

Agriculture Commission
Agriculture Department

Subject: MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSION HELD ON 01.03.2017 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, PUNJAB AT DARBAR HALL, CIVIL SECRETARIAT, LAHORE

5th meeting of Agriculture Commission was held on 01-03-2017 at 2:30 p.m under the chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture / Vice Chairman of Agriculture Commission in Darbar Hall, Civil Secretariat, Lahore. List of participants is attached (Annex-A).

The meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran and welcome note by the Chair. Secretary Agriculture Commission briefed the house about the agenda of the meeting. A number of decisions taken after detailed discussion on agenda items are given as under:

Sr. #	Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision	Action by
1	Small Farmers Development Corporation for Integrated Farming	Secretary Agriculture Commission apprised the house regarding resignation of Dr. Akmal Hussain, Convener of the Sub-Committee and that the subject shall be taken up by next Convener.	Appointment of new Convener of the Sub-Committee.	Agriculture Commission

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SOA (Ext)	
SO (R&E)	

PA to DS (P) Agri Deptt.
Dy No. 2023
Date: 13-3-17.

PA to AS (P) Agri
Diary No. 3082
Date: 10/3/17

10.3.17

Chief Secy

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2	Rates of hiring Bulldozers	<p>Members of the Sub-Committee on Formulation of Agriculture Policy briefly explained the issue and different slab rates devised for hiring bulldozers.</p> <p>Mr. Sarfraz Ahmad Khan, Kissan Board Pakistan strongly opposed Rs. 560/hr (to be paid by small farmers having less than 12.5 acre). He suggested zero cost of hiring for small farmers.</p> <p>The house deliberated the issue at length.</p>	<p>After deliberation, the house agreed to the following proposed slab rates for hiring bulldozers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers of land upto 12.5 Acres to be charged Rs. 560/hour and provided fuel by the Department Farmers with land from 12.5 to 25 Acres to be charged Rs. 100/hour and fuel will be their own. Farmers with land more than 25 Acres to be charged Rs. 650/hour and fuel will be their own. 	Agriculture Department
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3	Incentives for Agriculture Researchers	<p>Additional Secretary (Planning) appraised the house in detail about the proposed incentives for agriculture scientists and how this incentive cost will be self-generated.</p> <p>Ms. Ayesha Gulzar inquired about the copyrights and patency, to which Additional Secretary (P) further explained the new policy / procedure for seed and variety auction with respect to amended Seed Act and Plant Breeder Rights Act.</p> <p>Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik appreciated the step but also highlighted importance of re-vamping the service structure of scientists seconded by VC, UVAS.</p> <p>The Minister and Secretary for Agriculture welcomed the proposal of taking up the service structure reforms as well.</p>	<p>i. The house unanimously agreed to the proposal to allow incentives to agriculture researchers.</p> <p>ii. The house agreed to constitute a committee to revisit the service structure of the scientists, comprising:</p> <p>a. VC, UAF, (Convener)</p> <p>b. Additional Secretary Planning, Agriculture (Member)</p> <p>c. Additional Secretary, L&DD (Member)</p> <p>d. VC, UVAS (Member)</p> <p>e. Ms. Ayesha Gulzar (Member)</p>	Agriculture Department Agriculture Commission ✓
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4	Agriculture Package	<p>Discussion on various initiatives planned by the department was generated in the house on subjects such as comparison between advantages of giving Subsidy on fertilizer and cutting down GIDC and GST.</p> <p>House was informed of the Department's initiative to distribute spraying machines, certified cotton seeds and silo bags among the farming class.</p> <p>A few issues, were deliberated upon by the house like controlling incoming of vegetables from India to the detriment of local producers and cutting import of cotton till local produce is bought off, which are subjects of Federal Government. Mr. Khalid Khokhar, President, Pakistan Kissan Ittehad shared with the house that Federal Government has notified no Tax on cotton import (for 18 months). Secretary Agriculture stated that the matter will be taken up with Federal Government</p> <p>The house appreciated the initiatives of Agriculture Department and recommended that GIDC and GST should be eliminated by Federal Government.</p> <p>Mr. Khalid Khokhar, PKI emphasized for support price of cotton.</p>	<p>The house made following decisions:</p> <p>i. Federal Government would be requested to eliminate GIDC and GST on fertilizers.</p> <p>ii. As regards the import of cotton for industrial use, it was decided that the cotton import will be synchronized with the Federal government. A no tax expedition on cotton was also decided in the Commission to be taken up with Federal Government.</p>	<p>Agriculture Department</p> <p>✓</p> <p>→ M.O.C . . .</p>
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5	Miscellaneous issues	<p>The chair showed his concern regarding the non participation of Ex-officio members of Agriculture Commission.</p> <p>Mr. Khalid Kokhar from Kissan Ittehad pointed out that lease of Multan Cotton Research Institute needs to be extended.</p> <p>Mr. Khalid khokhar also requested that the matter of imposition of 16% GST on cold storage be taken up with PRA as it would negatively affect the potato farmers.</p>	<p>i. It was decided that Commission would arrange its meeting after checking availability of all members.</p> <p>ii. It was also decided that the Department would take up the issue with Federal Government.</p> <p>iii. The Tax on Cold storage will be taken up with Punjab Revenue Authority and enforcement of revised cold storage rates will be taken up by respective local administrators.</p>	<p>Agriculture Commission</p> <p>Agriculture Department</p> <p>PRA</p>
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The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the chair.

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

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

Secretary Agriculture Commission

Dated: 7/3/17

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE 5TH MEETING OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSION HELD ON 01-03-2017 AT DARBAR HALL CIVIL SECRETARIAT

LAHORE

1. Mr. Naeem Akhtar Khan Bhabha, Minister for Agriculture
2. Minister for Irrigation
3. Secretary Agriculture
4. Ch. Muhammad Magsood Ahmad Jutt, potato grower.
5. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, F. C College
6. Ms. Ayesha Gulzar, Country Director JE Associate
7. Mr. Talat N. Pasha, VC, UVAS
8. Mr. Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, President, Pakistan Kissan Ittehad
9. Ch. Hamid Malhi, Chairman, PBEC
10. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, VC, UAF
11. Mr. Safaraz Ahmad Khan, Sr. Vice President, Kissan Board Pakistan
12. Mr. Amjad Ali Amjad, Chairman, PAMIMA
13. Haji Muhammad Aslam, Dairy Farmer
14. Dr. Iqbal Shahid, Additional Secretary (Tech), L&DD Department
15. Dr. Muhammad Javed, Director (SEM), Irrigation
16. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chief Agriculture, P&DD
17. Mr. Shabbir Ahmad Khan, Deputy Secretary, Finance Department
18. Dr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Additional Secretary (Planning)
19. Dr. Qurban Ahmad, DGA (Field), Agriculture Department
20. Dr. Abid Mahmood, DGA (Research), Agriculture Department
21. Chief, P&E Cell, Agriculture Department
22. Secretary, Agriculture Commission

(In chair)