

**Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Executive Committee of the
National Export Development Board (NEDB)**

(2nd October 2025)

Agenda Item 1: Review of Implementation Status of PM's Directives from 4th NEDB Meeting

Topic	Discussion	Direction
<p><u>NEDB Directive (i):</u> Secretary Commerce shall present a concept paper for the establishment of cold chain infrastructure, for the consideration of the Prime Minister. The concept paper shall consist of a structured proposal and how the project can kick off in the earliest possible time.</p>	<p>The Committee was informed that the Ministry of Commerce has prepared and submitted the concept paper to the Prime Minister Office.</p> <p>The Committee was requested that the matter may kindly be referred to MNFSR/MoIP for further implementation of the cold chain infrastructure project in the country.</p>	<p>While noting compliance by the M/o Commerce on this directive, the Executive Committee directed MNFSR to lead further implementation of the directive in coordination with M/o. Industries and Production.</p>
<p><u>NEDB Directive (ii):</u> A comprehensive plan shall be presented to the Prime Minister on the revamping and restructuring of Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, within two weeks.</p>	<p>The representative from MNFSR informed that a Technical Evaluation Mission from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) visited PARC from 16–19 September 2025, to undertake detailed evaluation, data collection and provide valuable input for the revamping plan.</p> <p>A meeting with the CAAS delegation was also held on 18 September, 2025 on PARC reformation and future collaboration.</p>	<p>MNFSR to share the report with the Ministry of Commerce by mid October 2025.</p>

	<p>The report of the engagement between PARC and CAAS, with gap analysis and recommendations for PARC, is expected to be ready by mid October 2025. The same will be shared with the PMO in compliance with the directive.</p>	
<p>NEDB Directive (iii): Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kaku Rice shall explore the opportunities to enter into Joint Venture with the Private Sector. Progress report to be submitted in two weeks</p>	<p>The representative from MNFSR informed that a delegation visited Rice Research Institute (RRI), Kala Shah Kaku on 1st September, 2025. The key areas which discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of Speed Breeding Facility - Enhancement of Post-Harvest Storage - Capacity Building of Scientists - Preparation of PSDP PC-I with implementing Partners <p>A review meeting on 8th September, 2025 chaired by the Minister NFSR decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PARC to facilitate RRI's use of NIGAB Seed Breeding Facility at NARC; a new facility at RRI to be set up through PSDP joint funding. - Soft loans for rice exporters to improve storage, prevent aflatoxin contamination, and increase exports. - MNFSR to source funding for HRDC 	<p>MNFSR to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask REAP to share a proposal for a Joint Venture with RRI Kala Shah Kaku in writing. - Finalize and submit funding proposal for EDF on the prescribed format - Bring a proposal for expansion of storage warehouses for agricultural products for consideration of the Committee.

	<p>Two-Line Study Group (IRRI, Philippines) membership (USD350,000 for 3 years: USD 300,000 membership + USD 50,000 germplasm).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Capacity-building of federal and provincial rice scientists through training, workshops, and international exposure.- PSDP PC-I to be prepared by the Plant Sciences Division, PARC, financed jointly by Federal, Punjab, and Sindh Governments (34:33:33). <p>MNFSR referred the case regarding joining the Two-Line Study Group (TLSG) for Hybrid Rice Technology to M/o Commerce and also shared with the provincial governments of Punjab and Sindh. M/o Commerce agreed in principle and advised MNFSR to submit a funding proposal through the EDF. MNFSR is currently preparing the proposal for onward submission.</p> <p>MNFSR also shared that PKR 450 million is required for a 3-year commercialization project for a new 9.5 mm Rice variety developed by RRI Kala Shah Kaku, and also proposed a zero-interest loan program for horticulture exporters to incentivize expansion of storage capacity.</p>	
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<p><u>NEDB Directive (iv):</u></p> <p>Secretary Commerce shall submit a report to the Prime Minister on research centers under different Federal ministries/divisions. The report shall be based upon total number of centers, and number of functional and dormant units/research centers</p>	<p>M/o Commerce informed that information was requested from MNFSR, MoIP, MoMA, MoST, MoPD&SI, MoFEPT, MoCC on research institutes, status of functionality/dormancy of these institutes, which fall in their respective administrative controls.</p> <p>Responses have been received from MoCC, MoFEPT, MoIP, MoST, MoPD&SI, and MNFSR, while response from MoMA is awaited.</p>	<p>Ministry of Commerce to finalize the report based on the responses received so far and share it with the Prime Minister's Office, while also highlighting the non-responsiveness of MoMA.</p>
<p><u>NEDB Directive (v):</u></p> <p>To develop a comprehensive plan in consultation with provincial governments especially with Punjab that how research centers especially under provincial governments, which are closed can be transformed into modern and progressive research institutions.</p>	<p>M/o Commerce conveyed that provincial governments were approached for obtaining baseline information on agriculture-related research centers in their respective domains.</p> <p>Responses from Governments of Sindh and GB have been received, whereas replies from Punjab, KP, and Balochistan are awaited.</p> <p>M/o Commerce also proposed that the task does not pertain to MoC and therefore, the Executive Committee may assign it to MNFSR.</p>	<p>Punjab Agriculture Department to share the requisite information by 3rd October 2025. In case information is not received by this date, the plan based on the already received responses to be forwarded to the PM Office.</p> <p>MNFSR was tasked by the Executive Committee to lead further compliance on the directive in consultation with provincial governments.</p>
<p><u>NEDB Directive (vi):</u></p> <p>Third party audit of PCSIR labs and other labs in public sector with special focus on HR issues and Lab Equipment</p>	<p>The representative from MoST appraised that tender notice/advertisement for the hiring of third party audit firms has been finalized and will be advertised in the daily newspapers on 5th October,</p>	<p>MoST to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share updated status in this regard to PM Office on the same day, i.e. 2nd October 2025

