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha shared her observations being head of the previous committee on the issue. The Secretary,	Agriculture Commission endorsed the recommendations as already approved in its previous meeting held on 2.12.2016 regarding decapping of Milk and Meat prices. Considering the flash production prices of milk any further delay will be dangerous. The case shall immediately be submitted to Chief Minister, Punjab	

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	<p>L&DD explained that the recommendations of all the committee including one headed by Minister for Finance Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha were unanimously approved by the Agriculture Commission in its 3rd meeting held on 2nd December, 2016.</p>		
<p>2 To discuss the progress of the following Sub-Committees: a. Levy of Agriculture Income Tax (AIT).</p>	<p>Ch. Hamid Malhi, Convener of the Sub-Committee shared the committee's recommendations; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levy of AIT should be deferred upto FY, 2018-19. AIT should be land based for all sizes of land ownership. The committee proposed different tax slabs for levy of AIT. <p>Minister for Finance appreciated the efforts made by the committee and suggested further deliberation on the recommendations made with input from Board of Revenue. The chair agreed the above proposal. Mr. Khalid Mehmood, President, PKI stressed for suspension of AIT for 2-3 financial years keeping in view the present scenario. The house disagreed the suggestion.</p> </p>	<p>The recommendations of the Sub-Committee will be further deliberated in consultation with Minister for Finance and Board of Revenue before next meeting of Agriculture Commission chaired by Chief Minister.</p>	<p>Secretary Agriculture Commission.</p>
<p>3 Agriculture Commission Draft Bill 2016.</p>	<p>b. Small Farmers Development Corporation</p> <p>Ch. Hamid Malhi observed that the representation of the farmers in Agriculture Commission [Section 3(3)(h)] may be increased from 5 to 9. Secretary</p>	<p>Draft report will be presented by the Convener of the sub-committee in next meeting of Agriculture Commission.</p>	<p>Convener of the sub-committee.</p>

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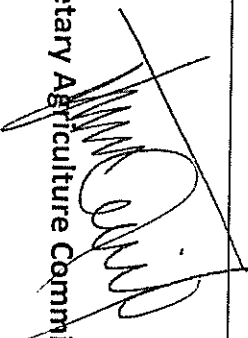
	<p>Agriculture stated that the Commission represents all of Agriculture Sector. The house agreed to the said proposal to the extent of increasing the number of farmers representation in the Bill.</p>		
<p>4 Resignation of Dr. Ali Cheema from the membership of Agriculture Commission, who was also Convener of Sub-Committee on "Agriculture Marketing System".</p>	<p>Secretary Agriculture Commission placed the issue of resignation of Dr. Ali Cheema from the membership of Agriculture Commission before the house. Vice Chancellor, University of Faisalabad volunteered his services for convenership of Sub-Committee and the house agreed.</p>	<p>Agriculture Department will propose the nomination to Chief Minister for approval of another member of Agriculture Commission Agriculture Department will notified as per decision.</p>	<p>Agriculture Department</p>
<p>5 Flat rate of electricity bills for agriculture tube-wells.</p>	<p>Mr. Khalid Mahmood Khokar, President, PKI demanded that, to avoid the exploitation of WAPDA, free electricity may be provided to the farmers. VC, UAF opposed the demand and suggested to provide level playing field to all stakeholders of the sector. Minister for Irrigation and Mr. Hussain Jahanian Gardezi, MPA suggested that electricity rate should be flat for agriculture tube-wells. The house unanimously agreed to the proposal of flat rate. Secretary Agriculture further informed that Government has already taken up following policy decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No free electricity for agriculture tube-wells. • Discouraging the installation of Solar tube-wells in irrigated areas. • Enhancing water storage capacity, small dams at farm level. 	<p>Federal Government may be approached for flat rate of electricity for agriculture tube-wells.</p>	<p>Agriculture Department</p>
<p>6 Cancellation of recovery notices regarding Punjab Agriculture Income Tax Act,</p>	<p>Secretary Agriculture informed that action has been taken in this regard and only ex-post facto approval from the Agriculture</p>	<p>Recovery notices regarding Punjab Agriculture Income Tax Act, 1997 have been cancelled</p>	

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1997.	Commission was required. The house appreciated the efforts made by Agriculture Department.	and duly confirmed by Agriculture Commission.	
7	Any other issue with the permission of the chair. Mr. Amjad Ali, chairman, PANIMA, demanded zero sales tax on agricultural machinery / implements for the benefits of farmers. Mr. Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, President PKI highlighted the issues of cost of production and market prices of crops and the need of an exhaustive policy on the subject.	The house agreed that the suggestion of Mr. Amjad Ali be taken up in the next budget session. The house agreed to constitute a Sub-Committee on cost of production to deliberate upon the issue.	

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the chair.


Secretary Agriculture Commission

No. 12(20)/P&EC/2017

Dated: 24-01-2017

- i. All members of Agriculture Commission.
- ii. PSO to Minister for Agriculture.
- iii. PO to Secretary Agriculture.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE 4TH MEETING OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSION HELD ON 16-01-2017 AT DARBAR HALL CIVIL SECRETARIAT LAHORE

1. Mian M. Naeem Khan Bhaba, Minister for Agriculture (In chair)
2. Minister for Finance
3. Minister for Irrigation
4. Hussain Jahanian Gardezy, MPA, Punjab Assembly
5. Saira Iftikhar, MPA, Sargodha
6. Secretary Agriculture
7. Secretary, Livestock & Dairy Development
8. Rabia Sultan, Director Farmer Associations (FAP)
9. Rana Muhammad Zia ul Haq, Small Farmers
10. Ch. Muhammad Maqsood Ahmad Jutt, potato growers coop society
11. Dr. Khalid Hameed, Sr. Vice Chairman CEO Tara group PCPA
12. Kauser Abdullah Malik, Progressive farmer, F.C college
13. Talat N. Pasha, VC, UVAS
14. Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, Pakistan Kissan Ittehad
15. Ch. Hamid Malhi, Chairman, PBEC
16. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, UAF-VC, UAF
17. Sarfaraz Ahmad Khan, Sr. Vice President, Kissan Board Pakistan
18. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chief Agriculture, P&D Department
19. Amjad Ali Amjad, Chairman PAMIMA
20. Secretary, Agriculture Commission
21. Chief, P&E Cell, Agriculture Department

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