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January - March 2016 (FY 2016)

Submitted to:

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Pakistan Strategy Support Program

Fiscal Year 2016 Year 5

Quarter 2 Report (January - March 2016)



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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIP	Agricultural Innovations Project
Bt	<i>Bacillus Thuringiensis</i>
CGE	Computable General Equilibrium
CGP	Competitive Grants Program
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization
DSP	Domestic Studies Program
FEG	Framework for Economic Growth
FY	Fiscal Year
GOP	Government of Pakistan
IDS	Innovative Development Strategies
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IR	Intermediate Result
IPO	Intellectual Property Organization
IZA	Institute for the Study of Labor
LEAD	Leadership for Environment and Development
LSM	Large Scale Manufacturing
LUMS	Lahore University of Management Sciences
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MNFSR	Ministry of National Food Security and Research
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAC	National Advisory Committee
NARC	National Agricultural Research Center
PARC	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
PIDE	Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
PSSP	Pakistan Strategy Support Program
PWP	Pakistan Water Partnership
RAC	Research Advisory Committee
RHPS	Rural Household Panel Survey
SAM	Social Accounting Matrix
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
UAF	University of Agriculture Faisalabad
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Responding to a request from the Government of Pakistan (GOP), the Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP) was launched in July 2011. This program is a flexible country-led and country-wide policy analysis and capacity strengthening program, which provides analytical support on a range of economic policies affecting agricultural growth and food security in the country. The core purpose of the program is to contribute to pro-poor economic growth and enhanced food security through strengthened national capacity for designing and implementing evidence-based policy reforms. This requires improving research-based policy analysis; building capacity, leadership and networks among researchers and policy analysts within and outside the government; and disseminating research results among diverse stakeholders.

PSSP's objectives are highly consistent with those of the *Vision 2025* which was promulgated by the Planning Commission under the current GOP. PSSP held several meetings with the Planning Commission to work toward supporting the new GOP's strategic priorities.

PSSP's five primary research and capacity building priorities are as follows:

1. Agricultural production and productivity
2. Water management and irrigation
3. Macroeconomics, markets and trade
4. Poverty reduction (income dynamics) and job creation (social safety nets)
5. Competitive Grants Program

In addition to generating policy-relevant research, PSSP aims to improve policy analysis and advocacy, and build the capacity of researchers in selected GOP and non-government institutions through PSSP's capacity strengthening, feedback and outreach, and policy advisory programs. Along with increasing the capacity to conduct research, analyze information and formulate evidence-based policy recommendations, PSSP is linking these Pakistani researchers and institutions through targeted efforts to develop knowledge-sharing networks. Work is currently progressing in regard to training activities with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), the Planning Commission and civil society organizations. (See the Outcome 3 (IR 3) discussion in Section 4 under subsection "Expected Results as reflected in the Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan").

The highlights of PSSP activities during the second quarter of FY 2016 (January - March 2016) are summarized below. The activities are presented in a manner that highlights their contribution to the Development Objective and the three Intermediate Results (IRs) found in PSSP's Activity Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan. More detail on these categories is given in the section entitled "Expected Results as reflected in the Activity M&E Plan" in the Introduction to Part 2 below.

INCREASED AND IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH

Agricultural Production and Productivity: PSSP continued to follow the progress of the Plant Breeder's Rights Act through the legislation process. A journal article on "Dynamics of Variety Change on Wheat Farmers in Pakistan: A Duration Analysis" by Hina Nazli and Melinda Smale was published in *Food Policy* 59 (2016). Also, a report on the Seed Dealers' Census that was conducted last year is in progress.

Water Management and Irrigation: An article on "Drivers of groundwater use and technical efficiency of groundwater, canal water, and conjunctive use in Pakistan's Indus Basin Irrigation System" was published in *International Journal of Water Resources Development* in January 2016.

Macroeconomics, Markets and Trade: PSSP Researchers worked to finalize the 2010-2011 SAM Working Paper and the Fertilizer study was published as an IFPRI Discussion Paper.

Poverty Dynamics and Social Safety Nets: An IFPRI Discussion Paper on “Measuring women’s disempowerment in agriculture in Pakistan” was published. PSSP Researchers also worked to finalize a paper on the “Small Commercial Farmer” to be published as a PSSP Working Paper.

Competitive Grants Program: Five CGP papers were published as PSSP working papers and two were published as journal articles. Round 3 studies continued to be reviewed by the external reviewers and CGP program staff in this quarter.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO AND DEMAND FOR HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH BY POLICY MAKERS, ACADEMICS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Meetings, Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences: PSSP held a number of meetings with government and private stakeholders. PSSP held one focus group discussion on Food Security and one seminar on Urban Open Spaces for Adolescent Girls.

Outreach and Advocacy Activities: PSSP finalized five PSSP working papers, two IFPRI Discussion Papers, and one IZA Discussion paper in this quarter. Four journal articles were also published during this time. All publications are available on the blog. PSSP continued to maintain its blog, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Cross Cutting Activities: PSSP organized two M&E workshops and a SAM workshop this quarter..

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REVIEW

PSSP is using FY 2013 as the base year to track progress against 18 indicators contained in the Results Framework under its Activity M&E Plan. A snapshot of PSSP’s performance in Quarter 2 can be seen in the table on the next page. The details and descriptions of each indicator and outcome are given in Part II below.

Table 1: Activity M&E Indicators Target FY 2016 vs. Cumulative Progress up to Q2

Indicator Number	Indicator Description	Unit	2016		
			Target	Q2 Progress	Cumulative Progress Up to Q2
1	Number of policies/regulations/administrative procedures at a given stage of development as a result of USG assistance	Number	5	1	2
2	Aggregate index of production, access to, and use of research produced	Index	2.00	1.01	1.91
3	Index of published studies or conference presentations	Index	1.15	0.36	1.02
4	Number of PSSP-funded awards to institutions/individuals for research.	Number	0	0	0
5	Index of applied economic research usage by policymakers	Index	5.0	2.11	3.88
6	Number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)s signed with research networks	Number	0	0	0
7	Attendance of key stakeholders in PSSP sponsored events	Number	200	72	218
8	Number of outreach publications and policy notes	Number	25	12	21
9	Number of datasets from PSSP funded research	Number	2	0	0
10	Index capturing extent to which policies are influenced by feedback from stakeholders	Index	1.05	0.76	1.12
11	Number of meetings with civil society organizations	Number	20	11	19
12	Number of results reported and published	Number	25	12	21
13	Number of media mentions of PSSP	Number	50	4	18
14	Number of persons receiving training on skill development	Number	50	47	47
15	Number of persons receiving USG supported training on policy development, analysis, and implementation	Number	50	18	18
16	Number of USG-assisted organizations that participate in legislative proceedings and/or engage in advocacy at all levels	Number	1	0	1
17	Number of USG assisted meetings with government officials regarding proposed changes in legal/institutional framework	Number	30	11	25
18	Number of events for public/stakeholders consultation to enhance sector governance or facilitate private sector engagement in policy making as a result of USG assistance	Number	12	2	9

1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable agricultural growth and economic development in Pakistan are severely constrained by a lack of policies that promote pro-poor agricultural growth, encourage private sector investment and enhance food security. Furthermore, the government’s role in agricultural markets raises transaction costs and discourages private investment. To promote economic growth at this critical juncture, It is imperative to redefine the ways that national and provincial government institutions operate, since many public sector services have been “devolved” from federal to provincial institutions (under the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of April 2010).

Strengthening GOP institutions that deal with agriculture, including those at the provincial level, will increase its capacity to provide sound leadership and decisions, improve dialogue with stakeholders and better directions during this important transition.

In order to determine those policies and investments best suited to achieving agricultural growth and poverty reduction, research and knowledge sharing are essential to close existing knowledge gaps. To institutionalize and sustain the process of policy analysis and implementation, the capacity of national researchers and research organizations must be strengthened.

1.1 PSSP Purpose, Goals and Objectives

The purpose of PSSP is to contribute to pro-poor economic growth and food security through strengthened national capacity to design and implement evidence-based policy reforms. The overall goal is to enhance agricultural growth and economic development through strengthened Pakistani capacity for analyzing, advocating for, and implementing evidence-based policy reforms. Improved policy decisions, based on better analysis and information, will create a more favorable and predictable investment climate for private enterprises, and will accelerate agricultural growth and economic development in Pakistan. PSSP objectives are to improve policy analysis and advocacy, to build the capacity of selected GOP and non-government entities, institutions and individuals through knowledge sharing networks, and to increase their capacity for conducting research, analyzing information and developing sound policies.

PSSP is a country-led, countrywide program covering a range of economic policies affecting economic growth and food security. From its inception in July 2011 and even after the formation of a new GOP in June 2013, PSSP’s objectives have been consistent with those of the Planning Commission, the key GOP counterpart for PSSP. PSSP has aligned its activities to support the goals outlined in the Planning Commissions *Vision 2025*. PSSP was granted a no-cost extension of one year from July 2015 through June 2016 to give extra time to bring some of the major ongoing projects to a close. This report details the activities undertaken in the second quarter of FY 2016.

PSSP is guided by a National Advisory Committee (NAC), chaired by the Planning Commission of Pakistan with representation from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and a range of provincial and topical stakeholders. The NAC reviews PSSP’s current activities, and provides guidance on the project’s planned activities in light of the GOP’s own strategic priorities.

