

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Framework for Economic Growth

A workshop was organized by Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP) on 24th January, 2012 to align a questionnaire of Pakistan Rural Household Survey (PRHS) 2011-12 with Framework for Economic Growth (FEG). Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission chaired the workshop. Experts from IFPRI, USAID, IDS,

Academia and Planning Commission participated and discussed issues relating to coverage of the survey, institutional framework for markets and role of urban sector in economic growth.

A delegation from International Center for journalists, met the Deputy Chairman, Planning Com-

mission on 26th of January, 2012. They discussed main features of FEG. The Deputy Chairman highlighted the need to implement reforms. The delegation inquired about the strategy of growth to employability of the huge youth bulge. They also discussed about the economic cost of war against terrorism.

Environment

Planning Commission organized a seminar on "Strategic Environmental Assessment—in the context of Framework for Economic Growth – Taking the Bull by the Horns" in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pakistan. Senior government officials, civil society, parliamentarians, statisticians, academia, media and other eminent personalities attended the seminar. The purpose was to sensitize the decision makers and other stakeholders about the importance of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in development planning. Deputy Chairman - the chief guest while addressing the seminar, said that environment has always been a subject of great concern. Environment



has not been explicitly discussed in the FEG since it is crosscutting. Mr. Ghulam Mohayuddin Marri, Member, Planning Commission welcomed the participants and said that Planning Commission has been a trendsetter in promoting environment. He highlighted role of Planning Commission in development of National Conservation Strategy. He said that National Impact Assessment Programme (NIAP) is a unique initiative towards meeting development goals in a sustainable manner. Dr. Aurangzeb Khan, National Project Director NIAP, gave an

overview of the project and briefed about the process through which the NIAP was launched. He said that key objective of NIAP is to promote Environmental Impact Assessment and introducing SEA among relevant stakeholders. Syed Tanveer Hussain, Project Director, National Trade Corridor (NTC) Project made a presentation on Strategic Environmental, Poverty and Social Assessment (SEPSA) of the



trade and transport sector reforms. He briefed about various ongoing transport projects in the country and highlighted inefficien-

Environment (continued)

cies and key problems in the transport sector. He also looked at environmental and social impact of such inefficiencies.

Mr. Rob Verheem, Deputy Director, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), delivered a detailed presentation on SEA and Pakistan's New Growth Strategy. Mr. Verheem noted that Dutch and Pakistan need to learn a lot from each other. He emphasized the need of conducting a SEA at this stage while implementation plan of Framework for Economic Growth is being planned in order to move towards sustainable development in the country.

Mr. Jawed Ali Khan, D.G (Environment), Ministry of National Disaster Management also spoke at the occasion. He stressed that policies approved or under review by the Cabinet should be subjected to SEA. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed, Senior Advisor Cli-

mate Change and Development, in his closing remarks highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change and global warming. He stressed on addressing climate change in the context of SEA. He emphasized on conserving our resources and devising drought and flood resilient strategies. He appreciated the role of Planning Commission, IUCN and NCEA in making SEA a practicable tool in Pakistan.

Member (Infrastructure), Planning Commission inaugurated a training workshop for the academia of Quetta on National Impact Assessment Programme (NIAP). Dr. Aurangzeb Khan, Chief Environment Section gave a presentation on Framework for Economic Growth.

Planning Commission organized a two day training workshop on January 19 – 20, 2012 on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to

enhance the capacity of senior level policy and decision-makers at federal and provincial level. The participants were introduced to SEA. SEA can facilitate incorporating sustainability principles in policymaking process and thus improves decision-making and help devise environmentally sustainable development policies and plans. It can anticipate impact that may occur at project level and thus strengthens project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It was explained that EIA is a legal requirement in Pakistan for over two decades, while Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is somewhat new to Pakistan. Like EIA, SEA aims to integrate environmental considerations into decision-making. While EIA is applied at the project level, SEA is applied during the development of policies, plans and programmes.

Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy

- Prepared Monthly update on inflation for July-November 2011.
- Prepared monthly update on inflation for July-December 2011,
- Tracking trends in Prices, Monetary Aggregates, Fiscal Policy and Stock Market,
- Compiled information on Key Economic Indicators relating to MP&FP Section
- Prepared material for National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC)
- Carried out review of consolidated fiscal developments during July-September 2011-12,
- Prepared material for the meeting of Monetary and Fiscal Policies Coordination Board
- Prepared update on stock market development for first half of (July-December) 2011-12.
- Coordinated the work of Tariff Reform Exercise with the relevant Ministries/Divisions/

National Fertilizer Development Center

The **Monthly Fertilizer Review Report of January, 2012** has been published, which states that overall nutrient off-take during December 2011 was about 446 thousand tons compared to 395 thousand tons of December 2010, up by 12.8%. Nitrogen off-take increased by 13.1% and

phosphate by 14% while Potash witnessed a downward trend. In product terms urea off-take was 704 thousand tons, while DAP off-take was 114 thousand tons both recorded an increase of 12.5% and 25.8% respectively over December 2010. During December 2011, the prices of do-

mestically produced urea decreased by 5.3% whereas prices of imported urea decreased by 7.4% as compared to November 2011. The prices of DAP in December 2011 decreased by 0.5% compared to November 2011.

