

Media Update

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FAO

PRESS RELEASE

Pakistan Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Training Programme will be an effective tool to handle livestock emergencies

Islamabad, 3 September 2015: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is initiating “Pakistan Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Planning and Training Programme” that would benefit livestock officers at the national, provincial and district levels to be better prepared to handle livestock emergencies. In this regard, FAO in collaboration with the Ministry for National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC) and USDA organized an inception workshop which was attended by the government livestock officers from across the country.

Honorable Federal Minister for the National Food Security and Research, Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan was the chief guest on the occasion. Also present were Dr. Gulam Muhammad Ali, Chief Scientist/Dy Director General, PARC, Mr. Jack Mortenson, Agricultural Attache- Animal Health Advisor- USDA, Mr. Francisco Gamarro, Deputy FAO Representative to Pakistan and Mr. Nasar Hayat, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme).

In his address, the honorable minister said that “the project is very timely and important initiative for Pakistan’s agriculture sector. It will help the disaster preparedness apparatus to be better prepared in terms of livestock. There is a growing realization that responses to disasters should include protection of livestock assets and rebuilding of livestock based livelihoods. The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) provide a set of guidelines and



standards for design, implementation and assessment of livestock interventions to assist people affected by humanitarian crises”.

Mr. Francisco Gamarro, Deputy FAO Representative to Pakistan said that “Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Rapid changes in the agriculture sector are taking place at the international and national level which has direct and indirect implication on local communities. Coordinated efforts are needed to tackle the issues of climate change at grassroots level”.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chief Scientist/ Dy Director General Research, (PARC) extended support for successful implementation of the project. Mr. Nasar Hayat, Assistant FAO Representative (Programmes) shared key notes on the project objectives, activities and expected outcomes.

The livestock sector is an important subsector of the country’s economy. More than 8.0 million rural families are involved in raising livestock –main source of income and nutrition. During 2014-15, the sector contributed approx. 56.3 % to agriculture value added- 11.8 % of the national GDP. In past decade, the country has gone through many disasters that had devastating impact on the lives, livelihoods and food security of a large number people and their sources of income especially livestock based livelihoods. In 2010-11 floods, over 100,000 head of livestock perished. The economic loses were enormous and only 2014 floods in Punjab, the economical losses to livestock sector were estimated to be more than Rs. 350 million.

The LEGS focuses on the importance of protecting and rebuilding livestock as a key livelihood asset in emergency and post-emergency situations. LEGS was created with support from FAO, and by the end of 2014, a total of 80 LEGS trainers around the world have been accredited and over 3,000 professionals have attended one of the 160 three-day LEGS training that have been conducted [END].

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United Nations Pakistan

PRESS RELEASE

The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan met TDPs in Jalzoai camp

Jalozai, 3 September 2015: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, visited Jalozai camp with Secretary Planning and Development, PDMA Director General Mr. Amir Afaq, FATA Secretariat Mr. Shakeel Qadir Khan, UNDP Country Director Mr. Marc-André Franche, and WFP Country Representative Ms. Lola Castro to meet TDPs receiving supports from Japan through UNDP and WFP.

WFP has been distributing foods and providing nutrition service in Jalozai camp for TDPs with Japan's 5 million USD grant. When the Ambassador visited TDP tents, TDPs expressed gratitude for Japan's support and expressed a desire to return to their communities of origin in FATA. The Ambassador also visited WFP Nutrition Facility in Jalozai camp where acutely malnourished children, pregnant women and lactating mothers receive treatment.

UNDP also has been supporting TDPs with Japan's support through vocational training, social cohesion, and rehabilitation of community infrastructure. 20 young trainees from FATA received certificates from the Ambassador. One of the trainees stated that he hopes to utilize his newly acquired skills to contribute to development of his home community in FATA. This effort will expand for returnees in North Waziristan to recover the livelihood in their own communities and UNDP and FATA Secretariat, the implementation partner of the project, signed on the letter of agreement in the presence of the Ambassador.

Lastly the Ambassador visited Jalozai Humanitarian Response Facility (HRF) which was constructed by WFP. Japan is the largest donor for the HRF. The planning of the facilities has started after floods in 2010 in order to prepare for natural disasters. Japan which has experienced natural disasters and has knowledge of disaster prevention have also provided Pakistan with assistance to strengthen the weather forecasting system, improve flood warning and management capacity, and install a weather surveillance radar.

The Ambassador stated that he is grateful to personally witness the positive impacts and results of the assistance from the people of Japan on such key issues for Pakistan. He added that he hopes that the Government plan to facilitate the return of all TDPs by December 2016 will be implemented as planned and that the rehabilitation of FATA will be accelerated in order to increase the stability of border area which will be a crucial factor for achieving peace and stability in Pakistan as a whole.

Mr. Marc-Andre Franche, Country Director of UNDP added that: “the generous support from the Government of Japan has enabled UNDP and our partners to work hand in hand with the communities to improve their living conditions during the displacement period and to facilitate a dignified return to FATA by improving access to basic services, developing business skills and promoting social cohesion. This support represents the first step on a long road to recovery and prosperity in FATA, the emergence of a peaceful and productive society in FATA will require sustainable and long-term commitment from us all.”

Ms. Lola Castro, Country Director of World Food Programme (WFP) said that it is a matter of great satisfaction that with the support of Japan, since March 2015, the FATA return and rehabilitation process has been in place and, as a result, nearly 300,000 people have returned to Khyber, North and South Waziristan agencies. Further she said that WFP-assisted Humanitarian Rehabilitation Facilities (HRF) have been successfully completed and handed over to PDMAs in Lahore, Hyderabad, Peshawar, Quetta and Muzaffargarh. Those facilities have been used by provincial governments to have a rapid response to recent floods by coming closer to the affected communities. She reiterated that WFP would continue to support in enhancing government capacity to prepare and respond to natural shocks.

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