Media Update
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FAO PRESS RELEASE

FAO conducts training workshop on Analysing the Poverty-Food Insecurity Nexus

7 October 2019, Islamabad – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is conducting a capacity building training on Analysing the Poverty-Food Insecurity Nexus, from October 7 to 11, 2019 at the FAO representation office in Islamabad. The training workshop is being organized under FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme (TCPF) project. Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFS&R) and Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform are the main stakeholders in this project.

FAO supports national institutions of the member countries and trains their staff in new tools and methods, and use of internationally accepted approaches for producing quality and timely statistic for sound decision making. FAO is the custodian UN organization for 21 SDG indicators and contributing agency to additional 5 indicators.

The organization supports the member countries including Pakistan to analyse their data and to be able to monitor their status on food security and other SDG indicators for which FAO is the custodian/contributing agency. Through this training, officials of national institutions will be trained in estimation of incidence of poverty and analysis of poverty-food insecurity nexus. Pakistan is facing challenges of high incidence of poverty (24%) and prevalence food insecurity/hunger (around 20%), where around 40 million people in Pakistan are estimated to be undernourished/food insecure. Disparities exist in incidence of poverty and prevalence of food insecurity across urban/rural regions and provinces.


FAO representative in Pakistan Mina Dowlatchahi said during the opening ceremony that both poverty and food insecurity are reducing in Pakistan, however, still more focus is needed in areas where poverty and food insecurity are high including certain districts in Sindh, Balochistan, and the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. FAO
is implementing multiple programmes to reduce food insecurity and improve livelihoods in Pakistan.

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FAO PRESS RELEASE

FAO Concludes Training on Computation of SDG 2 Indicators: Prevalence of Undernourishment and Prevalence of Food Insecurity based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale

Islamabad—With SDG 2, countries commit to “End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. Target 2.1 focuses on ensuring access to food for all: “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe nutritious and sufficient food all year round.” The Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO) concluded a training workshop on Computation of SDG 2 Indicators: Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) and Prevalence of Moderate or Severe Food Insecurity based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), which measures food insecurity through people’s experience at the FAO representation office in Pakistan. The training workshop which brought together relevant stakeholders, including representatives from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform, and representatives from the academia aimed to introduce methodologies for computation both SDG 2 indicators.

The workshop, conducted by FAO experts, had been designed as part of a plan to support the Pakistan Bureau of statistics and other stakeholders. The learning activities which also included hands-on training on the analysis of data for the computation of the Prevalence of Food Insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, methods for estimation of Prevalence of Undernourishment and an overview of food security measurement in the context of SDGs helped the participants understand the two Food Insecurity Experience Scale based indicators which can be used for national and global monitoring purposes.

“This training is a fundamental step for the sustainability of the monitoring system. FAO will continue to support the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in its work and we are hoping to use the first The State
of Food Security and Nutrition in Pakistan report which will be released later this year as a trampoline to showcase how PBS is hand-in-hand supporting the work of Food Security and Nutrition Information System that will lead to the first the first information portal for food security and nutrition analysis,” said Ms. Miná Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan.

FAO serves as the custodian of 21 SDG indicators, and thus, maintains the methodology needed to properly compile these indicators, provides technical support to countries, receives data/indicators from countries to maintain a global database, and produces regional and global aggregates.

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