Strategic Fit with Government of Pakistan Objectives

The GOP’s *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper*, adopted in 2003 and reaffirmed in 2008, prioritizes the development of the agricultural sector as a way to alleviate poverty, increase incomes and create a vibrant rural economy. It emphasizes agriculture as a key source of job creation in the predominantly rural districts and recognizes its potential as a catalyst for growth in the economy as a whole.

Since the national elections in May 2013, a new GOP has taken office, but the Planning Commission remains the key counterpart for PSSP. The Planning Commission has returned to a conventional five-year planning horizon, and, in place of the Framework for Economic Growth (FEG), has designed a longer term plan, entitled the *Vision 2025*, which was formally launched in August, 2014. The Planning Commission continues to move to support a growth strategy that is broadly focused on the regulatory changes needed to encourage economic growth, rather than on specific development projects and special incentives provided to particular industries. PSSP played a part in the drafting and finalization of the *Vision 2025* document.

Strategic Fit with USAID Objectives

USAID/Pakistan's Economic Growth Strategy, which incorporates agriculture, was approved by the Pakistan Mission and USAID/Washington in February 2011. PSSP is the first of two components of USAID's Pakistan Policy, Science and Innovation Program. The other component is the Agricultural Innovation Project (AIP), led by International Center for Wheat and Maize Improvement (CIMMYT), which is now underway.

1.2 Expected Results as reflected in the Activity M&E Plan

Effective policymaking requires timely, evidence-based analysis made available to key government decision makers in appropriate forms. To make the process of policy analysis, implementation and monitoring more effective and sustainable, PSSP is designed to enhance the capacity of analysts and researchers in government institutions, academia and the private sector, and to increase stakeholder participation in policy development. Moreover, widespread stakeholder participation in policy debates favors policy reform and implementation; PSSP includes information dissemination and outreach activities that identify the needs of target constituencies, address their priorities, provide evidence-based research results and promote public dialogue. After more than four full years of implementation, during which PSSP undertook substantial research activities, it is now in a position to take the results further to inform policy dialogue.

PSSP's vision is summarized in the following Development Objective.

Development Objective: The overall objective of PSSP is to inform agricultural and economic policy formulation through research, analysis, and public discussion. The main criterion for success under this objective is the extent of increased utilization of research, networks, and private sector and civil society participation in the policy process.

The Development Objective will be met by addressing three IRs, as described below. Also, PSSP has devised 18 indicators to track progress on these IRs. A description and analysis of these indicators follows the IR discussion below. The relationship between the IRs and the development objective are given in Appendix 13, which includes the Results Framework.

Outcome 1 (IR 1): IFPRI will increase and improve research in PSSP's four areas of emphasis, with much research being collaborative with local institutions and academics. The relevant indicator for success is the number of papers completed and published by PSSP-supported staff, academics and institutions, including PSSP and IFPRI discussion papers, book chapters and journal articles. Our efforts are designed to strengthen local capacity by creating opportunities for research through commissioned research projects and the CGP (IR 1.1). PSSP will measure success in the CGP and other collaborative research efforts by the number of grants awarded to individuals, and the number of results published from that research.

Outcome 2 (IR 2): PSSP is improving access to, and creating demand for, high quality research on the part of policy-makers, academics and other researchers, by disseminating research results through

written output and in public forums, both of which are designed to increase discussion on policy change with a view to promoting pro-poor growth. Two sub-IRs (IRs 2.1 and 2.2) support this outcome. First, PSSP creates networks by signing MOUs with local organizations and by tracking the number of collaborative trainings, meetings and dissemination events hosted by or held on site by a local institution working with the project (IR 2.1). A second output or sub-IR (IR 2.2) is “increased provision of timely, demand-driven policy analysis and advice to policy-makers and other key stakeholders.” This output is evaluated by tracking the preparation of Policy Notes relating to the four main research areas of the project; those notes contain analyses of policies with the potential for reform. Also, PSSP and IFPRI make large-scale surveys available to local researchers in ways consistent with IFPRI protocols.

Outcome 3 (IR 3): The third outcome expected by PSSP involves improving policy-making by providing informed input to private sector and civil society organizations. This goal is realized through the development of a website and blog, in addition to disseminating results through journals and other media outlets. PSSP is tracking the number of “hits” on each media outlet, as well as attendance at each conference or policy related workshop. PSSP is creating an agenda of policies that need potential adjustment in either design, require passage or promulgation, or need better implementation. In the single Sub IR (IR 3.1) under this IR, PSSP is working toward disseminating research results to private sector and civil society organizations through public fora and meetings with key groups to increase discussion on policy change geared toward pro-poor growth.

Additionally, two **cross-cutting training activities** are tracked. PSSP has set up training projects that contribute to the achievement of all three IRs, which involve training academics, researchers and local government officials on various aspects of research. Success is measured by counting the number of training events held, along with the number of individuals trained.

For training to be truly useful, there must be a process by which it becomes sustainable and the increases in capacity are clearly identified. In this project, we use several approaches. First, we use “train the trainer” methods, presenting topics more than once, and identifying at each offering (potentially) good trainers, whom we then encourage to participate in later sessions. We have followed this practice in the technical writing training and are doing so in the ongoing SAM and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) work. Second, we try to develop in depth relationships with researchers by doing joint research, a practice that we are following for the Domestic Studies Program (DSP) and in some of our longer-running efforts, such as the Bt cotton and biosafety programs.

2. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REVIEW

2.1 Progress on Indicators

PSSP is using FY 2013 as the base year to track progress on 18 indicators. A description and analysis on the progress of each indicators is listed below.

Indicator 1: This indicator counts the number of policies/regulations/administrative procedures at a given stage of development as a result of USG assistance. It also includes assessment of the stage of analysis, legislation or implementation that each policy or procedure has reached. In quarter 2 of FY 2016 PSSP worked on one policy, the Plants Breeders Right Act which was at stage 2 in the previous quarter, and is now at stage 3.

- Plants Breeders Right Act (Stage 3)

Indicator 2: This indicator aggregates the index of production, distribution, access to, and use of research produced as a result of USG assistance. The index creates an overall measure by calculating an aggregate index, which is a weighted sum of the indexes for production, access to, and usage at the IR level. The weights are 40 percent for IR1, and 30 percent for IR2 and IR3 each. Below are the components that constitute the index. The number shown against each component is the output achieved in this quarter.

- The index measuring production of research by PSSP and partners, included in IR1. The number of (weighted by 40 percent);
- The index measuring access to research produced by PSSP and partners under IR2 (weighted by 30 percent);
- The index measuring usage of research produced by PSSP and partners under IR3 (weighted by 30 percent).

To measure PSSP's progress, FY 2013 output was set as a baseline, with a value of 1. The target for FY 2016 was set at 3.00 index points. In quarter 2 of FY 2016, PSSP achieved 1.03 index points with contributions of 0.16, 0.64 and 0.23 from indicators 3,5 and 10 respectively. PSSP is well on its way to achieve the target of this indicator, as the research output in process will be wrapped up as the next quarter will be the last quarter of the project.

Indicator 3: This index captures production of published studies or conference presentations given as a result of USG assistance. The index captures the increased production of PSSP and partner research and aggregates them into an index. The components of this index are listed below and the number against each is the output achieved in this quarter.

1. Number of journal articles published: 4 research papers published
2. Number of book chapters: 0 book chapter (But the Pakistan book has 13 chapters and has been accepted by the University of Pennsylvania Press)
3. Number of IFPRI and PSSP discussion papers created: 8, (5 PSSP working papers, 2 IFPRI Discussion Papers and 1 IZA Discussion Paper)
4. Number of conference presentations and invited lectures given: 4

The target for 2016 was set at a 5 percentage point increase or 1.20 index points by the end of June 2016. PSSP achieved 1.02 cumulative points for the first two quarters of FY 2016. This implies that PSSP is

well on its way to achieve this target as the research worked is being closed out and publications are being published and presented to stakeholders.

Indicator 4: This indicator counts the number of new, PSSP-funded awards to institutions/individuals in support of research. In FY 2016 PSSP is not running the CGP program. The target was set at 0, as PSSP is focusing on finalizing the grants awarded in Round 3 of the CGP.

Indicator 5: This index captures access to and usage of applied economic research by policymakers and related stakeholders by including citations of products, policy dialogue using PSSP and partner products, as evidenced by policy notes distributed from PSSP research, attendance of key stakeholders at PSSP meetings, and networks linking research producers and users together. There are four components of this index listed below and are weighted at 30, 15, 15 and 40 percent respectively.

- Citations of products: 53
- Policy notes and outreach publications distributed from PSSP funded research: 0
- Attendance of key stakeholders at PSSP meetings: 72
- Networks linking the research producers and users together: 0

The target for 2016 was set at 5.0 index point by the end of 2016. PSSP achieved 2.11 points in the second quarter and 3.88 cumulative for FY 2016. The progress of this indicator is very promising, because the calculation of the citations is done after two quarters which helped in the achievement of this target.

Indicator 6: This indicator counts the number of MOUs signed with economic research networks. The target for this indicator was set at 0, because the project is in its extension stage and signing any new MOUs would require commitments that could not be finished in the project lift time.

Indicator 7: This indicator accounts for the attendance of key stakeholders in PSSP meetings, conferences, and trainings. In total, 72 key stakeholders attended PSSP events in quarter 2 of FY 2016 and 218 cumulative for FY 2016. This implies that PSSP has achieved the target for this indicator. These stakeholders attended PSSP policy seminars and training workshops.

Indicator 8: This indicator counts the number of outreach publications and policy notes from PSSP funded research. In the second quarter of FY 2016, four journal articles were published by CGP recipients, as well as PSSP and IFPRI researchers. In addition PSSP published 5 working papers, 2 IFPRI discussion papers and 1 IZA discussion paper. Following are the detailed topics of the journal articles.

