

No. 60/PAC/2017
Date: 26-5-2017
Agriculture Commission
Department of Agriculture
Government of Punjab

Subject:

MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSION HELD ON 19.05.2017 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, PUNJAB AT DARBAR HALL, CIVIL SECRETARIAT, LAHORE

The 7th meeting of Agriculture Commission was held on 19-05-2017 at 3:00 p.m under the chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture / Vice Chairman of Agriculture Commission at Darbar Hall, Civil Secretariat, Lahore. List of Participants 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 were taken on detailed discussion on agenda items as follows:



Sr. #	Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision	Action by
1	<p>Progress review of Sub-Committees:</p> <p>Cost of production sub-committee</p>	<p>The house was apprised of the progress of following sub-committees:</p> <p>Cost of Production sub-committee Con-venor Mr. Jahanian Gardezi briefed the house about the importance of cutting cost and its advantage in agriculture competitiveness. He updated the audience that the final recommendations shall be shared in next meeting. Ms Ayesha Gulzar requested that she be co-opted as member of this particular sub-committee.</p>	<p>The House agreed to inclusion of Ms. Ayesha Gulzar in deliberations of this sub-committee.</p>	<p>Punjab Agri-culture Com-mission</p>

1	<p>Service Structure of Agriculture and L&DD Scientists Sub-committee</p>	<p>Sub-committee on Service Structure Agriculture Sector Scientists presented its final recommendations in the house which was hotly debated by all present regarding induction of PhDs in BS-18. Mr. Kausar Malik, the Convenor recommended following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The extra scales BS-18+special pay in Agriculture Department (Research Wing) may be merged with existing BS-19. All existing posts of scientists of Agriculture and L&DD Departments may be up-graded to next grades keeping existing sanctioned posts and organogram intact. The quota of direct selection in each cadre and grade in both departments (Research Wings) may be converted to TTS system for future for which a Summary for approval of Chief Minister may separately be initiated subsequently. All new inductees into the system will be on TTS and will be PhDs. 	<p>The house agreed to the proposed recommendations after due deliberations by Mr. Kausar Malik, Dr. Talat, Ms Rabia Sultan, Mr. Jaharian Gardezi, Mr Sarfraz Khan, Dr. Ghazanfar AS(P) and Mr. Shamsi from Agriculture Department.</p>	Agriculture Department
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2	<p>Agriculture Income Tax</p> <p>The issue came back to the house on direction of the Chief Minister on the reservation of Finance Department upon the Commission's recommendations.</p> <p>The Member Taxation Board of Revenue Punjab, shared his data regarding calculation based on land assessment. The member taxation elucidated that proposed rates of AIT will actually increase revenue collection as against actual collection of last year.</p> <p>The discussion moved forward over the issue of land based tax slabs. The house added broader base to land assessment to increase overall revenue as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cultivated 01-12.5 acre holdings be taxed with Rs. 100/Acre ii. Cultivated 12 to 25 acres holdings be taxed a tax of Rs. 300/Acre iii. Cultivated 25 to 50 acres be taxed Rs.500/Acre iv. Cultivated 50 to 75 acres be taxed Rs.700/Acre v. Cultivated 75 to 100 acres be taxed Rs.900/Acre vi. Above 100 Acres be taxed Rs.1000/Acre 	<p>Majority of the house agreed to the amended proposal with reservations voiced by Mr. Sarfraz Khan and Ms Rabia Sultan on need for further deliberation.</p>	<p>Agriculture Department</p>
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3	Elimination of GST on Agricultural Inputs	<p>The house was apprised of comparative cost of production with Indian Punjab. It was agreed upon by the members that cutting down cost of production would make our produce more competitive and profitable.</p> <p>It was proposed that General Sales Tax on all Agricultural Inputs be waived off costing Rs. 26.10 (bn). And this to be balanced by cutting all subsidy amounting to Rs. 37.960 (bn).</p>	<p>The house agreed with request from Mr. Khalid Khokar (Kissan Ittehad) to add GIDC in this elimination challenge as well.</p>	Agriculture Department
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4	Msc. issues	<p>With permission of Chair, the members of the Commission raised various pressing issues as follows:</p> <p>i. Mr. Khalid Khokar (President Kissan Ittehad) raised the issue of losses being borne by sugar cane growers due to non-payment by sugar mill owners amounting to Rs. 2.5 (bn). To this another member opined that sugar cane was not a suitable crop for the sub-continent. It could never be made competitive in this region.</p> <p>ii. Ms Rabia Sultan brought attention of the house towards the issues of water. She highlighted that Pakistan's water sources were being tampered by India in Kashmir. To this Mr. Khalid Khokar (Kissan Ittehad) expressed his dissatisfaction over the Irrigation department's attitude towards canal management and repair to which the Chair agreed.</p>	<p>Cane Commission Punjab</p> <p>Irrigation Department</p>
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4	<p>iii. One of the members highlighted the importance of edible oils to the agriculture sector. He was of the view that a separate edible oils directorate must be established. The Secretary Agriculture Dptt. ensured him that he was aware of the importance of edible oils and steps were under way to promote it. He told the house that the department was working towards a separate agriculture price commission and a soya bean institute was being established. He also told the house that a support price for oil crops to be sown in the month of October was to be announced soon.</p>		Agriculture Department
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4		<p>iv. Government's initiative to support cotton sowing was appreciated. The importance of the cotton crop was highlighted in terms of gender related issues and environment issues. The house was made aware that cotton provided employment for females in rural areas and its stalk was used as fuel wood. Losses in the cotton crop meant indirect losses in rural female employability and environmental degradation in term of deforestation to cope with fuel wood requirements.</p> <p>v. On deforestation one of the members made the house aware that since partition we have reduced are forests from around 4% of the total land area to around 1.9 % of the total land area of the country. He warned the house that this would have dire repercussions in near future. He was also of the opinion that Eucalyptus trees have done a lot of harm to water levels and a country wide drive to remove them must be pursued.</p>	<p>The house agreed that Government should continue its pro-cotton policy and also ensure that cotton growers are not at a loss at time of harvesting and sale of crop.</p> <p>The house agreed that deforestation is a live issue and should be taken up by the department concerned. The house extended invitation to the Minister and Secretary Forest & Fisheries Department to join the Commission being part of Agriculture Sector</p>	<p>Agriculture Department</p> <p>Forest & Fisheries Department</p> <p>And</p> <p>Punjab Agriculture Commission</p>
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Annex-A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE 7th MEETING OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSION HELD ON 19-05-2017 AT DARBAR HALL,
PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT, LAHORE

