Symposium on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food and Livelihoods in Pakistan

9 October 2019, Islamabad - Pakistan is endowed with fisheries and aquatic resources that have significant potential to make a bigger contribution to economic growth and social development. At present, fisheries contribute modestly to the national and local economy. The underlying potential of Pakistan’s fisheries and aquatic resources is not reflected in the current production, growth, and value. The sector has much more to offer in terms of boosting export revenues, creating decent jobs, supporting livelihoods in coastal communities, improving domestic nutrition and food security, and closing Pakistan’s significant economic gender inequality.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held a National Symposium on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food and Livelihoods in Pakistan, which was followed by a workshop with all the relevant sector specialists and stakeholders of Fisheries and Aquaculture from the Government, Provinces, Trade Organizations, and the Development sector.

The Government of Pakistan recognizes these opportunities and has prioritized contribution of the fisheries sector towards these goals. The development of fisheries sector is a key priority within the country’s Poverty Reduction Strategy as well. Recently, the Government has launched a comprehensive 309 billion rupee “Agriculture Emergency Program”, under which three of its thirteen development projects would be executed in fisheries which include projects on incubating shrimp farming, cage culture for fish species and trout culture.

Developing the fisheries sector not only provides sustenance but also enhances exports. Speaking at the event, FAO Representative in Pakistan Mina Dowlatchahi said that FAO has been helping the Government of Pakistan with the fish stock in the country, as a number of communities along the coast
depend their livelihoods on fisheries and aquaculture. These two sectors are high potential for livelihood, employment, decent work for men, women and youth, providing food security. There is high potential for sustainable development in the sector and attain the SDG for life under water.

The event was attended by the Federal Secretary Maritime Affairs Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, and Secretary Ministry of Food Security and Research, along with fish traders, FAO facilitated knowledge and information sharing to adopt sustainable practices to boost the Fisheries and Aquaculture in Pakistan. Through this consultative process, control of regulated fish was discussed, and coordination of line departments with private sector representatives was promoted, encouraging the dialogue for maritime fisheries. The participants also discussed the challenges faced by the sector, and government initiatives to counter those while introducing innovative In – Pond raceway system technology to improve aquaculture production. Challenges post-harvest and business potential for value chain development were also discussed.

The symposium marked the launch of the two Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) and brought together relevant stakeholders from the government (national and provincial), private sector, academia, and international and local technical experts to generate a constructive discourse on the broader topic of developing fisheries and aquaculture sector, which is a key government priority. Both the TCPs are in line with the government’s vision and aim to facilitate the broader developments taking place within this sector. These two TCPs will be implemented with assistance from Ministry of Food Security and Research and Ministry of Maritime Affairs.

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PRESS RELEASE

Poultry Packages distributed in Tribal Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to support vulnerable households with income generation

Peshawar – Forty-thousand backyard poultry packages, including crosses of Rhodes Island Red species, distributed to 800 households in Khyber district by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO with financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is assisting returnee families resume agricultural production and restart normal economic activities, reduce poverty, malnutrition and economic inequalities through sustainable agriculture development in Kurram and Khyber districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The poultry packages are being distributed amongst vulnerable households, especially targeting women-headed households in the area, to help poor households generate income so that food security for the children and families of these households can be improved. The distribution was followed by an orientation session with the beneficiaries to train them on basic poultry management.

“A large number of households in the tribal districts are either completely or partially dependent on poultry rearing to meet their fundamental needs. These poultry packages will support households, especially women headed households, to generate a basic income from poultry rearing, eggs and meat production, and will ensure better nutrition from eggs self-consumption” said Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan.

To ensure sustainability, FAO will also support poultry value-chains by establishing medium-sized hatcheries with a capacity to place 4000-5000 eggs in controlled conditions in each of these districts. Fertile eggs will be collected from beneficiaries and will be placed in hatcheries which will produce a day old chickens of a specific breed ready to be marketed in the nearby markets or elsewhere as per demand.

The Restoration of Livelihoods in the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa project aims to restore livelihood opportunities in Khyber and...
Kurram agencies while strengthening food and nutrition security, increasing household income and contributing to the development of local economy and markets.

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