- “Dynamics of Variety Change on Wheat Farmers in Pakistan: A Duration Analysis” by Hina Nazli and Melinda Smale in *Food Policy* 59 (2016) 24-33.
- "Drivers of Groundwater Use and Technical Efficiency of Groundwater, Canal water, and Conjunctive Use in Pakistan's Indus Basin Irrigation System" by Dawit Mekonnen, Afreen Siddiqi and Claudia Ringler in *International Journal of Water Resources Development Volume 32, Issue 3*.
- “Economic Analysis of Dairy Animal Diseases in Punjab: A Case Study of Faisalabad District,” by Muhammad Ashfaq, , Amar Razzaq, Shamsheer-ul-Haq and Ghulam Muhammad in *Journal of Animal and Plant Science* 25(5):1482-1495.
- "Economic evaluation of different irrigation systems for wheat production in Rechna Doab," by Allah Bakhsh, Muhammad Ashfaq, A. Ali, M. Hussain, Ghulam Rasool, Z. Haider and R.H. Faraz in *Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Sciences* 52(3): 821-

Indicator 9: This indicator accounts for the number of datasets from PSSP funded research and other data compilations made available online. In FY 2016 PSSP has set a target to make 2 data sets available to the general public for research. In quarter 2 PSSP has not been able to make the data sets available online, but the data publishing is in the final stages for Rural Household Panel Survey (RHPS) round 2 and BT Cotton data and these data sets will be available in the next quarter.

Indicator 10: This index captures the extent to which policies are influenced by feedback from private sector/civil society stakeholders. This indicator is derived from indicators 11, 12 and 13. It includes the working papers and other research papers produced by PSSP. The target for FY 2016 was set at a 1.05 index point by the end of June 2016. PSSP achieved 0.76 points in this quarter and 1.12 cumulative for the two quarters of FY 2016.

Indicator 11: The indicator counts the number of meetings with private sector and civil society organizations. PSSP administration and researchers had 11 meetings with organizations which include meetings with Asian Development Bank (ADB), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), AIP, Australian High Commission, World Bank and the FAO in this quarter.

Indicator 12: This indicator counts the number of results reported, published, and presented for public knowledge. In the second quarter of FY 2016, four journal articles were published by PSSP researchers and IFPRI staff. In addition 5 PSSP working papers, 2 IFPRI discussion papers and 1 IZA discussion paper were published.

Indicator 13: This indicator accounts for the number of media mentions of IFPRI PSSP papers and results. PSSP received 4 media mentions in second quarter of FY 2016. These include mentions of PSSP M&E Training in Faisalabad.

Indicator 14: This indicator accounts for the number of persons receiving training on skills development. PSSP conducted training on skill development in the second quarter of FY 2016. PSSP organized two sessions of Results Based M&E Training for PARC and NARC staff with one session each in Islamabad and Faisalabad. It was attended by a total of 47 individuals, 42 male and 5 female.

Indicator 15: This indicator counts the number of persons receiving training on policy related topics. PSSP organized one training session on policy related issues in the second quarter. The Social Accounting Matrix training specifically for the Planning Commission was attended by 18 individuals, 10 male and 8 female.

Indicator 16: This indicator counts the number of USG-assisted organizations that participate in legislative proceedings and/or engage in advocacy at all levels. PSSP has already achieved the target for this indicator.

Indicator 17: This indicator counts the number of USG assisted meetings with government officials regarding proposed changes in legal/institutional framework. PSSP senior management and research staff held 11 meetings with government officials from Intellectual Property Organization, PARC and the Planning Commission during the second quarter of FY 2016.

Indicator 18: This indicator counts the number of events for public/stakeholders consultation to enhance sector governance or facilitate private sector engagement in policy making as a result of USG assistance. In the second quarter of FY 2016 PSSP organized 2 events. They include Policy seminar on Fertilizer and Focus group discussion on Food Security.

3. ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PSSP engaged in a number of activities that contribute toward the outcomes listed under Section 2 in the Progress on Performance. This section provides details on all activities that PSSP undertook in Quarter 2 of FY 2016 to fulfill targets set under the indicators in the Results Framework.

IR 1: Increased and Improved Agricultural and Economic Policy Research

Indicator 1: Number of policies/regulations/administrative procedures at a given stage of development as a result of USG assistance

The main policy with a significant level of development during the second quarter of FY 2016 was:

- **Plant Breeder’s Rights Act:** This bill was submitted for approval to the relevant Standing Committee in the National Assembly as well as the Senate of Pakistan on January 6, 2016. Several Amendments were proposed by the IPO, MNFSR and, Mr. Asad Umar, MNA who is member of the standing committee. A “Justification of proposed amendments in PBR Bill, 2015” document was prepared on March 9, 2016. The PBRA was amended in light of input from the Standing committees. The technical part of the act has been approved but the issue of administrative power is still under debate.

PSSP organized a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the Intellectual Property Organization (IPO)-Pakistan and MNFSR in Quarter 1 on November 12, 2015 to discuss the PBRA. The participants of the meeting were from Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department (FSC&RD), Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), IPO-Pakistan, USDA and USAID. In this meeting, IPO presented the salient features of the PBRA and the role of IPO-Pakistan, FSC&RD and MNFSR. They also explained that the PBR Registry would be set up in IPO-Pakistan and FSC&RD would conduct Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability (DUS). PSSP pointed out several technical points particularly related to the role of the corporate sector, breeder’s rights, essentially drive variety, royalty distribution, and technical expertise for DUS testing and capacity required for managing IP-Registry. The participants explained that FSC&RD has testing capacity and IPO-Pakistan could manage the IP-Registry.

With regard to the location of the IP registry, PSSP pointed out that both parties need to enhance technical capacity required for PBR registry. PSSP is in touch with IPO-Pakistan and MNFSR for follow up of PBRA and its current status. Both parties have approached PSSP for technical support and capacity building of staff.

Indicator 3: Index capturing production of published studies or conference presentations given as a result of USG assistance

All research activities undertaken by PSSP that result in the production of a publication or conference presentation fall under IR 1 and contribute to indicator 3. The main researchers are PSSP staff and collaborative teams, including the CGP and other commissioned research.

PSSP Staff and Collaborative Research

Research activities undertaken by PSSP mainly fall under four main themes: a) Agricultural Production; b) Water Management and Irrigation; c) Macroeconomics, Markets and Trade; and d) Poverty Dynamics

and Social Safety Nets. Completed and ongoing activities in Quarter 2 of FY 2016 under each theme are listed below.

a) Agricultural Production and Productivity

- Seed Dealer Census Report: PSSP completed Seed Dealer Survey of Pakistan Cotton Survey (PCS) in 2015, in which 135 seed dealers were interviewed. The survey was conducted in 25 districts, which included 18 from Punjab, and 7 from Sindh. Five seed dealers were selected from each Tehsil for interview and the top three varieties of each selected seed dealer were purchased for DNA fingerprinting. The seed dealer survey has information related to seed dealer's age, education, experience, business age, selling of different crop seeds. Additionally, we also asked about quantity, price, packaging, source of purchase, to whom sold, losses and stocks for each variety of cotton seed purchased and sold during 2014 and 2015. An initial report on this census is underway.
- Seed system improvement in Pakistan: Ongoing analysis of seed system policy reforms, including the 2015 Amendment to the 1976 Seed Act and the draft Plant Breeders' Act.
- A journal article on "Dynamics of variety change on wheat farms in Pakistan: A duration analysis" was published this quarter an IFPRI Discussion Paper on Bt cotton will be published next quarter, and it is described in the following text box.

Box 1: Abstract of Journal Article "Dynamics of variety change on wheat farms in Pakistan: A duration analysis" by Hina Nazli and Melinda Smale in Food Policy

Decades after the Green Revolution, sustaining wheat productivity remains an important policy goal for the government of Pakistan. Understanding the speed of diffusion of new wheat varieties can contribute to this goal. We apply duration analysis to identify the factors that shorten the time until a farmer replaces one modern variety by another, and test hypotheses concerning two recurring themes of the Green Revolution: farm size differences and the role of information sources in seed diffusion. We find that time to adoption averages only 4 years, but is shorter on larger farms. Factors that speed variety change also differ by farm size. Extension and media sources of information significantly influence adoption among larger farmers relative to information gained through social relationships, but this is not the case for marginal farmers. Traits are related to consumption of quality speed adoption on smaller wheat farms, where families both sell and consume their wheat; higher yields drive adoption for the most subsistence-oriented, marginal group.

b) Water Management and Irrigation

A journal article on "Drivers of groundwater use and technical efficiency of groundwater, canal water, and conjunctive use in Pakistan's Indus Basin Irrigation System" was published this quarter. PSSP continued its involvement with the working group in developing the draft National Water Policy and also attended the Water Food Energy Nexus Conference at NUST in February.

Box 2: Abstract of Journal Article “Drivers of groundwater use and technical efficiency of groundwater, canal water, and conjunctive use in Pakistan’s Indus Basin Irrigation System” by Dawit Mekonnen, Afreen Siddiqi and Claudia Ringler in International Journal of Water Resources Development

This paper explores the major determinants of heavy reliance on groundwater and the extent to which conjunctive use of ground and surface water affects the production efficiency of Pakistan’s irrigators. The results show that the major drivers of groundwater use in Pakistan’s agriculture are the variability and uncertainty associated with surface water delivery and that any effort to address the groundwater–energy nexus challenge should first consider fixing the problems associated with surface water supplies. The findings also suggest that having access to groundwater does not directly translate into improvements in technical efficiency of production.

c) Macroeconomics, Markets and Trade

In this quarter researchers continued work on the 2010-11 SAM Working Paper and the fertilizer study was published as an IFPRI Discussion Paper and also submitted to a journal.

