

Planning Commission Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Public Investment	2
Money Prices & Fis-	2
Governance	2
National Fertilizer	2
Food & Agriculture	3
Education	3
Plan Coordination	3
PPMI	3
CPRSPD	3

New Growth Strategy (NGS)

In the on going series of Seminar's on "New Growth Strategy" Planning Commission held also a consultative seminar on 7th Feb,2011. The objective of the seminar was to review the growth strategy of Pakistan and what can be the new alternatives for exploring a better growth for the country. The seminar was attended by all the Additional Chief Secretaries of Planning and

Development Departments of the Provinces, Academia and representative of Regulatory Authorities. The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission gave a presentation on New Development framework and this was followed by remarks/comments of the participants. The New Growth Strategy was shared with the line Ministries and representatives from all provinces on 14th Feb, 2011.

The participants appraised this holistic approach where each and every sector is being thoroughly touched. The line ministries and representatives from the provinces expressed their desire to submit their feedback/comments by starting of March 2011 to provide their valuable input for making the strategy more participatory.

Projects Wing

E-Connectivity of Fed. Ministries/ Div. with the Planning Commission

The Interior Division and Ministry of Women Development were connected online in loop with the Project Monitoring & Evaluation System (PMES) during the month of February 2011. Up till now



24 Ministries/Divisions have been connected with the PMES.

Non-Destructive Detective Testing (NDT)

As per directions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, a three member team of the Projects Wing undertook field monitoring of nine development projects in Southern Punjab along with Non-Destructive Testing Unit. The projects include Bridge at Jinnah Chowk, Head Muhammadwala Bridge, Bridge



over River Chenab at Shershah and Moosa Pak Bridge etc. with the assistance of



experts of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

Satellite Monitoring

On the directive of the honourable President of Pakistan, Projects Wing is working on an assignment to initiate satellite monitoring of development projects. For this purpose, 0.6 meter resolution imagery of Karachi



Circular Railway (KCR) has been received from SUPARCO. The Projects Wing is overlaying the proposed design and project related issues on the satellite imagery of KCR.

Monitoring

Seventy Two (72) development projects were field

monitored during February 2011 by the officers of the

Projects Wing.

Projects Wing

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Presentation made to Finance Minister

On the direction of Finance Minister a Presentation on monitoring and evaluation of PSDP Projects was given by the Member (I&M), Planning Commission to the Finance

Minister, wherein the details of projects completed during financial year 2009-10 was also highlighted. Amongst others the Presentation was also attended by the Deputy

Chairman, Planning Commission, Secretary Planning Commission and the Secretary Finance Division.

Public Investment Programming (PIP)

From FY 2010-11, the Planning Commission has been authorized release development funds under PSDP 2010-11 to executing agencies on quarterly basis. Till February 28, 2011, Rs. 92.0 billion have been released to various development projects being executed across

the country. Analysis of PSDP Portfolio 2010-11 is being undertaken for its effective rationalization. Formulation of PSDP 2011-12 has been started keeping in view resources under MTBF and economic targets during next fiscal year (2011-12). To this effect, PSDP call

circular has been circulated to all concerned federal Ministries/Division, provincial governments and stakeholders, to collect rational demands of development funds for the FY 2011-12.

Money Prices & Fiscal Policy (MP&FP)

Inflation during July-January 2010-11 is persistently high. Latest available data upto January 2011, shows that Consumer Price Index (CPI) has risen by 14.5% in July-January 2010-11 against an increase of 10.8% in July-January 2009-10, with food inflation at 18.8% against 10.9% and non-food inflation

at 11.0% against 10.7% over the same period previous year. Core (Non-Food & Non-Energy) inflation in July-January 2010-11 stood at 9.6% against 11.6% in July-January 2009-10. The higher inflationary trends in the country are due to supply side gap, unprecedented floods and rise in prices in

international market. Other factors contributing to rising inflationary trend are higher government borrowings from the banking sector especially State Bank of Pakistan to meet budgetary expenditure and increase in prices petroleum products as well as of utility charges.

Governance

In the month of February, 2011, PC-1 of the development scheme of Revenue Division titled "Project Management Unit (PMU) of Federal Board of Revenue" was returned after detailed deliberations in Pre-CDWP. Final Review/Evaluation of Medium Term Development Frame Work (MTDF) 2005-10 in respect of Governance Section was prepared. Draft chapter of Good Governance has been amended in

light of New Growth Strategy for onward submission. Report on Sectoral Analysis of PSDP 2010-11 was prepared as desired by Public Investment Programming Section. Two development schemes (Revised PC-1 of project titled "Project to Improve Financial Reporting and Auditing" and PC-1 of project titled "Program Management Unit for Access to Justice Program, Islamabad") were examined.

