



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESEARCH



No.F.NO.MIS-2024/EW-NFSR

Islamabad, the 17th September, 2025

From

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To

- 1- Federal Minister, PC, Islamabad
- 2- Secretary Finance, MOF, Islamabad
- 3- Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Lahore
- 4- Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, Karachi
- 5- Chief Secretary, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar
- 6- Chief Secretary, Government of Balochistan, Quetta
- 7- Coordinator to PM (Agri & Food Security), PMO, Islamabad
- 8- Director General, Land Information Management System LIMS,
- 9- Director General, SUPARCO,
- 10- Secretary Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Punjab,
- 11- Chief Secretary, Government of AJK,
- 12- Chief Secretary, Government of GB,
- 13- Secretary Agriculture, Agriculture Sindh, Secretariat Building No 2 Ground Floor

Saddar Karachi Sindh Pakistan

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF RECENT FLOODS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

The first meeting of the Committee constituted by Honourable Prime Minister to assess the impact of recent floods on agricultural production and food security was held on Thursday, 11th September 2025, in the Committee Room, Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFS&R), Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research and attended by the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Coordinator to the Prime Minister, SUPARCO, LIMS, ACS Punjab and Provincial Agriculture Departments. Attendance sheet is placed at Annex-I .

The Secretary, MNFS&R, outlined the Terms of Reference (TORs), which included assessing crop damage, evaluating livestock losses, monitoring price trends, determining infrastructure damages, and recommending short term mitigation measures. Data sources identified for this exercise included CRS, FAO, SUPARCO, and LIMS. The DG, SUPARCO, briefed the meeting that daily flood assessments are being conducted through the Disaster Watch System, which monitors flood affected areas and related infrastructure. He informed that a dedicated web portal has been developed, enabling the Ministry to access daily updates with a single click. Presenting the situation in Punjab, he reported that the flood extent was estimated at 1.4 million hectares, significantly affecting rice, maize, sugarcane, cotton, sesame, and mango.

The Coordinator to the Prime Minister pointed out major discrepancies between the assessments of LIMS and SUPARCO and asked whether both organizations had harmonized their methodologies. SUPARCO responded that it had been carrying out geospatial monitoring since 2005 using high resolution satellites, while LIMS had only been operational for two years. SUPARCO assured the Committee that reconciliation with LIMS would be undertaken. Mr. Ahmed Umair, Coordinator to PM, emphasized the need for both organizations to reconcile their figures before presenting final estimates.

The Federal Minister, MNFS&R, raised a query with the Government of Punjab regarding its reported estimate of 775,000 acres of rice damaged by floods, compared to LIMS reporting 590,000 acres and SUPARCO 346,000 acres. He asked Punjab to clarify the basis of its estimate and the authenticity of the data.

The Government of Punjab explained that their data, based on satellite imagery, estimated 1.75 million acres under flood, including 1.329 million acres of cultivated land. A detailed division-wise and crop-wise distribution was shared, covering cotton, sugarcane, rice, maize, sesame, fodder, and vegetables. Punjab clarified that not all inundated crops were completely damaged. The estimates were derived using Sentinel-1 (10m resolution) and MODIS (500m resolution) satellite imagery, with periodic updates since 25th August 2025. As of the latest assessment, 1.75 million acres were affected in nine divisions (excluding Rawalpindi), of which 1.329 million acres were cultivated. The Punjab Price Control Department is monitoring the situation to ensure stability. ACS Punjab clarified that these are estimates of crops inundated and cannot be described as crop damage. PDMA Punjab will conduct crop damage assessments as per established practice.

The Minister, NFS&R, noted that the data in presentation was inconsistent with data reported by Punjab government and directed all departments to reconcile their figures and present consolidated, reliable data.

An official from LIMS explained that their reported figures were tentative and derived through remote sensing. They acknowledged the discrepancies and committed to rechecking and issuing a revised report by Monday.

The Coordinator to the Prime Minister proposed that crop damage assessments also be expressed in percentage terms by comparing the total cultivated area with the damaged area.

The Representative from SUPARCO highlighted that discrepancies arose mainly from differences in satellite type, resolution, and methodology. Punjab's analysis relied on imagery with a 500-meter pixel resolution, which, combined with persistent cloud cover throughout the month, posed limitations, while SUPARCO employed radar datasets from 23rd August onwards to detect inundation. He cautioned that it was premature to determine the exact extent of crop damage and stated that ground surveys would commence from next Saturday. He recommended that all three agencies digitally share their data and methodologies to ensure consistency. He further informed that CRS and SUPARCO have already established the mechanism of reconciling their estimates in the National Accounts meeting, where only minimal differences were noted.

The Representative from the Ministry of Planning shared that their Ministry recently conducted assessments across 17 sectors and faced similar issues of data inconsistency. To address this, PDNA focal persons were appointed at the provincial level, and he suggested adopting a similar mechanism for agricultural assessments. SUPARCO also agreed to provide access to its portal to other agencies for cross-verification of figures.

The Representative from Sindh reported that in the province, currently rice, cotton, sesame, sugarcane, and certain vegetables are under cultivation, which were not significantly affected so far by the floods.

The Minister, MNFS&R, sought a way forward from Punjab. Punjab proposed holding another meeting within a week, during which Punjab and SUPARCO GIS teams would reconcile their datasets. Punjab also emphasized the need for a standardized national survey format with uniform parameters and committed to sharing its previous flood damage assessment as a reference. A draft template would be prepared and circulated within three days for review by MNFSR.

The Minister for Planning informed the Committee that Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has conducted digital population census, Agriculture census and Economic census and these capabilities and databases can provide significant value addition in the process of damage assessment.

The Minister, MNFS&R, announced that another meeting would be held in four days, after which an interim report would be submitted to the Prime Minister's Office. Meanwhile, SUPARCO, CRS, LIMS, and FAO were instructed to hold an internal meeting to reconcile their data and present consolidated findings.

After deliberations, the following decisions were made:

1. Punjab government will officially provide data on crop inundated/flood damage
2. Punjab, SUPARCO, and LIMS will reconcile their figures within three days.
3. A standardized survey methodology will be developed and PDMA Punjab will utilise expertise of PBS, if required
4. Provincial teams will conduct ground inspections.
5. An interim report will be submitted to the Prime Minister's Office within four days.

The meeting concluded with the Federal Minister, MNFS&R, thanking all participants for their contributions and confirming that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday.



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Copy for information to:-

- 1- PS to Minister, MONFSR, Islamabad
- 2- PS to Secretary, MONFSR, Islamabad
- 3- Additional Secretary (Admin & Technical), MONFSR, Islamabad
- 4- Coordinator-I, MONFSR, Islamabad



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