Box 3: Abstract of IFPRI Discussion Paper 1516 “Pakistan’s fertilizer sector: Structure, policies, performance, and impacts” by Mubarik Ali, Faryal Ahmed, Hira Channa, and Stephen Davies.

The fertilizer industry in Pakistan, with US\$3.74 billion per year in sales, now stands at a crossroads where, after an initial substantial contribution in boosting crop productivity, its future potential is being challenged. Fertilizer-responsive crop varieties, supplementary irrigation water, and a favorable policy environment in Pakistan have induced fast growth in fertilizer demand. On the supply side, the availability of gas at low prices along with a favorable investment environment resulted in the buildup of excessive manufacturing capacity. But recently, a shortage of gas and monopolistic behavior has led to underutilization, higher prices and greater imports. Restrictive laws put fertilizer processing and marketing in a few hands, which has also affected its efficiency. Moreover, the yield response of fertilizer has tapered off and per hectare use is fast reaching its optimal level. The existing policy environment leads to higher costs, inefficient use, and a heavy burden on the government as it charges one-fourth of the market price for feedstock gas used in fertilizer manufacturing. In addition, the government imports urea and absorbs the difference in international and domestic prices.

d) Poverty Dynamics and Social Safety Nets

- An IFPRI Discussion paper on the Women’s Disempowerment Index was published this quarter. Work continued on the study on “The Dominant Role of the Small Commercial Farmer” which will be finalized as a PSSP Working Paper in the next quarter.

Box 4: Abstract of IFPRI Discussion Paper: “Measuring women’s disempowerment in agriculture in Pakistan” by Nuzhat Ahmad and Huma Khan.

Pakistan performs poorly with respect to gender equality, women’s empowerment, and other gender-related indicators. Few studies in Pakistan measure the multiple dimensions of empowerment along which women are marginalized or disenfranchised, particularly in the country’s rural areas. Even fewer studies address the gender gaps in empowerment levels of men and women. This paper calculates a Women’s Disempowerment Index to examine women’s control over production, resources, income, household decisions, and time burden. The index is based on a slightly modified methodology than that used for WEAI calculation by Alkire et al. (2012). The analysis is based on a sample of 2,090 households in the rural areas of Pakistan. Data used for the study were collected in three rounds of the Pakistan Rural Household Panel Survey from 2012–2014 by International Food Policy Research Institute/ Innovative Development Strategies for its Pakistan Strategy Support Program. The results show low empowerment levels of only 17 percent for women in the rural areas of Pakistan. The results also show very low empowerment of women in all indicators and domains except the time burden/workload indicator. We then analyze women’s disempowerment by subsamples based on individual and household characteristics. We also calculate disempowerment levels among men and compare it to disempowerment levels among women. Comparison within the household reveals large disparities in empowerment levels among men and women. In a comparative analysis, men are found to be more empowered in domains of production, income and autonomy. Both men and women were found to be most disempowered in access to and control over resources. The paper provides a baseline for tracking women’s empowerment over time and identifies areas that need to be strengthened through policy interventions

IR 1.1: Increased Capacity Building Opportunities for Researchers and Analysts

Indicator 4: Number of new, USG-funded awards to institutions/ individuals in support of research

The two remaining methods of providing individuals and institutions with better capacity to undertake research are the CGP and other commissioned contracts. The number of research activities funded by these methods contributes to Indicator # 4.

Competitive Grants Program Research

PSSP launched the CGP in FY 2012 to provide researchers with the opportunity to conduct quality research under the guidance of professional and international expertise.

PSSP continued to work with awardees to review incoming reports, advise awardees on possible paths for improvement, and edit final reports for publication as PSSP working papers.

Third Round Final Reports: Final reports were received by the deadline set of March 1st. By the end of the period, only two of 35 projects had not submitted reports.

The team continued to work with awardees to review incoming reports, advise awardees on possible paths for improvement, and edit final reports for publication as PSSP working papers. Final reports from rounds 2 and 3 were read thoroughly and sent out to external reviewers, and then the notes from both internal and external reviews were transmitted to the awardees. Those final reports deemed to be of a

high standard are processed as a working paper after involving technical editing and iterating with the authors. Four more working papers were published this quarter (one from round 1, and three from round 2) and others are in the late stages of being completed as working papers. Finally, two journal articles were published by CGP awardees.

Box 5: Abstract of Journal Article "Economic evaluation of different irrigation systems for wheat production in Rechna Doab" by A. Bakhsh, M. Ashfaq, A. Ali, M. Hussain, G. Rasool, Z. Haider and R.H. Faraz in Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Sciences.

This study was designed to investigate causes responsible for low water productivity and demonstrate various irrigation techniques at farmers' fields for its improvement. A comprehensive questionnaire was designed and 230 farmers were interviewed in cotton-wheat area, mixed crop area, and rice-wheat area, in Rechna Doab located in Punjab, Pakistan. The results showed that majority of the farmers are concerned about a shortage of canal water, energy and fertilizer related issues which were the main factors affecting their water productivity (WP). Field experiments showed that drip irrigation method gave WP of 2.26 kg m⁻³ for wheat and 40% water saving, as compared with conventional irrigation methods. Perforated pipe irrigation technique also resulted in relatively better WP of 1.46 kg m⁻³ and saved water up to 20%. Benefit Cost ratios for drip, perforated pipe and conventional were 2.47, 2.20 and 1.96, respectively. The Internal Rate of Return (IRR) for drip and perforated pipe irrigations over conventional irrigation practices were 40% and 36%, respectively. These findings suggested that flexible irrigation techniques in response to crop water requirements can improve land and water productivity, by building on farm water storage and conveying water through pipes to minimize the losses"

Box 6: Abstract of Journal Article "Economic Analysis of Dairy Animal Diseases in Punjab: A Case Study of Faisalabad District" by Muhammad Ashfaq, Amar Razzaq, Shamsheer-ul-Haq and Ghulam Muhammad in Journal of Animal and Plant Science.

This study estimates the prevalence of key livestock diseases in district Faisalabad and evaluates the effects they have on livestock productivity and farm incomes. Particular focus of the study is on the negative consequences on milk production and farm incomes due to mastitis, Parturient Hemoglobinuria, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and tick infestations. The economic losses associated with these diseases are estimated. The analysis of diseases shows that the morbidity rate of tick infestation and FMD is high both in buffaloes and cows, and significant economic losses are being caused by these diseases due to reduced milk production, weight loss, and abortion. The production of milk can be enhanced, and per animal and per farm income can be increased, by controlling for these diseases. The economic losses caused are proportional to the scale of farming. However, on a per animal basis the losses are generally higher for small and medium farms than for large farms. The share of livestock income in total farm income is around 50 percent which makes this sector vital to the survival of the farming community, especially the small farmers. With the help of proper training, extension services, and veterinary care facilities, these diseases can be controlled, and the dairy business improved, thereby lifting the overall agriculture sector of Pakistan.

The following CGP working papers were published:

PSSP Working Paper 038: "Determinants of entrepreneurial behaviour in FATA Pakistan" by Ali Muhammad and Muhammad Junaid

This paper investigates determinants of entrepreneurial behaviour in one of the most impoverished areas of Pakistan, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Unlike the developed world, the scenario in emerging economies is quite different, where entrepreneurs have to rely primarily on socio-cultural factors that facilitate them to pursue entrepreneurship as a means to earn livelihoods. However, little predictive empirical work has investigated enterprising behaviour in the tribal areas of Pakistan. This study examines the relative strength of selected entrepreneurial determinants in the Pashtun tribal culture. Persistent wars, economic downturn, and strong cultural adherence have turned the Pashtun tribesmen into necessity entrepreneurs. Based on primary data from 462 respondents, entrepreneurial behaviour measured by self-reported views toward risk-taking and innovativeness are related to economic, institutional, and cultural constructs using logistic regression models. Different sets of predictors emerged for risk-taking and innovativeness. The study finds some, but limited support for hypothesized determinants of entrepreneurial behavior. This study informs academics as to how entrepreneurial behaviour of Pashtuns can be enhanced, setting up hypotheses and results for future research exploration, and can guide policy to stimulate underlying factors that will promote entrepreneurship in FATA.

PSSP Working Paper 037: "DNA barcoding and biochemical profiling of medical plants of northern and desert areas of Pakistan to improve rural living standard" by Amer Jamil and Muhammad Ashfaq

This paper focuses on the conservation of natural plant resources by using modern molecular techniques and creating awareness for determining the active ingredients of medicinal plants through biochemical profiling. Further objectives of the study were to identify marketing channels for medicinal plants, costs and margins of stakeholders involved in the marketing of medicinal plants, and factors responsible for the poor trade and decreasing population of these plants in the two study areas of Swat Valley and Cholistan Desert. Biochemical profiling of twelve selected plants, followed by their comparison with marketed products, revealed that they contain highly valuable compounds with possible commercial applications. Four DNA barcoding markers were evaluated for their amplification, sequencing, and species identification capacity, and TaxonID trees were generated for barcode sequence validation. DNA barcoding was successfully applied in testing for adulteration in the medicinal plants which could have a tremendous impact in checking the purity of traditional medicines.

