

Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Science Conference (CCAPS)-

Lessons, Achievements and Way Forward

2nd October, 2018

Marriot Hotel Islamabad

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council organized a ***“Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Science Conference (CCPAS) - Lessons, Achievements and Way Forward”*** under HI-AWARE project. The conference was organized to disseminate the achievements of the HI-AWARE project and special emphasis was on the success stories being piloted by PARC at the various pilot sites of the project in different agro-ecologies. The Conference began with recitation of the Holy Quran. Additional Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research highlighted the Pakistan’s vulnerability to climate change. He emphasised on sustainable development in agriculture sector to make it resilient to climate change. He also stressed on consistent policies to adapt agriculture sector to climate change and reduce emissions from the sector to highlight its mitigation agenda. He also informed that adaptation to climate change is the priority agenda of the present government along with strong mitigation measures.



The Project In-charge, Dr. Bashir Ahmad, gave an overview of the project highlighting the achievements and success stories particularly the development of piloting sites, up-scaling of the pilot activities. Dr. Phillippus Wester, shared the key messages of the HI-AWARE project. He shared with the audience that even an increase of 1.5 degrees is alarming and glaciers of the HKH region will shrink by 36% at this much increase in temperature by 2100. The Director General of the ICIMOD was represented by the county representative of Pakistan, Dr. Abdul Wahid Jasra. Dr. David Molden specifically highlighted that the PARC component of the HI-AWARE was most vibrant in the region and appreciated the contributions of PARC team to the joint mutual human cause of minimizing the impacts of climate change.



Special Advisor on Climate and Meteorology, Dr. Qamar Zaman, highlighted the achievements of Government of Pakistan in tackling climate change including formation of a dedicated Ministry for Climate Change, National Climate Change Policy, National Water Policy, and National Forest Policy etc. He also mentioned that adaptations in agriculture and water sector are crucial for sustainable development of the country.

Mr. Nisar A. Memon Ex- Minister and Senator acknowledged the contributions of HI-AWARE project and PARC in climate change impacts, pilots and sensitizing the implications of climate change for water and agriculture sectors in Pakistan. He focused on governance related issues which are hampering the sustainable development of the country. He said that National Forest Policy and the plan to plant 10 billion trees in next five years will be instrumental in bringing change in the country if implemented in their true spirit. He also

stressed on reducing vulnerabilities in the region due to governance issues. He also emphasized on building of institutional capacity and infrastructure to reduce vulnerabilities. Video message of Bruce Carrie-Alder, Program Leader, CARIAA, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) was telecasted.

The inaugural session of the conference was close with the vote of thanks from Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Dr. Yusuf Zafar ^{T.I.}. He also informed audience that up-scaling of PARC tested technologies under HI-AWARE and other projects are underway. He specifically mentioned solar water pumping schemes in Gilgit-Baltistan and initiative of 30,000 solar pumping systems by Government of Pakistan. He thanked CARIAA IDRC for providing this funding opportunity which has been successful. He also appreciated CIMOD leadership role in regional coordination.

The technical sessions were chaired Ex-Minister Nisar A. Memon and Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CEO LEAD Pakistan. Dr. Arthur Lutz, Dr. Biemans Hester, Dr. Bashir Ahmad, Mr. Zeeshan Tahir Virk, Mr. Zakir Hussain Dahri, Dr. Muhammad Munir Ahmad, Mr. Debabrat Sukla and Mr. Khalid Jamil presented finding of HI-AWARE project which covered as:

- Even 1.5 Degrees is Too Much - Rising temperatures and wetter futures in South Asian glacier and snow-fed river basins
- **Too Hot to Bear - Concerted efforts needed to address urban heat in South Asia**
- **More Severe Floods in the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra Basins Likely in the Future**
- Mountain Water Resources Crucial for Agriculture in the Indus Basin, Less So in the Ganges and Brahmaputra Basins
- **Socio-economic Development, not Climate Change, the Main Driver of the Future Water Gap in the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra Basins**
- Socio-economic Development, not Climate Change, the Main Driver of the Future Water Gap in the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra Basins
- Changing Faces of Vulnerabilities - Major climatic and socioeconomic drivers in the HKH Region
- Changing Genderscapes In the Hindu Kush Himalaya, but Unchanging Institutions and Policies
- Climate Smart Water Management Vital for Sustainable Agriculture in South Asia
- Moving to Adapt - Migration and adaptation to environmental stress in the Gandaki, Upper Ganga, Indus and Teesta River Basins
- People's Perceptions of Critical Climate Stress Moments in the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra (IGB) River Basins
- Adapt Before It's Too Late -Adaptation pathways in the Hindu Kush Himalaya
- Working Towards Effective Adaptation
- Contributions from HI-AWARE pilots to enhancing climate resilience in the HKH region

Parliamentary Secretary Climate Change Ms. Rukhsana Naveed appreciated HI-AWARE efforts and contribution in climate change impact assessment and adaptation to improve resilience.

Member Climate and Food Security, Planning Commission of Pakistan Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan showed keen interest in HI-AWARE finding for climate resilient planning of the Pakistan.



The conference was well represented by Government Organization from federal and all provinces, NGOs, Universities, print and electronic media. There were participation from Government Organization (41) including Federal Ministries of Planning and Reforms, Climate Change, Water, Food security, Alternate Energy, Information and Provincial ministries of Planning, Irrigation, Water Management, Agriculture etc. of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, KPK, Gilgit Baltistan and AJK). Development Agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNDP, UNIDO also participated and shown keen interest in HI-AWARE findings and outcomes. There were about 20 NGO's (Lead Pakistan, WWF, IUCN, Helvetas, Red Crescent, AKAH, NRSP, AKRSP, FOCUS, AKDIAN). Academian's from National University of Defence (NUST), COMSATS University Islamabad, Arid University Rawalpindi, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Engineering University Lahore etc. participated.



The event was covered and news was telecasted by seven electronic channels including Pakistan Television Network (PTV), ARY News, Express News, AJ TAK, AbTak, APP and Nawai Waqat. 26 newspapers covered the CCAPS conference including 05 national English newspapers.