1. Mian W. Naeem Khan Bhaba, Minister for Agriculture
2. Mr. Muhammad Mahmood, Secretary Agriculture Department
3. Mr. Asad Islam Manhi, Member Taxation BOR
4. Dr. Iqbal Shahid, Additional Secretary (Tech), LtDD Department
5. Mr. Ahmad Usmani, AS (Ops), Irrigation Department
6. Mr. Talat N. Pasha, VC, UVAS
7. Mr. Kausar Malik, Dean FCC
8. Mudassir Arif Khokar, DS Recovery BOR
9. Shabbir Ahmad Khan, DS FD
10. Muhammad Nadir, Deputy Director Law & Parliamentary affairs Department
11. Mr. Mumtaz Khan Minais, MPA
12. Mr. Hussain Jahanian Gardezi, MPA
13. Ch. Muhammad Maqsood Ahmad Jutti, potato growers coop society
14. Ms. Rabia Sultan Progressive Farmer
15. Ms. Ayesha Gulzar, Country Director JE Associate
16. Mr. Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, Pakistan Kissan Ittehad
17. Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmad Khan, Sr. Vice President, Kissan Board Pakistan
18. Dr. Khalid Hameed, PCPA
19. Secretary, Agriculture Commission

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

No. 60/PAC/2017

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

Secretary Agriculture Commission

Dated: 26/5/17