	<p>2025.</p> <p>The tendering process will take approximately 15 days, followed by additional time required to complete the audit.</p>	<p>- Share the audit report by mid-December 2025.</p>
<p><u>NEDB Directive (vii):</u></p> <p>The Private Sector shall be encouraged and engaged to develop international standard labs. Export Development Fund shall be tapped for this purpose.</p>	<p>An Expressions of Interest (EOI) has been developed for registering laboratories to carry out inspection, testing, and certification of agri-trade products under the regulatory framework of the National Agri-Trade and Food Safety Authority (NAFSA). The initiative is aimed at aligning agriculture and food services with both national and international requirements and at strengthening the overall certification and compliance system.</p> <p>Accordingly, MNFSR, through NAFSA, has invited EOI from accredited laboratory service providers for inspection, testing, and certification related to food safety and agri-trade. The process is being conducted via E-PADS, and published in the national newspaper with the deadline for submission set as 30th September, 2025. Technical bids have been opened on 30th September 2025.</p>	<p>MNFSR to share further updates with M/o Commerce on the matter.</p>
<p><u>NEDB Directive (viii):</u></p> <p>To suggest and develop a mechanism for barter trade with Iran.</p>	<p>M/o Commerce informed that amendments to SRO 642 (Business-to-Business (B2B) Barter Trade Mechanism, 2023) have been submitted to ECC by the Ministry of Commerce and</p>	<p>No further direction until the decision of ECC is taken on the matter.</p>

	<p>the same are due to be taken up by the ECC in its meeting on 2nd October 2025.</p>	
<p><u>NEDB Directive (ix):</u> Complaints raised in the increase in valuation of items by Customs needs to be addressed</p>	<p>The representatives from FBR informed that valuation rules were developed for 16 items in 2023, following which exporters contested the rules thus defined for mango pulp.</p> <p>Based on a review finalized on 15th September 2025, valuation rules for mango pulp are to be revised which is expected to take one month.</p>	<p>FBR to finalize the valuation within a month and inform MoC.</p>
<p><u>NEDB Directive (x):</u> Export enhancement roadmap is principally approved but more details and specific time lines, and refined and granular action plan to be submitted</p>	<p>Ministry of Commerce conveyed that DO letters from Secretary Commerce were sent to all concerned Ministries/Departments, requesting detailed implementation plans for the actions assigned to them.</p> <p>These plans are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - indicate estimated costs of the proposed interventions; - identify possible funding sources, such as the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), the Export Development Fund (EDF), or other mechanisms; and - outline a clear implementation strategy within the timelines set out in the Action Matrix. <p>Responses have been received</p>	<p>MNFSR and MoMA to share the requisite budgetary information including budgetary requirements, source of funding, and implementation strategy with MoC.</p> <p>MoC will present further progress on the action plan of the Agro Export Enhancement Roadmap in the next NEDB meeting.</p>

	<p>from BOI, PBS, MoF, MoST, and MoMA (MFD), while responses are still awaited from MoE, NEPRA, SBP, CAA, FBR, MoMA (remaining), MoI, and Provincial Governments.</p> <p>Once the respective Ministries/Departments share their implementation strategies, the Action Matrix will be refined and updated. The detailed, granular Action Matrix is expected to be finalized and submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the National Export Development Board (NEDB).</p>	
<p><u>NEDB Directive (xi):</u> The next meeting to be arranged immediately after the PM's visit to China.</p>	<p>(Related to PMO)</p>	<p>–</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item 2: Presentation on Roadmap for Enhancement of Exports of Manufacturing and Mining Products</u></p>		
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Directive</p>	
<p>M/o Commerce presented the export enhancement roadmap to the Executive Committee, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The formation of Sectoral Councils covering 19 manufacturing, mining, agro and services sectors. ● The analytical basis for roadmap formulation: sector profiles, export trends, and critical success factors. ● The need for structural reforms, policy consistency, cost 	<p>The Committee approved the Export Enhancement Roadmap for Manufacturing and Mining Products after detailed discussion and clarifications.</p> <p>M/o Commerce to incorporate refinements based on the Committee's discussion, particularly regarding timelines.</p>	

competitiveness, and productivity enhancement.

- Detailed Action Matrices addressing systemic and cross-cutting issues, such as regulatory bottlenecks, energy costs, skills upgrading, and technology adoption.
- Sector-specific plans of action for pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, sports goods, engineering products and marble and granite, identifying value-added potential and global market opportunities.

The Minister for Commerce commended the roadmap's comprehensive structure but raised queries on the funding source and institutional mechanism to ensure implementation and monitoring of the sectoral action plans.

Secretary Commerce sought clarification regarding efficacy of some of the initiatives and ownership by the line ministries. He discussed the impact of tariff reforms on some of the export related initiatives. He also highlighted the importance of the strategy to mobilize export-oriented FDI in identified "sunrise sectors."

It was informed that regarding FDI, the roadmap recommends collaboration with the Board of Investment (BOI) and Pakistan's Missions abroad to identify MNCs with efficiency-seeking investment potential.