

TRIP REPORT

Enabling Policies Project

Team Visit to Pakistan

February-March 2014

Preliminary

Professor Bhajan Grewal and Mr Jim Lang were invited to attend the ACIAR Social Research Project Workshop in Bhurban, Pakistan on 25-26 February 2014. Mr Lang was also invited by the Mango Production Project team to make a presentation at their workshop in Islamabad on Saturday and Sunday 22-23 February. Accordingly, Mr Lang arrived in Islamabad on Friday 20 February while Professor Grewal arrived on Saturday 21 February. During the Bhurban Workshop also, they arranged to have enabling policy related discussions with members of the Dairy Project, and with Dr Shahbaz of University of Agriculture Faisalabad. After the Bhurban workshop, they both returned to Islamabad on Thursday 27 February and had meetings related to Enabling Policy project in Islamabad on Friday 28 February, in Lahore on 3 March and in Karachi on 4 March 2014.

The following meetings were attended during this visit

Saturday 22 February

Mr Lang presented to the Mango Production project Workshop at Ramada Hotel Islamabad his analysis of worldwide trends in mango exports and imports.

Sunday 23 February

Mr Lang and Prof. Grewal both attended and participated in the second day of the mango Production Team workshop. The main issue discussed was how Pakistan could double its mango exports in five years and what implications would this target have for the farmers, traders and governments.

Monday 24 February

Security Briefing at the Australian High Commission, and travel by road to Bhurban

Tuesday-Wednesday 25-26 February

Participated in the Social Research Project workshop

Dairy Project

On the sidelines of the Bhurban workshop, a meeting was held with members of the Dairy project team on the evening of 25 February. The following issues were discussed:

- Access to markets and price spread for milk;
- Extension services
- Training of extension staff
- Access to credit for livestock and dairy smallholders

- The possibility of visiting smallholders during the next Pakistan visit

Meeting with Dr Babar Shahbaz (UAF)

A separate meeting was held with Dr Shahbaz to discuss the need for a background paper on the current status of extension services and outreach for smallholders in Punjab and Sindh. Dr Shahbaz agreed to prepare a paper as discussed. It was also discussed that, on return to Melbourne, Professor Grewal will also request Dr Khalid Bashir (UAF) to prepare a background paper on input prices in the three sectors in Punjab and Sindh. This was done and Dr Bashir has agreed to prepare the requested paper.

Acting Chief, Food and Agriculture, Planning Commission, Islamabad

Thanks to Dr Ejaz Qureshi's earlier meetings with Planning Commission and Agricultural Policy Institute, the policy team met with Mr Nadeem, Acting Chief, Food and Agriculture, Planning Commission, on Friday 28 February. Mr Nadeem explained that because of too much work and too few resources he had been unable to give the required attention to this project so far. He assured, however, that now he would make sure that all matters pertaining to this project are attended to in a timely manner. Mr Nadeem also provided drafts of a chapter on Agriculture that was written by his division for inclusion in Pakistan's 11th Five Year Plan. He suggested that policies should be developed to attract private sector investment in agriculture to overcome many of the obstacles facing smallholders.

Agriculture Policy Institute (API), Islamabad

A meeting was arranged on 28 February with the Chairman of API, Dr Masood Bakhtiar Siddiqui and Mr Sohail Mohammad Khan, Chief, API, for familiarising with API's work and exploring whether API has relevant data or information for this project. It was learnt that Dr Siddiqui was retiring on the following day and that Mr Khan would succeed him as new Chairman. Most of API's work has been focused on the crop sector, and the Institute has specialised in data collection and surveys. The API provided several copies of the Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Economics (PJAE) that is published by API, and which addresses issues relevant to this project.

Department of Agriculture, Government of the Punjab

A meeting was held on Monday, 3 March with Mr Ahmad Ali Zafar, Additional Secretary (Plan), Agriculture. Mr Zafar had already provided documentation on current agricultural policies of the Punjab Government. During the meeting, further clarifications were provided about this information. Mr Zafar has assured the team of full support for the project in the future and undertaken to provide any additional information should that be necessary.

Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Government of the Punjab

This meeting was held with Mr Khurshid Ali Zaidi, Additional Secretary, LDD, and Dr Qurban Hussain, Director, P&E, LDD. The Additional Secretary expressed his department's full support for the proposed activities of this project. Dr Qurban Hussain will soon provide the requested documentation of policies in Punjab. The two Additional Secretaries (LDD and Agriculture) also undertook to provide a document on the details of devolution of agricultural policies in Pakistan.

Department of Agriculture, Government of Sindh, Karachi

On Tuesday, 4 March, Mr Lang and Professor Grewal attended a meeting with Mr Abdul Qadir Tareen, Additional Secretary, Agriculture, Mr Abdul Fateh Tonio, Chief, Agricultural Planning and Development, and Mr Samir Atta, Director of Agricultural Research and Extension. The meeting was very positive and Mr Tareen and Mr Tonio have undertaken to provide the requested documentation on policies and procedures soon. Issues related to the organisation of agricultural extension services were also discussed.

Livestock and Fisheries Department, Government of Sindh

In the afternoon of Tuesday, 4 March, a meeting was held with Mr Zafar Iqbal Shaikh, Secretary, Livestock and Fisheries Department and Dr Issani, Director, Animal Husbandry. This meeting was less positive than other meetings, primarily because the Secretary, who is new (appointed since August 2013) had not been briefed on the policy project or on the Inception Workshop or about the requested documentation of policies. Professor Grewal outlined the aims and objectives of the policy project and explained the agreement reached at the Inception Workshop. The meeting was extremely useful, however, because now the Secretary has been fully briefed and has assured us of the full cooperation of his department.

After returning to Melbourne, we have received some documentation on policies from this department and the Secretary has introduced a new contact, Dr Nazeer Hussain Kalhoro, PhD Executive Director, SPVC.

Focal Person at UAF

Dr Kazmi emailed a draft letter to be signed by Professor Peter Sheehan, notifying that Professor Iqrar Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad has been appointed as the Focal Person for the enabling policies project at UAF. This letter has been signed and sent to Dr Kazmi for transmission to Professor Iqrar Khan.

Capacity Building and Australian Visit for Pakistan Partners

The proposed visit of Pakistan partners to Australia in August/ September 2014 was discussed with the core departments of Punjab and Sindh in the context of the objective of capacity building. It was suggested that Professor Grewal should write to Departmental Secretaries requesting them to nominate one person associated with this project for this visit. This letter will also make clear that, on return to Pakistan, each visitor should be required to submit a report outlining the key activities and lessons learnt for the project.

Involvement of PARC in Field Studies

A meeting was held on 26 February in Bhurban between Dr Les Baxter, Dr Ejaz Qureshi, Dr Iftikhar Ahmed, Dr Munawar Kazmi, Mr Jim Lang and Prof Bhajan Grewal to address some concerns that had been raised by Dr Iftikhar regarding project budget allocation among partners and the lack of involvement of PARC in the proposed Field Studies.

Dr Baxter explained how the ACIAR budget format works and how CSES expenditure is apportioned among Pakistan partners. He made it clear that no money is to be paid to any Government Departments or agencies, except to UAF, COMSATS and PARC for contracted activities.

It was agreed that while COMSATS would remain the principal agency to conduct field studies, it should consider involving PARC into certain activities – e.g. training – by sub-contracting those activities to PARC.