

Media Update

24 January 2019

FAO

Press Release

Climate-Smart Agriculture Profile for Punjab launched

Lahore: The Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) profile for Punjab province was launched at a ceremony in Lahore today.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and Agriculture Delivery Unit, Government of Punjab have jointly prepared the profile.

Pakistan is considered to be one of the most vulnerable to climate change, with serious impacts on agriculture and food security, due to its geographical location – ranking as the 7th country most affected from natural disasters (1996 – 2005) on the Global Climate Risk Index for 2017.

The profile highlights climate smart agriculture strategies that can help mitigate and adapt to extreme weather events in Punjab, while at the same time contribute to increased agricultural productivity and food security in the province. It emphasizes the need for agricultural diversification, reducing dependence on cash crops and switching to higher value nutritious crops. It also points out the urgent need to improve water management strategies, increase irrigation efficiency and reduce water wastage.

In addition, it provides an assessment of the provincial policy and institutional environment for CSA, identifies barriers and solutions for province and district-level policy design and implementation.

Welcoming participants Mr Farrukh Toirov, Deputy FAO Representative in Pakistan said: “It is critical to take pre-emptive measures to address challenges presented by climate change to the agriculture sector, food security and economic growth of Pakistan and its provinces. The CSA profile



for Punjab is a step in that direction. CSA initiatives sustainably increase productivity, enhance resilience and reduce or remove greenhouse gases. The profile will be instrumental in assessment of provincial policy and institutional environment for CSA, identification of barriers and solutions for province and district-level policy design and implementation, and highlighting financing opportunities for CSA investments at the provincial level.

Ms Beenish Fatima Sahi, Additional Secretary Task Force Punjab Agriculture Department in her remarks appreciated the collaborative effort in the preparation of the Profile and highlighted the importance of CSA for agriculture in Punjab.

Agriculture is important to the Punjab economy, contributing approximately one-quarter of provincial GDP. The province also accounts for two-thirds of the total national agriculture output. The sector employs over 45% of the Punjab labor force and is the main employment source of nearly three-quarter of the female labor force.

The climate-smart agriculture (CSA) concept aims to improve integration of agriculture development and climate responsiveness. It aims to achieve food security and broader development goals under a changing climate and increasing food demand.

The CSA Profile for Punjab is prepared on the lines of CSA country profile for Pakistan which was launched in Islamabad last year. These profiles are an effective tool for improving knowledge base on criteria for assessing CSA interventions in a given country.

UNDP

Press Release

Strengthening Justice Sector Coordination through Inter-Provincial Consultations

24 January 2019, Islamabad — A two-day Inter-provincial Consultative Workshop on Strengthening Coordination amongst the Home Department, Law Enforcement Agencies, Prosecution, Prisons and Judiciary concluded in



Islamabad today.

“We are rebuilding trust in institutions working together with all stakeholders and development partners to improve access to legal services, provide swift and credible access to justice, and restore community trust in police and judicial processes,” said Mr. Ignacio Artaza, Resident Representative (a.i.), UNDP Pakistan. Mr. Jakhongir Khaydarov, Programme Manager, UNDP Strengthening Rule of Law Programme shared best practices in justice sector coordination from other countries such as the U.K., Nepal, and New Zealand. Representatives from Home Departments presented key challenges of criminal justice coordination and existing mechanisms, and issues in the implementation of Rule of Law Roadmaps.

Speaking at the session, Mr. Syed Ihtisham Qadir, Prosecutor General Punjab, Mr. Abdul Nasir Dotani, Add. Home Secretary Balochistan, Khwaja Wajihuddin, registrar Peshawar High Court appreciated UNDP’s efforts towards organising the event and raised the need for similar sessions in the future.

During the working groups, the participants discussed various challenges and issues in the existing mechanisms and suggested recommendations and ways forward for the policy makers. The workshop enabled stakeholders from across the country to identify mechanisms to improve quality of criminal investigation, preservation of evidence, empowerment of the prosecution, and close coordination amongst the rule of law and justice sector institutions.

The workshop concluded with policy recommendations for strengthening the justice sector coordination to improve access to justice. The workshop was attended by 30 representatives from all the four provinces.

For additional information, please contact Fatimah Inayet, Communications Analyst, fatimah.inayet@undp.org

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UNICEF

Press Release

World celebrates first International Day of Education

Every child has the right to go to school and learn

ISLAMABAD, 23 January 2019 – Today, Pakistan and countries around the world celebrate the first International Day of Education, reminding us that without inclusive and equitable quality learning for all, countries will not succeed in breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children and their families behind.

In December last year, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as International Day of Education in celebration of the role of learning for peace and development. This is a reminder of our collective duty to help every girl and boy access the quality education that is their right, offering them a ladder out of poverty and a path to a promising future.

Today, 262 million children and youth still do not attend school across the globe. When they are in school, they do not always access quality education - - 617 million children and adolescents cannot read and do basic math.

Quality education includes learners who are healthy, well-nourished and ready to participate and learn, and supported in learning by their families and communities.

In Pakistan, 23 million children aged 5-16 remain out of school — forty-four percent of the total population in this age group. The country has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children (OOSC) at the primary level, with five million children aged 5-9 not attending school. After primary-school age, the number of OOSC doubles, with 11 million adolescents between the ages of 10-14 not receiving formal education.

Children who are in school in Pakistan are not always learning. The 2016 National Education Assessment Report shows that a sizeable proportion of students scored below the acceptable minimum levels for core subjects.



“Every child has the right to an education and quality learning opportunities from early childhood to adolescence. And yet, a range of factors – including economic circumstances, low-quality teaching and schools, geographic location, gender, disability – prevent millions of Pakistani children from learning,” said Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan.

“Today is a call for action. Together we can take concrete steps towards quality early learning, primary or secondary education, to support two of the Government’s priorities, out-of-school children and youth employability. We can scale up models which support out-of-school girls and boys with alternative learning programmes, offering adolescents a pathway to develop the employability skills they need to access decent employment.”

Quality education is one of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on its own. It is also a tool to help achieve many other Goals such as poverty eradication, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, improved health outcomes or gender equality.

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Notes to editors

- In Pakistan, close to 23 million children aged 5-16 remain out of school — of forty-four percent of the total population in this age group. Of these, approximately three-quarters (18 million) have never been to school while one quarter (5.4 million) have dropped out.
- Major disparities persist, linked to economic status, gender, geographic location, and ethnicity.
- Of the nearly 23 million Pakistani children who are out of school, 12 million (53 per cent) are girls while 10 million (47 per cent) are boys.

About UNICEF

UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

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For more information, please contact:

Catherine Weibel, Chief of Advocacy and Communication, UNICEF Pakistan
Mobile: +92 300 500 2595, Email: cweibel@unicef.org

A. Sami Malik, Communication Specialist, UNICEF Pakistan Country Office
Mobile: +92 300 855 6654, Email: asmalik@unicef.org