Structured questionnaires were also used to collect descriptive statistics and cost related data from stakeholders in the medicinal plants trade. A total of 120 respondents, including 80 collectors (40 from each area) and 40 assemblers/shopkeepers (20 from each area), were selected for this purpose. Margin analysis was used to measure the revenues of collectors and assemblers/shopkeepers. Medicinal plants were an important source of income for locals, contributing about 32% and 29% in assemblers and collector's income in Swat, respectively. Cholistani assemblers and collectors were getting about 25% and 18% of their per month income from medicinal plants, respectively. Collectors in Swat were selling on average 337 kg of plants in the market per month, as compared to 114 kg of plant parts sold per month by collectors in Cholistan. Assemblers had 2 to 7 times higher margins than collectors.

The main reasons reported for the declining plant population in both areas were overgrazing, increasing human population, unavailability of seeds, poor collection techniques, lack of awareness among people, removal of roots, deforestation, and rapidly increasing demand for medicinal plants. The main marketing problems faced by stakeholders were a lack of awareness regarding the importance of medicinal plants, no pricing policy, a monopoly of a few big dealers, and high transportation costs. Recommendations are made on the basis of the project outcomes and translated into policy implications for the establishment of well-structured markets along with conservation measures to make full use of the medicinal plants' products and to raise the living standard of the people residing around this valuable resource.

PSSP Working Paper 036: "Assessment of water allocations using remote sensing and GIS modeling for Indus Basin, Pakistan" by Muhammad Jehanzeb Masud Cheema, Allah Bakhsh, Talha Mahmood, and Muhammad Usman Liaqat

This paper uses satellite imagery to estimate crop water use and corresponding water productivity for each canal command area of the Indus Basin Irrigation System. Three years were selected for the study and two representative canal commands (Lower Chenab and Muzaffargarh Canal) were selected for detailed analysis and ground truthing. Spatially distributed maps of land use, crop water use, groundwater use and quality, soil and water salinity, and crop yields at a pixel resolution of 250 m (6.25 ha) were prepared and then verified by field surveys. GIS maps of canal water availability/supply were also prepared to account for the volume of water supplied through irrigation, and this spatial database was used to evaluate and create maps of water productivity in the different canal commands. The analysis shows that the area affected by soil salinity (strongly saline) in the basin has increased by 2.5% during the last five years. The average crop water use is 342 mm and 516 mm for Rabi and Kharif season, respectively. The variation in wheat yield ranged between 5,280 to 423 kg ha⁻¹, while rice yield varied from 3,312 to 1,925 kg ha⁻¹. Water productivity of wheat is also variable with a maximum of 1.34 kg m⁻³ and minimum estimated at less than 0.2 kg m⁻³. The water productivity of rice shows maximum of 1.12 kg m⁻³ and minimum estimated at less than 0.4 kg m⁻³. The cost incurred to irrigate one acre of land with groundwater is around Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 9,000 for wheat and rice, respectively, while canal water costs are only Rs. 50 and Rs. 85. The total cost of production is also higher in areas where groundwater is being used. Several rationalization policies based on cost and water productivity are suggested to reduce the cost gap between the two irrigation sources.

PSSP Working Paper 035: "The Pakistan Remittance Initiative and Remittance Flows to Pakistan" by Javaeria A. Qureshi

This paper investigates the impact of the Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) on remittance flows to Pakistan. In 2009, the Government of Pakistan launched the PRI aimed at facilitating the flow of remittances sent home by non-resident Pakistanis. The PRI is comprised of multiple incentive schemes that are aimed at making remittance transfers faster, cheaper, and more convenient, and at increasing the attractiveness of formal channels of transfer relative to informal channels. It finds that the PRI is associated with a significant increase in formal remittances sent to Pakistan as well as a strong shift in the channels used for remittance transfer. Estimates suggest that while the PRI led to a significant reallocation of remittances away from the informal channels to formal channels, it is not clear that it has increased the total amount of remittances received."

IR 2: Improved Access to and Demand for, High Quality Research on the Part of the Policy Makers, Academics, and other Researchers

IR 2.1: Networks of Agricultural and Economic Research Organizations and Universities Established and Operating

Indic 5: Index capturing access to and usage of applied economic research by policymakers and related stakeholders

Indic 6: Number of MOUs signed with competitively selected economic research networks

Research Networks

PSSP did not plan to sign any MoUs this year.

IR 2.2 Increased Provision of Timely, Demand Driven Policy Analysis and Advice to Policymakers and Other Key Stakeholders

Indicator 7: Attendance of key stakeholders in PSSP meetings and conferences and Indicator 18: Number of events for public/stakeholders consultation to enhance sector governance or facilitate private sector engagement in policy making as a result of USG assistance

Seminars, Workshops and Conferences

PSSP organized two events in Quarter 2 with a total of 28 stakeholders in attendance. Details on each can be found below.

Focus Group Discussion on Food Security

On February 18, 2016, PSSP organized a Focus Group Discussion on “The Food Security Challenge in Pakistan: Information for Policy Dialogue” at the PSSP Office. The main presentation was given by Prof. Stephen Davies.

The seminar was attended by seven high level stakeholders including Dr. Mubarik Ali, (Member, Food Security and Climate Change, Planning Commission), Dr. Naeem-uz- Zafar (Member , Social Sector, Planning Commission), Mr. Muhammad Azam Niazi, Director, Social Sciences Division, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), Mr. Zahoor Malik, National Chief Coordinator (Zero Hunger Program), Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), Dr. Munir Ahmed, (Joint Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)), Ms. Mehnaz Paracha, (IPC Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)) and Mr. Thiago Xavier, Program Policy Officer, World Food Programme (WFP)).

The presentation was based on an ongoing study on Food Security in Pakistan which presents the prevalence of food insecurity in rural Pakistan by computing the Pakistan Rural Hunger Index (PRHI). Based on the data of RHPS (2014), the PRHI stands at 38.5 indicating that the overall situation of hunger in rural Pakistan “alarming”. The PRHI shows considerable disparities across provinces and various socio-economic groups. This study highlights the importance of female education, their knowledge about child feeding practices, mother’s health, and easy access to health service providers to address undernutrition. Similarly, better education and better employment opportunities, and improved infrastructure appeared important for reducing poverty and improving income.

Some Key discussion points and recommendations from the meeting were:

- RHPS has a comparative advantage over other nationally representative data sets in addressing multidimensional issues of food security as it collects information on all aspects of food security at one point in time.
- Adequate supply is necessary but not sufficient condition to address the issue of food insecurity in the country.
- High prevalence of undernutrition, especially among children, is a point of concern that needs to be addressed urgently.
- Level of stunting and wasting, and dietary diversity (except high protein food items) does not vary across various income groups. It is important to explore what factors influence their prevalence.
- Important to focus on the causes of food security rather than the status of food security.
- Need to consolidate the gap between the availability and consumption of major food items.
- Need for coordination between federal and provincial government departments, and several ministries; suggestion to hold a stakeholder meeting at the Planning Commission’s SDG center.
- Need for collecting accurate data on food supply at district or lower level as well as data on intra-household distribution and consumption of food. Such data would help in establishing the food

security information system that is not only crucial for the accuracy of the Integrated Phase Classification conducted by the FAO and WFP but also for policy oriented research.

Seminar on Fertilizer Policy

On February 23rd Prof Stephen Davies gave a seminar on Fertilizer Policy at the Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. The key presentation described the recommendations from the study “Pakistan's Fertilizer Sector: Structure, Policies, Performance and Impacts” as well as a description of the economic model used for assessing the fertilizer sector. The seminar was attended by a number of professors associated with the Center for Advanced Studies within the University.

Indicator 17: Number of USG assisted meetings with government officials regarding proposed changes in legal/institutional framework

Meetings

Senior Policymakers:

In Quarter 2 of FY 2016, Prof. Stephen Davies met with some key policymakers, which include meetings with Mr. Sikander Bosan, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Naeem-uz-Zaffar, Member Social Sector, Planning Commission and Dr. Mubarik Ali, Member Food and Agriculture, Planning Commission. Ms. Faryal Ahmed of PSSP also met with Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources and discussed some of PSSP’s Fertilizer work.

Indicator 8: Number of outreach publications and policy notes from PSSP-funded research

Outreach Publications

PSSP finalized the following Working Papers and IFPRI Discussion Papers:

- PSSP Working Paper 034: "Optimal Groundwater Management in Pakistan’s Indus Water Basin," by Sanval Nasim, Steven Helfand.
- PSSP Working Paper 035: "The Pakistan Remittance Initiative and Remittance Flows to Pakistan," by Javaeria A. Qureshi.
- PSSP Working Paper 036: "Assessment of water allocations using remote sensing and GIS modeling for Indus Basin, Pakistan", by Muhammad Jehanzeb Masud Cheema, Allah Bakhsh, Talha Mahmood, and Muhammad Usman Liaqat.
- PSSP Working Paper 037: "DNA barcoding and biochemical profiling of medical plants of northern and desert areas of Pakistan to improve rural living standard," by Amer Jamil and Muhammad Ashfaq.
- PSSP Working Paper 038: "Determinants of entrepreneurial behaviour in FATA Pakistan," by Ali Muhammad and Muhammad Junaid.
- IFPRI Discussion Paper 1516: “Pakistan’s fertilizer sector: Structure, policies, performance, and impacts” by Mubarik Ali, Faryal Ahmed, Hira Channa, Stephen Davies.
- IFPRI Discussion Paper 1512: Measuring women’s disempowerment in agriculture in Pakistan” by Nuzhat Ahmad and Huma Khan. 2015
- IZA Discussion Paper: “Temporary and permanent migrant selection: Theory and evidence of ability-search cost dynamics” by Joyce J. Chen, Katrina Kosec, Valerie Mueller.
<http://ftp.iza.org/dp9639.pdf>