Ten (10) Foreign/Local Training/Workshops/ Conferences opportunities were circulated. 14 nominations were processed which were forwarded to the sponsors and 03 officers attended the foreign training during the month of February, 2011 and 07 officers/officials attended the local training courses/workshops.

National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

The **Monthly Fertilizer Review of Mid February, 2011** has been published, which reveals that the total nutrient off take during January, 2011 was about 246 thousand tonnes compared to 332 thousand tonnes of

January, 2010, showing a decrease of 26.1 per cent. Nitrogen as well as phosphate offtake decreased by 24.5 and 36.4 per cent, respectively whereas potash offtake increased by 16.3 per cent. This significant de-

crease in major nutrients i.e. Nitrogen and Phosphate is mainly attributed to price hike of these fertilizers both in international as well as in domestic market.

Food & Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Section performed the following activities.

- Submitted technical comments for trilateral Ministerial level meeting between Pakistan-Afghanistan and the United States of America.
- The project "Impact Evaluation study of National Programme for Improvement of Water Courses in Pakistan" has been finalized by reviewing the final draft report.
- Finalized the modalities of a two days International work shop in collaboration with World Bank on, "Investing in Agriculture and Water in Pakistan, to be held in first week of March, 2011.
- Chapter on Agriculture for the "New Growth Strategy" compiled by incorporating inputs for all sub-sectors of Agriculture.
- Final review of MTFD (2005-10) under process..
- Re-appropriation case of Animal Quarantine Stations in Pakistan finalized.
- Review of Cess on Agricultural commodities and

compilation of data and report writing.

- Confirmation for wheat conference.
- Final draft working paper on modified PC-I of the project "National Commercial Seed Production Programme" prepared.
- Reviewed and commented on three Monitoring Reports of PSDP projects.
- The Project, "Control and Prevention of Avian Influenza under review.
- Progress of on-going projects are being reviewed.

Education

During the month of February, 2011 the education section performed the following activities.

- The Chapter on Basic and Education has been revised in the light of New Growth Strategy.
- Action Plan pertaining to implementation of 10th Five Year Plan prepared.
- Working Paper for CDWP on a project "Provision of Quality Education facilities for 200 students of FATA under Prime Ministers

Special Package has been prepared.

- Five Development projects have been monitored.

Plan Coordination

During the month of February Plan Coordination Section consolidated the Year Book 2009-10 of Planning Commission and sent to the Printing Corporation of

Pakistan for printing. The Section also updated the Cabinet Division on implementation status of seven Prime Minister's Directives. On the request of Ministry of

Finance/Ministry of Information talking points for President's address to the Parliament has also been submitted after consolidation.

Pakistan Planning & Management Institute (PPMI)

Pakistan Planning & Management Institute during the month of February conducted two following trainings:

- Seminar on Poverty Exit Strategies
- Gender Responsive Planning and Economic Development.

Thirty nine (39) participants attended the above mentioned training courses.

Centre for Poverty Reduction & Social Policy Development (CPRSPD)

Centre for Poverty Reduction & Social Policy Development (CPRSPD) is working on three important assignments/tasks i) Support for Inclusive economic growth strategy in Pakistan ii) Youth Engagement Strategy iii) Formulation of youth taskforce iv) Seminars related to youth engagement and development. CPRSPD carried out a num-

ber of tasks with regards to the Youth. Under the Youth Engagement Strategy formulation banner, the TORs for the Youth Engagement Task force were finalized. The objective of the Task Force is to finalize the youth engagement strategy and its action plan by holding seminars at national and sub-national level. Furthermore, Op-Eds on Youth are written

for the publication in major newspapers. Moreover, the Research Officers at the Centre of Poverty Reduction and Social Policy Development attended training on Poverty Dynamics and Exit Strategy at Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI) from 17th to 19th February, 2011.

Centre for Poverty Reduction & Social Policy Development (CPRSPD)

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The Poverty concepts, approaches and measurements were presented in terms of Education, Health and Social Safety Nets. Various initiatives to protect the poor and vulnerable were also covered and issues that still need to be addressed were discussed.

Under the capacity building program, CPRSPD in collaboration with National University of Science and Technology organized a 2-day training on "Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)" on 21st and 22nd

February, 2011 at PDC (NUST). Along with the staff of CPRSPD, training was also attended by nominees from Poverty Section and Macroeconomic Section of Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan. Some modules covered during the day long training sessions included Data Screening and Transformation, Reliability Analysis, Regression Analysis, etc.

A Video Conference (VCon) was held at the Planning Commission among the administrators of school sys-

tems in Lahore and Islamabad to stimulate debate on Youth and Community Engagement in order to shape a national agenda for youth development and economic growth in Pakistan. The Deputy Chairman Planning Commission mediated the brainstorming session on youth engagement and development in the context of Pakistan's upcoming economic growth challenges.

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



Planning Commission

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