Industries & Commerce

- Prepared briefs for Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Additional Secretary on the following ECC summaries:
 - Kasur Dry Port
 - Pure Terephthalic Acid (PTA)
 - Motorcycle Project by Yamaha Japan
- Organized meeting on existing strategy for Agro Food Processing Facility, Multan.
- Prepared working paper and organized Pre-CDWP on a revised project "Faisalabad Garment City"
- Prepared working paper for the CDWP on "Gwdar Industrial Estate" project.
- Offered comments on New Vehicles Fitness Certification System of EDB.

International Trade & Finance

- Updated data on External Sector of the economy. According to provisional data released by FBS, exports stood at \$ 11.2 billion during July-December 2011, up by 3.9%. The imports grew by 18.9%, at \$ 22.7 billion during July-December 2011. All export groups registered positive growth except textile and petroleum groups. Imports reveal a mix situation, Food and Transport group imports slowed down while others registered a positive growth. Trade deficit was at \$ 11.5 billion during the period.
- Prepared brief for Deputy Chairman Planning Commission for meeting with IFC.
- Attended standing committee meeting on Balance of Payments for the period July-June 2010-11.
- Sent material to Economic Affairs Division for Inaugural Session of Pak-Philippines Joint Economic Commission (JEC).
- Furnished comments to Economic Affairs Division on ONE UN Programme (2013-17) document.

Science & Technology

- Prepared working papers of the following projects for consideration of CDWP:
 - Plasma Research and Applications Laboratories
 - Establishment of Technical Training Center for Precision Mechanics & Instruments Technology at Jafferabad, Balochistan

Science & Technology (Continued)

- Construction of Office Building for Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and its Organizations (2nd Revision)
- Analyzed 42 PC-IVs of Ministry of Science and Technology projects.
- Prepared comments on 7 projects/documents/monitoring reports.

Public Investment Authorization (PIA)

- Arranged a CDWP meeting on 13th January, 2012 to discuss 13 development schemes.
- Received twenty nine (29) new development schemes/projects for consideration of CDWP/ECNEC during the month of January, 2012 which have been circulated among the members of CDWP for preparing working papers.

Nutrition

- The food basket registered an overall decrease of 5% during 2nd quarter of 2011 as compared to 2% increase in the 2nd quarter of 2010.
- While the cost in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan is 5%, 2% and 1% lower respectively if compared with the national average cost.
- The average cost of food basket in Federal area and Sindh is higher by 12% and 2% respectively if compared with the national average cost.
- Across regions in Punjab, average cost was higher in Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot and Lahore and it was lower in Multan and Bahawalpur as compared to overall average food cost in Punjab during the quarter.
- In case of Sindh, quarterly average cost of food basket remained comparatively higher in Karachi compared with the average cost of Sindh and other regions.

Pakistan Planning & Management Institute

- Organized a training course on "Socio-economic Policies" on 16-20 January 2012 at PPMI. 21 participants attended the training course.
- Civil work component of both PPMI buildings, Hostel as well as the Campus has been completed. Hostel building has been taken over in January, 2012 and has been connected with electricity and gas connections. Contract for furnishing both the buildings has also been awarded with the target to make these buildings fully operational in February, 2012.

Employment & Research

- Prepared material for annual meeting of World Economic Forum.
- Prepared input for Inaugural Session of Pak-Philippines Joint Economic Commission (JEC).
- Offered comments on draft Pakistan Poverty Assessment Report.
- Provided input on the concept paper presented by NAVTTC titled "Capitalizing the Surplus Drivers".
- Prepared 4 years per-

Employment & Research (Continued)

formance and achievements of the present government with respect to this

Section.

- Offered comments on project titled "Setting Up of Vocational Cen-

tres (Male) in 13 Tehsils of Balochistan".

Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre and Information & Communication Technologies

- Participated in PSDP Rationalization exercise with regard to projects of Ministries of Interior, Finance, Information Technology and SUPARCO.
- Prepared Working Paper and minutes of CDWP for project on "Machine Readable Passport and Machine Readable Visa" (Revised)-phase-II.
- Prepared Technical Appraisal of Concept Clearance of the project titled "Information Technology Development" of Ministry of IT and Telecom.
- Provided comments on the development projects of Mass Media Section; i) FM

Coverage of FATA and ii) 100 KW Medium wave transmitter at Khairpur.

- Prepared comments on Safe City Project for Ministry of Finance.
- Offered comments on 19 PC-1s of development projects of NTC.
- Participated in the mid year review of the development projects of Ministry of Interior.
- Uploaded audio recordings of the proceedings of CDWP meeting.
- Made arrangements for participation of Deputy Chairman in a video conference arranged by the ICAP Lahore on energy crisis.

- Provided multimedia and audio recording facility in the meetings of mid year review of PSDP.
- Arranged Post-CDWP meeting on Machine Readable Passport/ Visa under the Chairmanship of Member (S&T), Planning Commission.
- Provided technical support to a workshop held on "IFPRI-PSSP Survey".
- Prepared a presentation for Secretary on the Development Projects of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA.
- Prepared replies to the audit observations.

Manpower

- Offered comments on draft Poverty Reduction Assessment Report.
- Prepared working

paper for a project "Setting up of Vocational Centers (Males) in 13-Tehsils of Balochistan" for consid-

eration of CDWP.

- Compiled information on pending CDWP decisions

We are on the
Web
www.pc.gov.pk



Planning Commission

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