



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESEARCH



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From

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To

- 1- Secretary, MONFSR, Islamabad
- 2- Additional Secretary-I (Admin), MONFSR, Islamabad
- 3- Technical Advisor, MONFSR, Islamabad
- 4- Secretary Revenue Div/Chairman FBR, FBR, Islamabad
- 5- Advisor to Prime Minister, PMO, Islamabad
- 6- Federal Minister For EAD, EAD, Islamabad
- 7- Federal Minister, MOCC, Islamabad
- 8- Federal Minister, MONFSR, Islamabad
- 9- Professor, LUMS, Lahore University of Management Sciences Lahore
- 10- , PMO, PMO Islamabad
- 11- Consultant, Tabadlab, Tabadlab

SUBJECT: DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The subject meeting was held on 1st May 2025 in the Committee Room of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. This meeting served as a continuation of the discussion on the draft recommendations by the working groups. The Minister for National Food Security and Research chaired the meeting. The list of participants is annexed.

1. Opening Remarks

The Minister for National Food Security and Research welcomed all participants. The Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MoNFS&R), stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the final draft recommendations of the working groups and ensure they align with the Ministry's priorities and are practicable. The Secretary invited the conveners of the working groups to present their recommendations.

2. Working Group Presentations

a. Tech, IT, and Data in Agriculture

The first group to present was focused on Tech, IT, and Data in Agriculture. Mr. Tabbish Mehmood from Syngenta presented the group's work. He informed the house that the group had co-opted members from the farming community and private tech-related companies. The group proposed three key recommendations:

- i. Bridge the rural connectivity divide
- ii. Build a National AI-enabled AgriStack
- iii. Digitize inputs for real-time tracking, movement, and liquidity

For each recommendation, a one-year target and corresponding cost estimate were provided. For example, to bridge the rural connectivity divide, the group recommended establishing 10 farming hotspots serving 10,000 farmers, at an estimated cost of PKR 690 million.

Mr. Mosharraf Zaidi from Tabadlab added that most cellular towers in Pakistan are wirelessly connected; however, they should be fiber-connected to improve signal strength and reliability. He emphasized that the cost estimates should reflect fiber-based infrastructure.

Mr. Hannan suggested identifying the nearest areas with existing fiber connectivity, as this could affect the feasibility of the one-year target. The Secretary agreed and added that crop scan data could be obtained from LIMS or SUPARCO.

Dr. Zahoor from LUMS stressed the importance of including crops beyond the major five, as cropping patterns vary across regions in Pakistan.

Mr. Ahad Cheema, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Division (EAD), raised two questions:

- i. How is the second recommendation (AI-enabled AgriStack) aligned with the Ministry of IT's Digital Pakistan initiative, and which entity will be responsible for budgeting and execution?
- ii. How will this initiative be synchronized with provincial projects on similar lines?

In response, Mr. Tabbish stated that the recommendation would be aligned with the Ministry of IT's Digital Pakistan initiative and efforts would be made to avoid duplication. The Minister for NFS&R added that provincial stakeholders must be included, as agriculture is a devolved subject.

Mr. Bilal Kayani agreed, suggesting that at least one meeting should be held with provincial Agriculture Secretaries to ensure coordination and avoid overlapping initiatives. The house agreed to conduct consultations with provinces before finalizing the recommendations for submission to the Prime Minister.

Regarding the third recommendation, Mr. Mosharraf asked whether FBR would bear the cost of achieving 80% coverage of its integrated POS system among retailers. Mr. Ali Adnan from FBR responded that four vendors had been notified for digitization, and the cost would be borne by the retailers.

b. Farmer Capability & Agricultural Research

The second group focused on Farmer Capability and Agricultural Research. Mr. Ahmed Umair from Vital Agri Nutrients presented their recommendations:

1. Establish a Farmer Field School system
2. Revamp the agricultural research system
3. Launch a State of Natural Capital (Water & Soil) reporting system

He elaborated on implementation plans, including responsible entities, pilot scale, timeline, cost, and 2030 targets.