The following journal articles were also published

- “Economic Analysis of Dairy Animal Diseases in Punjab: A Case Study of Faisalabad District.” by Muhammad Ashfaq, Amar Razaq, Shamsheer-ul-Haq and Ghulam in Muhammad Journal of Animal and Plant Science 25(5):1482-1495.
- "Economic evaluation of different irrigation systems for wheat production in Rechna Doab." by A. Bakhsh, M. Ashfaq, A. Ali, M. Hussain, G. Rasool, Z. Haider and R.H. Faraz in Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Sciences 52(3): 821-828.
- “Dynamics of Variety Change on Wheat Farmers in Pakistan: A Duration Analysis” by Hina Nazli and Melinda Smale in Food Policy 59 (2016) 24-33.
URL: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306919215001463>
- "Drivers of groundwater use and technical efficiency of groundwater, canal water, and conjunctive use in Pakistan's Indus Basin Irrigation System" by Dawit Mekonnen, Afreen Siddiqi & Claudia Ringler in International Journal of Water Resources Development. Jan 2016
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2015.1133402>

(See Indicator 12 below)

Policy Notes

PSSP researchers are working on creating policy briefs based on various research studies. PSSP created two additional impact notes this quarter that were submitted to USAID for internal circulation. The topics were:

- 1) Fiscal Space for Investment in Agriculture – a review of taxes and subsidies in agriculture in Pakistan
- 2) Pakistan’s National Water Policy

Indic 9: Number of datasets from PSSP funded research and other data compilations made available online

Datasets

PSSP datasets are made available to the public when they pass all quality checks and verifications. For the first year, IFPRI policy requires that a co-author from IFPRI be included, but thereafter, the datasets will generally be made available to researchers for individual use. The data for Round 2 of RHPS is finalized and will be uploaded to the Harvard’s Dataverse for circulation by next quarter. Next in line is the Pakistan Cotton Survey Round 1 data which should be finalized and uploaded by the end of the project.

IR 3: Policy-Making Benefits to a Greater Degree from Informed Input by Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations

PSSP strives to create a cooperative community of policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations and private sector stakeholders. This is achieved by incorporating stakeholders into the process of defining policy research agendas, encouraging communication across ministries, agencies and line departments, bridging gaps between central and provincial governments, and working with civil society organizations and the private sector to encourage participation in policy formulation.

Indicator 10: Index capturing extent to which policies are influenced by feedback from private sector / civil society stakeholders

This index is formed on the basis of the activities described below in Indicators 11, 12 13.

IR 3.1 Increased Informed Input and Feedback Provided to Policymakers by Private Sector and Civil Society Stakeholders

Indicator 11: Number of meetings with private sector and civil society organizations and Indicator 16: Number of USG-assisted organizations and stakeholders that participate in legislative proceedings and/or engage in advocacy at all levels

Meetings

In Quarter 2 of FY 2016, PSSP senior staff met with key stakeholders in organizations such as at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Food Programme (WFP), Australian High Commission and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO).

Organizations Assisted:

PSSP has already achieved its target of supporting one organization in Quarter 1 of this year as detailed in the previous report.

Indicator 12: Number of results reported, published, and presented for public knowledge from PSSP support and research to civil society partners

Research Disseminated

PSSP published four journal articles, three IFPRI Discussion Papers, five PSSP Working Papers and one IZA Discussion Paper in Quarter 2 of FY 2016. These publications are also available on the PSSP blog. See Indicator 8 above.

Indicator 13: Number of media mentions of PSSP papers and results

Media Coverage

Electronic Social Media:

PSSP has a significant Internet presence, with a blog on the IFPRI website and social media pages on Facebook and Twitter. All research conducted by PSSP that has reached the Working Paper stage is available online on the PSSP blog. The social media pages are used to reach out to PSSP's target audience of researchers, economists, policy analysts, civil society organizations, as well as to the general public to keep them abreast of the latest PSSP updates, news and upcoming events.

PSSP continued to use Facebook and Twitter to share information on Pakistan's economic conditions, with particular focus on its four primary research priorities (agricultural production, water management, macroeconomics, and poverty).

Media Activities: During Quarter 2 of FY 2016, PSSP received four media mentions on the M&E training in Faisalabad.

Cross-cutting Activities

Indicator 14: Number of persons receiving training on skill development and Indicator 15: Number of persons receiving USG supported training on policy development, analysis, and implementation

Training Events

PSSP held two skills training events and one policy training even this quarter. There were two M&E training events with PARC, and one SAM workshop

Results Based Information Monitoring: PARC has been in the process of developing a Results Based M&E system and the two day training in collaboration with PSSP has been an essential part of successfully implementing the system. On the first day of the training participants are given a theoretical background of why this system has been implemented, what is a typical PARC project cycle, how to develop a log frame and how to develop SMART indicators for a project. The second day focuses on M&E formats being developed and used by PARC, how to correctly fill them and report them to headquarters. The participants are given exercises on Data Collection, Recording and Reporting. The participants are also indulged in Analysis of data, writing of M&E report and finally use of the reports for decision making. A two-day training in Faisalabad was held on February 23 and 24th and a two-day training in Karachi was held on March 18 and 19th.

SAM Workshop: A workshop on Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs) was held on March 08, 2016 at the Planning Commission jointly organized by the Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP) and the Planning Commission. Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Javaid – Chief Economist and Mr. Zafar ul Hasan, Chief of Poverty Alleviation at Planning Commission inaugurated the session. Dr. Naeem-uz-Zafar - Member (Social Sector) attended the closing session of the workshop. The workshop was led by Dr. Stephen Davies, program leader of PSSP. The workshop was attended by 16 officers from various wings of the Planning Commission as well as the Ministry of Finance. SAMs are a fundamental tool for the analysis of economic structure, multiplier analysis, and economy-wide simulation analyses. Dr. Stephen Davies introduced the SAM structure, uses and importance to the participants. A 2011 SAM for Pakistan was also introduced and discussed. Another workshop is scheduled for April 12.

4. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Research Studies: As the project comes to a close this year our focus, is on finalizing as many studies as possible. At the end of the second quarter, there were still around 30 outstanding CGP reports and our team is working hard with the awardees to get their papers finalized and published. (However, by the end of May, it will be around 7 reports that still need to be finalized). It does appear that most of these will submit final reports and receive final payments. We have a system set up where the reports are diligently and carefully reviewed before they are published for public circulation. We also are posting datasets as quickly as we can and will send out a research note showing what is available and how to access it to our broad list of stakeholders who will be interested in using this output.

Policy Impacts: Another effort is to make as much progress as possible on some of the policies that we have been trying to impact through our research. This means scheduling and holding meetings and focus group discussions with government stakeholders to ensure that the issues raised through our research remain on the government's agenda in the future. It also means promoting our research findings through written documents.

In the third quarter, the MNFSR, carrying forward our research, requested that the Ministry of Finance decrease the subsidy to fertilizer manufacturers. The MoF took another tack, whereby they actually increased the subsidy but also insisted that the producers of urea drop the price to farmers in line with the lower international prices. We intend to write up this outcome as an update to our policy notes. Additionally, we are looking for options to continue to move the National Water Policy process forward, and, equally, to try to highlight the importance of having an effective National Water Commission. Thirdly, we will continue to make presentations related to our “Finding Fiscal Space for Agricultural Research and Development Expenditures” research. In fact, another memo through Dr. Ali to the PM is in progress to try to get them to raise the spending on agricultural development areas. Finally, we have begun to package the results and implications from our household surveys in ways to highlight the food security implications of the research, and will be delivering it in several different seminars.

We are making a considerable effort to accomplish both, given a smaller research team and staff this year. While a number of staff have moved on for a variety of reasons, we believe that the core team is still in place, and is of an adequate size and skill to accomplish the key activities that still remain.

