

# Media Update

3 July 2015

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## FAO

PRESS RELEASE

### Japan funds FAO for the Recovery and Development of the Agricultural Economy in FATA

**Islamabad; July 2, 2015:** The Government of Japan has agreed to fund the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to implement a project worth about 5 million USD (approximately 507 million PKR) for the recovery and development of the agricultural sector in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Notes to this effect were signed here today between H. E. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Patrick T. Evans, FAO Representative in Pakistan, witnessed by H.E. Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research. On the same occasion, a Grant Agreement on the details of implementation of the project was signed between Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Mr. Evans.

FATA has been severely affected by unrest and military operations over the last decade. Early this year there were some 260,000 families displaced from their homes in FATA. The FATA Secretariat prepared a “Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy” early this year and from March has been supporting the return of displaced families. Currently 218,000 families are awaiting the opportunity to return home which is expected to be realized for all by the end of 2016.

The purpose of this project is to make a significant contribution to stabilization of the area, reducing poverty and economic inequalities in two



of the agencies (Khyber and Kurram) through 1) Restoration/improvement of agriculture production (including crops, livestock, poultry and fisheries), 2) Restoration/rehabilitation of related productive assets (such as reclamation of land and rehabilitation of water resource), and 3) Strengthening the institutional capacity of government and private agriculture service providers and improving skills of the beneficiaries. This project is designed to directly benefit approximately 26,000 returned families (195,000 individuals) in Khyber and Kurram agencies. This project is in line with the “FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy”, launched by FATA Secretariat.

H.E Mr. Hiroshi Inomata pointed out that the stability of FATA is essential for the stability of the entire Pakistan. He said that the project aims to enhance people’s livelihoods by restoring agriculture, which is the mainstay of the economy in FATA, and thereby contribute to the stability of the region. He added that he hopes this project will also promote sustainable return of displaced persons.

Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki said that stabilization and development of Pakistan–Afghanistan border areas is one of the priorities of Japan/JICA’s cooperation for Pakistan and he sincerely hoped that this project will contribute to restoration and improvement of agriculture and livestock based livelihoods of returning families in Kurram and Khyber agencies. He also said that this project is expected to have synergy with JICA’s ongoing technical cooperation in agricultural extension service in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Mr. Patrick T. Evans, said that the “agriculture and its sub-sectors are the primary means of livelihood for the majority of people in the FATA region. Rebuilding agriculture production is critical as people return to ensure food security and to rebuild local economies. Mr. Evans expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan and to JICA for the support being provided and stated that he looked forward to working with them and the FATA Secretariat to support the sustainable returns and development in FATA.

At this occasion, Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research said that the Government of Pakistan and its relevant departments in FATA will be working closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Japan International Cooperation Agency to reach out to the beneficiary communities for stable and food secure households in FATA.

***For further information, please contact:***

**Mahira Afzal**, Communications Office, FAO, Cell: 0346-8544197, Email: Mahira.Afzal@fao.org

**Sajid Abbasi**, Embassy of Japan, Phone: 51 907-2500, Email: sajid.abbasi@ib.mofa.go.jp

**Zubair Muhammad**, JICA Pakistan Office, Phone: 51 924-4500, Email: ZubairMuhammad.PT@jica.go.jp

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## ILO

### PRESS RELEASE

## **ILO and the Netherlands sign agreement to strengthen labour inspection systems in Pakistan**

*The partnership will strengthen institutional mechanisms for effective labour inspection; enhance human resource capacities in the country to enforce the law on labour inspections and partner with the private sector to promote international labour standards and ensure their compliance by enterprises.*

Press release | 02 July 2015

GENEVA - The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Netherlands have embarked on a unique partnership aimed at supporting the Government of Pakistan and workers' and employers' organizations in developing measures to revitalise the country's labour inspection machinery.

The partnership will focus on strengthening institutional mechanisms for effective labour inspection; enhancing human resource capacities in the country in a bid to enforce the law on labour inspections – based on a needs assessment – and partnering with the private sector to promote international labour standards and ensure their compliance by enterprises. This new project can be seen as an important component of the ILO's overall efforts to



support the Government of Pakistan in their compliance with international labour standards.

Labour inspection is a critical factor in the growth of sustainable enterprises in Pakistan, particularly in the context of the 'Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus' status, making Pakistani products have duty free access to the European market, which came into force in January 2014. Although Pakistan ratified the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81) in 1953, there has been a strong call among stakeholders to strengthen the effectiveness of labour inspection. There is also a need to ensure the enforcement of legal provisions in the context of the delegation of legislative powers to provinces and jurisdiction in labour-related matters, which has also been expressed by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) .

Following the disastrous 2012 factory fire in Ali Enterprises in Karachi , where 260 women and men lost their lives and more than 1,000 workers lost their jobs, effective labour inspection that looks at occupational safety and health (OSH) in Pakistan is needed. This tragedy, however, saw the Government, workers and employers come together in the development of the Joint Action Plan on OSH for the Sindh Province, which has been implemented since 2013. The Government of Pakistan now aims to refine this action plan and replicate it in other provinces.

## **Partnering for change**

The ILO's partnership with the Netherlands in Pakistan has picked up the pace over the past twelve months. Notable joint endeavours include a roundtable meeting, hosted by the ILO, where Ms Lilianne Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands stressed the need for better working conditions in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan's textile industry as a prerequisite for enhanced export to the European Union. This, also as the textile industry is the country's second largest economic sector after agriculture. The roundtable event was followed by training on occupational safety and health (OSH), which saw over 100 labour inspectors trained in key OSH concepts.

Recently, the ILO, the Netherlands and the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) have joined forces in the creation of the first Buyers' Forum in Pakistan – bringing together large international brands such as H&M, Li&Fung, V&D, Gap, Inc., India, Hema and C&A. Since December 2014, three

meetings have taken place and the Buyers' Forum has reaffirmed its commitment to better work and environmental practices Pakistan's textile sector. This has been complemented by an assessment of the status of compliance and existing good practices in the sector.

**For more information, please contact:**

Mr. Saad Gilani  
Senior Program Officer  
Tel: +925 12276456/8  
Email: islamabad@ilo.org

*In addition to this partnership, the Netherlands also, on this day, signed an important agreement with the ILO in support of its work in the preparations for a general discussion on decent work in global supply chains, to be held during the 105th session of the International Labour Conference in June 2016. This work will entail regional consultations with developing countries on how to ensure decent work in the global supply chain, including identifying and shedding light on success stories on how supply chains have led to decent work opportunities for women and men.*

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