The Minister commented that instead of creating a new school system, existing provincial extension departments could be used to enhance farmers' skills. He further emphasized the need for increased investment in agricultural research, regardless of whether it is conducted by the public or private sector.

c. Legal & Regulatory Framework

The third group, led by Convener Mr. Zeeshan Haseeb Baig, presented recommendations across five areas:

- Reform the regulatory process
- Reform the regulatory structure
- Enhance the investment environment
- Enable regional trade in agricultural inputs
- Promote horticulture, tissue culture, and related technologies

Their plan included key actions for implementation across short-, medium-, and long-term timelines. Mr. Mosharraf Zaidi suggested that the key actions must be rigorous and specific, and the house agreed that the reform recommendations should be more precise.

d. Agri Infrastructure & Mechanization

The fourth group, led by Mr. Farhan Tahir, presented their recommendations, which included:

- Incentivizing the development of storage facilities
- Promoting transactions through digital infrastructure
- Enabling input companies to introduce innovative mechanization technologies

He briefly described one-year targets and estimated costs. The Secretary instructed that these recommendations should align with the Ministry's proposals related to rationalizing duties on certain products.

e. Access to Finance for Agriculture

The fifth group focused on improving access to finance. Mr. Kashif Thanvi presented the recommendations along with one-year targets and estimated costs. Key recommendations included:

- Establishing an apex agricultural development institution and reforming ZTBL
- Developing and launching a National Agricultural Insurance scheme
- Increasing targeted risk-sharing credit guarantees
- Digitizing agricultural land records nationwide

f. Group Without Presentation

The convener of the sixth working group was not present. The Secretary suggested changing the group's convener. Mr. Mosharraf requested time until Monday to present preliminary work on behalf of this group.

3. Conclusion

The Chair concluded the meeting with instructions to arrange a follow-up session on 3rd May 2025, enabling the coordination committee and Mr. Hannan to finalize the recommendations.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

In Person

Sr. #	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Rana Tanveer Hussain	Minister	M/o NFS&R
2.	Mr. Waseem Ajmal	Secretary	M/o NFS&R
3.	Mr. Bilal Kayani	Minister for State	M/o Railways

4.	Mr. Saad Hayat Tamman		PMO
5.	Mr. Sajid Mehmood Qazi	Additional Secretary-I	M/o NFS&R
6.	Dr. Akmal Siddique	Technical Advisor	M/o NFS&R
7.	Dr. Haroon Sarwar Awan	Economic Consultant	M/o NFS&R
8.	Mr. Bilal Haider	Joint Secretary Admin	M/o NFS&R
9.	Mr. Hannan Ikram	Consultant	Tabadlab
10.	Mr. Mosharraf Zaidi	CEO	Tabadlab
11.	Mr. Faizan Qureshi	Analyst	Tabadlab
12.	Mr. Sadiq Afridi	Chairman	PARC
13.	Imtiaz Hussain		PARC
14.	M Azeem Hakro	Deputy Chief	M/o NFS&R
15.	Dr. Yasir Mehmood	S.O Admin I	M/o NFS&R
16.	S. Asad Hasan	S.O Admin III	M/o NFS&R
17.	M. Naeem Javed	DS Admin II	M/o NFS&R
18.	Mr. Imran Haider	Law Officer	M/o NFS&R

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Online

Sr. #	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Ahad Khan Cheema	Federal Minister	EAD
2.	Mr. Shakeel Mangnejo	Special Secretray to PM	Prime Minister Office
3.	Mr. Azam Khan	Director General	FSC&RD
4.	Dr. Asif Ali	Chairman	NASDRA
5.	M. Shahzad Khan	Secretary Tariff-I	FBR
6.	Mr. Ali Adnan Zaidi	Chief Tax Operations	FBR
7.	Dr. Syed Zahoor Hassan	Professor	LUMS
8.	Mr. Ahmed Umair	CEO	Vital Agri Nutrients
9.	Mr. Farhan Tahir		Haji Sons Group
10.	Mr. Kashif Thanvi	Investment Director	Acumen
11.	Mr. Zeeshan Hasib Baig		Sygenta
12.	Mr. Tabbish Mehmood	Head of AME Digital Transformation & Pakistan New Farming Ecosystem	Sygenta
13.	Dr. Rao Asif	Chairman	NASDRA
9.			

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