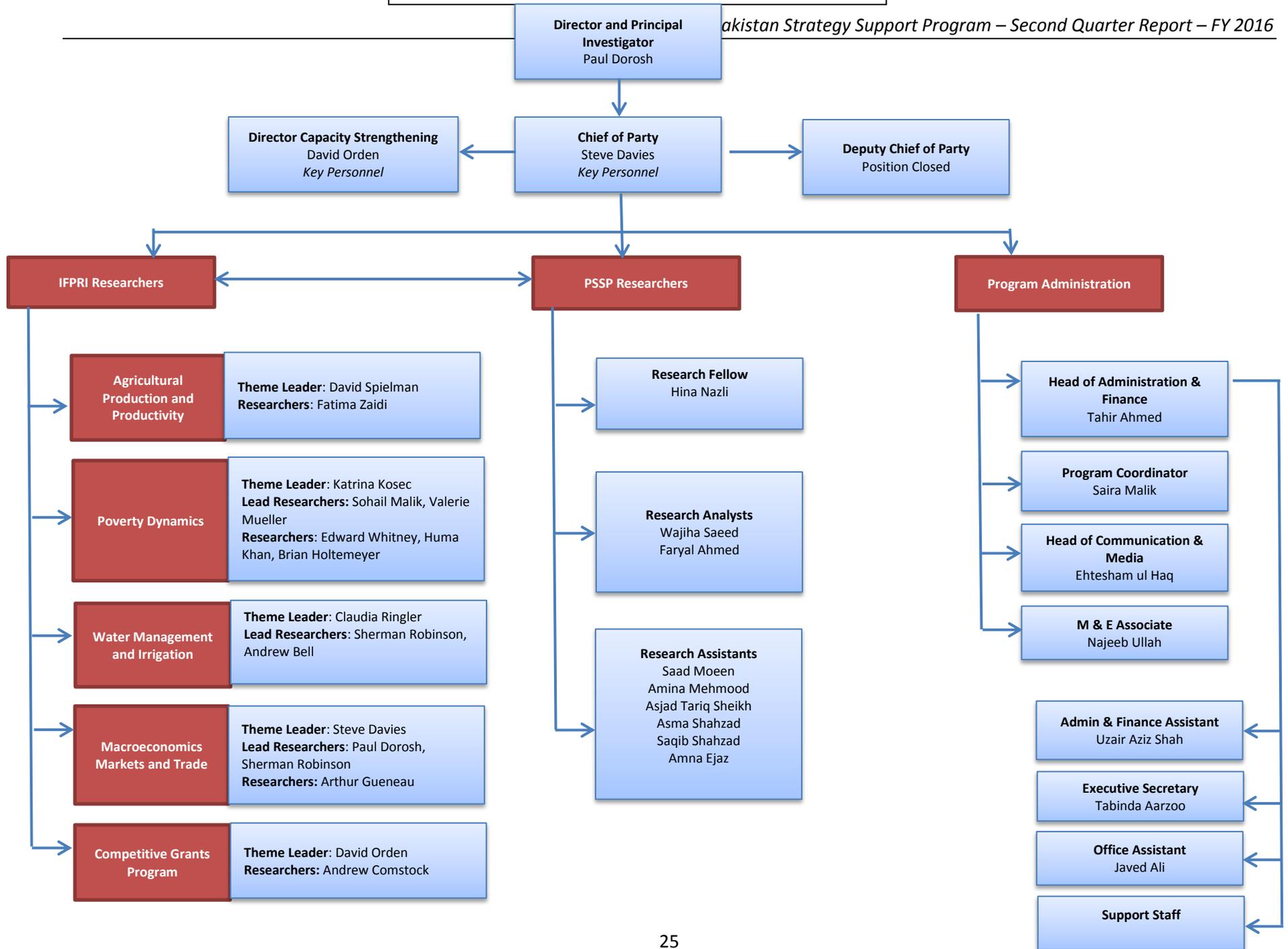
We are also watching our M&E targets closely in order to make sure we get as close to meeting them as we can. The one that seems to be lagging the most is “media mentions,” for which the target was created with the expectation that we would have the IFPRI Global Nutrition Launch in early spring. That now appears to be on hold for the time being. Additionally, given our experience, we feel that there needs to be some fundamental rethinking about how to work with the media in projects such as this one. Centrally, we need to address media as a target audience, and not just an information outlet. Policy reform and analysis projects should not just focus on visibility in the news, but rather should strive to reach target audiences with thought-provoking pieces on new and ongoing policy research. Inviting one or two journalists to seminars and sharing working papers and other such materials with them could be one approach.

We can convert working papers to newspaper articles and send them to different media outlets for print consideration, although they tend to charge for these submission, at an exorbitant rate. Thus how to make this a more genuine process requires some additional thought. We also need to reach out to journalists to engage with them on issues so they understand how policy research can lead to better policy formulation and impacts. IFPRI’s Nigerian project is currently training journalists so that their debates on policy and economic issues is more professional. This might be a possible program in Pakistan as well.

Appendices:

1. Organizational Chart – Pakistan Strategy Support Program
2. PSSP Calendar for Events Held FY 2016 Quarter 1(January - March 2016)
3. Calendar for Planned Events – FY 2016 Quarter 2 (April – June 2016)
4. Agenda – Integrating SDGs and Climate change for Resilient Pakistan (February 12, 2016)
5. Agenda - Agenda Policy Seminar - Health Benefits of Urban Open Spaces for Adolescent Girls
6. Agenda – Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation Training
7. Official Travels in Quarter 2

Appendix 1: PSSP Organizational Chart



Appendix 2: PSSP Calendar for Events Held FY 2016 Quarter 2 (January – March 2016)

Proposed Date(s)	PSSP Results Framework Activity	Events/Activities	Purpose	Person Responsible	Venue	Partner/s, stakeholders and GOP Representation	Applicable for Branding & Marking
Jan 21 - 22	Training workshops	Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation Training	To impart a hands-on training to NARC staff on results based monitoring and evaluation techniques	Prof. Stephen Davies, Najeeb Ullah, Dr. Attiq ur Rehman (PSSP consultant), Nazim Ali	NARC, Islamabad	PARC, NARC	No
Jan 26	Meetings with key government officials	Meeting with Sikandar Hayat Bosan, Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research	To present an overview of ongoing PSSP activities and present the draft version of Pakistan Rural Hunger report	Prof. Stephen Davies	Islamabad	MNFSR, PARC	N/A

Proposed Date(s)	PSSP Results Framework Activity	Events/Activities	Purpose	Person Responsible	Venue	Partner/s, stakeholders and GOP Representation	Applicable for Branding & Marking
Feb 10	Meetings and Consultations	USAID Partner's meeting	To introduce 3 newly awarded USAID funded programs and get updates from the ongoing projects	Prof. Stephen Davies	Islamabad	USAID	Yes
Feb 12	Conferences and Seminars	Integrating SDGs and Climate change for Resilient Pakistan	To discuss possibilities on how to best integrate social development goals in climate change agenda	Faryal Ahmed, Wajiha Saeed	Islamabad	LEAD Pakistan, CSOs PDR, UN	N/A
Feb 16 - 17	Conferences and Seminar	Water Conference at NUST	To discuss the different international water and irrigation management models in the context of energy, food nexus	Prof. Stephen Davies	Islamabad	LEAD, PWP, MOWP	N/A
Feb 18	Policy Seminars and Discussions	FGD on Food Security Report	To discuss the results from the food security report with relevant stakeholders	Dr. Hina Nazli, Saad Moeen	Islamabad	MNFSR, PARC, PDR	No

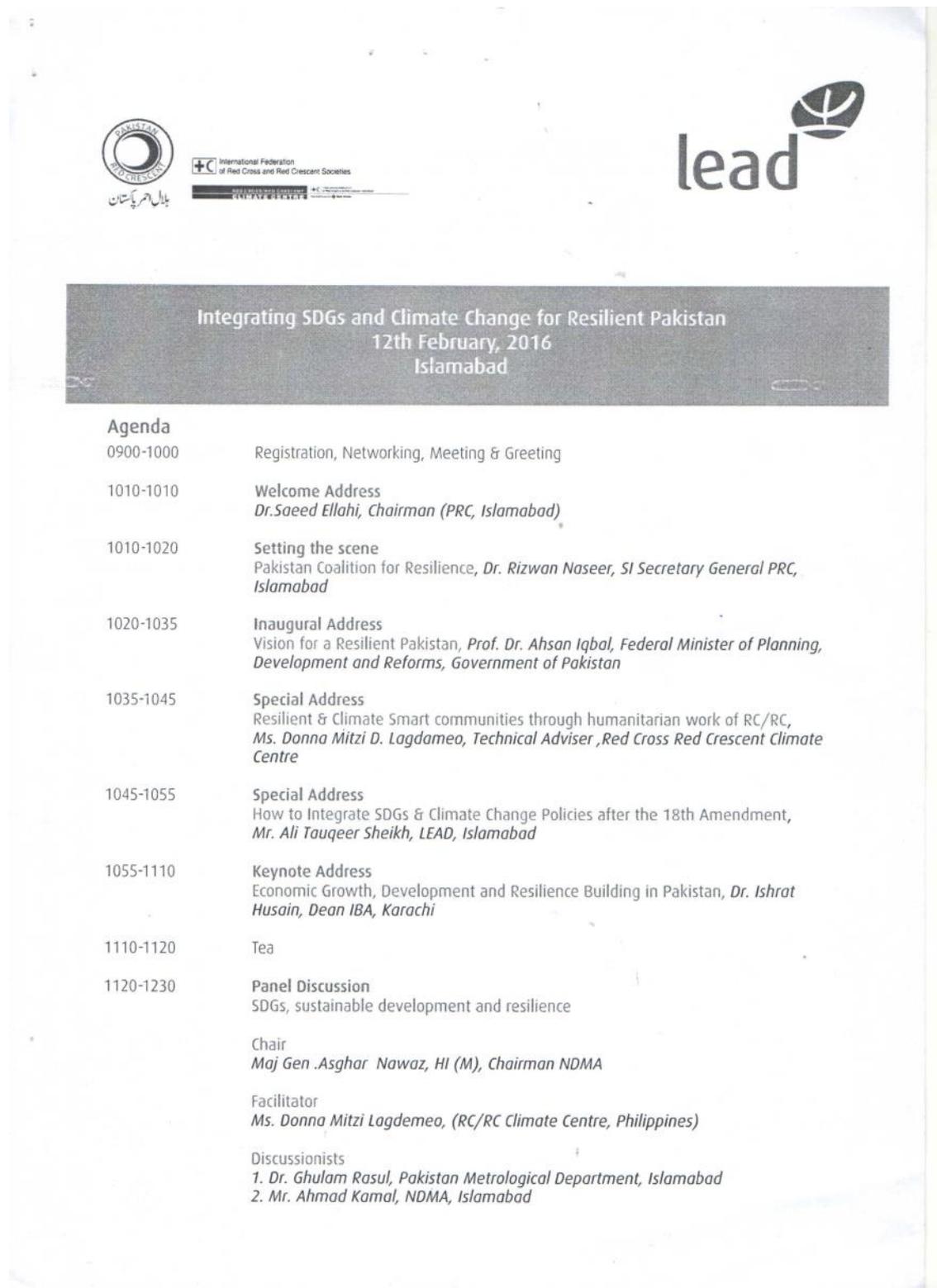
Proposed Date(s)	PSSP Results Framework Activity	Events/Activities	Purpose	Person Responsible	Venue	Partner/s, stakeholders and GOP Representation	Applicable for Branding & Marking
Feb 23 – 24	Trainings and workshops	Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation Training	To impart a hands-on training to NARC staff on results based monitoring and evaluation techniques	Prof. Stephen Davies, Najeeb Ullah, Dr. Attiq ur Rehman (PSSP consultant), Nazim Ali	UAF, Faisalabad	UAF, Ayub Agriculture Research Centre	No
Feb 24	Research Seminar	Training on Fertilizer Sector Model	To train the participants in investigative research tools using Fertilizer as an example	Prof. Stephen Davies	UAF, Faisalabad	UAF Center for Advanced Studies	No
Mar 8	Trainings and Workshops	Training on Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)	To train the participants in using the new and updated Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)	Prof. Stephen Davies, Wajiha Saeed, Saad Moeen	Planning Commission, Islamabad	MoF, PDR, MNFSR	No

Appendix 3: Calendar for Planned Events – FY 2016 Quarter 2 (April – June 2016)
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Proposed Date(s)	PSSP Results Framework Activity	Events/Activities	Purpose	Person Responsible	Venue	Partner/s, stakeholders and GOP Representation	Applicable for Branding & Marking
Apr 5 - 6	Outreach activities	Dawn Sarsabz Pakistan – Food Agriculture Expo	To publically disseminate PSSP research products and meet with provincial stakeholders	Ehtesham, Prof. Stephen Davies	Lahore	PARC, Provincial Agri-Departments, Agri Universities	Yes
Apr 12	Trainings and Workshops	Training on Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)	To train the participants in using the new and updated SAM	Wajiha Saeed, Prof. Stephen Davies	Islamabad	MoF, PDR, MNFSR	No
Apr 18	Policy Seminars	Urban Open Spaces for Adolescent Girls (Part II)	To present findings from 2 CGP studies on open spaces for adolescent girls	Dr. Ayub Qutub, Dr. Nomana Anjum, Najeeb Ullah	AIOU, Islamabad	AIOU, PDR, MOH, USAID	Yes
Apr 21 - 22	Trainings and workshops	Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation Training	Training on results based monitoring and evaluation techniques	Najeeb Ullah, Dr. Attiq ur Rehman (PSSP consultant)	Quetta	UAF, Ayub Agriculture Research Centre	No

Proposed Date(s)	PSSP Results Framework Activity	Events/Activities	Purpose	Person Responsible	Venue	Partner/s, stakeholders and GOP Representation	Applicable for Branding & Marking
May 10	Trainings and workshops	Training on SAM with Fertilizer model	To train the participants in using the new and updated SAM with the fertilizer model as an example	Prof. Stephen Davies, Wajiha Saeed, Faryal Ahmed, Saad Moeen	Islamabad	MoF, PDR, MNFSR	No
May	Trainings and Workshops	Training of USAID funded programs' staff	To introduce various USAID funded programs with the policy reforms process in Pakistan	Prof. Stephen Davies, Ehtesham	Islamabad	USAID funded programs	No

Appendix 4: Agenda – Integrating SDGs and Climate change for Resilient Pakistan (February 12, 2016)



1120-1230	<p>3. <i>Dr. Abid Suleri, SDPI, Islamabad</i> 4. <i>Mr. Nadeem Ahmad, LEAD, Islamabad</i> 5. <i>Dr. Naeem uz Zafar Planning Commission, Islamabad</i> 6. <i>Mr. Marc-André Franche, UNDP, Islamabad</i> 7. <i>Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Planning & Development Department, Punjab</i> 8. <i>Dr. Rehana Ali, Planning & Development Department, Sindh</i> 9. <i>Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, Pakistan Research Council for Water</i></p>
1230-1330	Lunch
1330-1345	Resilience through community based adaptation, <i>Mr. Abdul Wajid Jasra, Country Representative ICIMOD</i>
1345-1400	Towards 2047: SDGs in policy development and implementation, <i>Mr. Nadeem Ahmad, LEAD Islamabad</i>
1400-1415	National Disaster Management Plan Implementation Roadmap, <i>Mr. Ahmad Kamal, NDMA Islamabad</i>
1415-1430	Eco-system management towards resilient Pakistan, <i>Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan, WWF Lahore</i>
1430-1445	Vision2025's implementation for resilient Pakistan, <i>Mr. Naeem uz Zafar, Member Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, Islamabad</i>
1445-1500	Tea
1500-1630	<p>Working Group Participants to be divided in 4 working groups to answer set of questions on Vulnerability, Disaster and Resilience Facilitators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Mr. Arif Rahman, LEAD Islamabad</i>2. <i>Mr. Arshad Rafique, LEAD Islamabad</i>3. <i>Mr. Basharat Saeed, LEAD Islamabad</i>4. <i>Ms. Ayesha Asad, LEAD Islamabad</i>
1630-1700	<p>Way Forward <i>Ms. Hina Lotia, LEAD Pakistan, Islamabad</i></p>
1700-1710	<p>Vote of Thanks <i>Dr. Rizwan Naseer, SI Secretary General PRC, Islamabad</i></p>

**Appendix 5: Agenda Policy Seminar - Health Benefits of Urban Open Spaces
for Adolescent Girls**



PAKISTAN
Strategy Support Program



PSSP Policy Seminar Series

“Health Benefits of Urban Open Spaces for Adolescent Girls”

Monday April 18, 2016, Seminar Room, First Floor, Academic Complex, AIOU H-8 Campus, Islamabad

DRAFT Agenda

- 11:00 a.m. Recitation from the Holy Quran
- 11:05 a.m. Welcome remarks and brief overview of PSSP Activities
Prof. Stephen Davies, Senior Research Fellow – IFPRI and Chief of Party – PSSP
- 11:10 a.m. **Presentations**
Urban Open Spaces for Adolescent Girls; State of School Play Grounds
By Prof. Dr. Nomana Anjum
- Urban Open Spaces for Adolescent Girls; Sun Exposure and Vitamin D Levels**
By Mrs. Hajra Ahmed
- 12:00 p.m. Question/Answer Session
- 12:30 p.m. Chief Guest Address
Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad
- 12:45 p.m. Awards and Certificates Distribution
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch

Appendix 6: Agenda – Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation Training

Annex - I

Schedule of 2 Days Training Program on Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation At NARC Islamabad (20-21 January 2016)

Time	Session Details	Resource Person
Schedule of Day One: Wednesday 20th January 2016		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration (Computer Lab, API - NARC)	Team
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome Session Introduction of the participants and Workshop etc. (at API NARC)	Team
09:30 – 10:15	Session 1: Business Plan of PARC	DR. M. Kamal
TEA BREAK		
10.30 – 11.30	Session 2: Results Based M&E Framework of PARC	Dr. Mahar Ahmed Bakhsh
11:30 – 12:30	Session 3: Project Cycle and use of M&E	Dr. Attique ur Rehman
12:30 – 14:00	Session 4: How to develop and use Log Frame matrix (impact, outcomes, outputs...)	Nazim Ali - USAID
LUNCH BREAK		
14:45 – 15:45	Session 5: How to develop SMART indicators	Nazim Ali - USAID
15:45 – 16:00	Feedback on the Day's Activities	Team Work
EVENING TEA		
Schedule of Day Two: Thursday 21st January 2016		
08:15 – 08:30	Discussion on Previous days learning	Team work
08:30 – 09:30	Session 6: Introduction to M&E Formats	Shujaat Yaqoob
09:30 – 10:30	Session 7: Data Collection/Recording/Reporting (practical exercises)	Team work
TEA BREAK		
10:45 – 12:00	Session 8: Analysis of M&E data	Team work
12:00 – 13:30	Session 9: Writing M&E Progress Reports	Team work
LUNCH BREAK		
14:00 – 15:30	Session 10: Evidence based decision making (Use of M&E data).	Dr. Atiq ur Rehman
15:30 – 16:00	Feed back and evaluation	Team
TEA BREAK	NARC Cafeteria	

- Opening and closing will be arranged at Computer Lab. API, (First Floor of AVC/API Building) NARC.
- The training session's location: Computer Lab. Agriculture Poly-Technique Institute, (First Floor of AVC/API Building) NARC.
- Lunch and Tea are arranged in the NARC cafeteria.

Appendix 7: Official Travels – Quarter 1 FY 2016 (Jan-Mar)

No.	Person(s)	Purpose	Station	Date(s)
1	Mr. Tahir Ahmed	To get the vehicles form ASF project along with Three Drivers Talib, Wajid and Ijaz	Lahore	January 11, 2016
2	Mr. Najeeb Ullah	To facilitate the 2 days result based M&E training for PARC/NARC staff	Faisalabad	Feb 22 to Feb 24, 2016
3	Dr. Stephen Davies	To attend M & E Training for PARC/NARC Staff	Faisalabad	Feb 22 to Feb 24, 2016
4	Dr. Stephen Davies	To attend RISE Conference at IFPRI	Washington	March 11 to March 26, 2016
5	Mr. Najeeb Ullah	Facilitation of M&E Training in Karachi	Karachi	March 17 to March 19 2016