



Report on  
**Seminar “Supporting Farmers Institutions”**  
**Held on May 29, 2014 at Hotel Indus Hyderabad**

A one day seminar was organized by Sindh Irrigation & Drainage Authority (SIDA) and it was facilitated by International Water Management Institute on “Supporting Farmers Institutions, AWB, FOs & WAUs” at hotel Indus on May 29, 2014. The objective of seminar was to showcase some of IWMI’s work under a project “Revitalizing Irrigation in Pakistan” and share the experience and learning & seek way forward/ an action plan for Sindh.



Seminar started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Sayed Ejaz Nabi Shah. After that Mr. Nazir Ahmed Essani, General Manager Transition welcomed the all participants of seminar and said that The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is a non-profit research to find ways to produce sufficient food to feed the world’s expanding population, while using less water, safeguarding fragile environmental services and without having much opportunity to open up new agricultural lands. The Institute undertakes research projects with this aim in mind. organization with headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and offices across Africa and Asia. Research at the Institute focuses on improving water and land resources management, with the aim of underpinning food security and reducing poverty while safeguarding vital environmental processes.



He said as water becomes scarcer, so there is a growing need

He added IWMI research focuses on water availability and access, including adaptation to climate change; how water is used and how it can be used more productively; water quality and its relationship to health and the environment; and how societies govern their water resources. In 2012, IWMI was awarded the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize Laureate by Stockholm International Water Institute for its pioneering research, which has helped to improve agricultural water management, enhance food security, protect environmental health and alleviate poverty in developing countries.

He further said IWMI is a member of CGIAR, a global research partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for sustainable development, and leads the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems. IWMI is also a partner in the CGIAR Research Programs on: Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS); Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS); Dryland Systems; and Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics.



He further said that recently IWMI launched a project in Punjab on “Revitalizing Irrigation in Pakistan” and introduced a new technology to monitor water & other related issues.

After that Mr. Nazir Ahmed Essani, invited Dr. Arif Anwar, head of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan to share his experience.

Dr Arif Anwar, principal researcher and head of IWMI Pakistan, discussed measuring equity in Pakistan’s irrigation system. He runs the project for four years in southern Punjab which would end sometime this year.



He said there were different water flows regimes in the canal system of Pakistan, showing higher and lower side flows in canals. He said that when it came to equity, it was important how one measured equity.

He said Pakistan was still comfortable with 100 year old head and tail gauge system. He said that equity was always varied in different contexts. Same was the case with water allowances of different canals.

He said the projects pertained to 17 distributaries of Hakra canal in Bahawalnagar of Punjab. Manual system of tail gauge was used and issues of water loss, low abiyana collection and disputes over sharing of water among water users were linked with this manual system. Technological advancement option was there to preserve correct data of water.



He added that under the system, ultrasonic sensors were installed for proper water governance in the canal system and under the system; discharges of water were measured and transmitted through internet. He said that with this, the farmers’ organization could not only keep record of their own share of water but that of others too.

He told the audience that this technology ensured optimum usage of water. According to Mr Anwar, technology could also be used to ensure proper collection of abyana and to plug leakages. Billions of rupees were lost in collection due to alleged corruption by irrigation staff, he said.



Another researcher Azeem Ali Shah briefed audience in more detail about the technological advancement in canal system under the project. He said that credibility issue had always been there and added that through this system, they collected data of groundwater. He said that



accuracy of measurement was always a big question in any rating curve and it was also important how the data was stored.

On the occasion a large number of Farmers Organizations (FO), Sindh Chamber of Agriculture, Sindh Abadgar Board, civil society representatives & Journalists participated.

Dr Asadullah Qazi, Chancellor Isra University, Dr Bukshal Lashari, Member Board of SIDA, Mr. Aijaz Nabi Shah Sindh Chamber of Agriculture representative, Mr. Zahid Junejo, Project director Water Sector Improvement Project, Mr. Jai Ram, General Manager Transition SIDA, Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Samon, Procurement Specialist SIDA, Mr. Anwar Ali Siyal, Director Ghotki feeder Canal Area Water Board, and Ms. Farzana Abbasi Social Development Specialist SIDA also addressed the occasion.



The End.....

## ATTENDANCE SHEET

ONE DAY SEMINAR ON SUPPORTING FARMER INSTITUTIONS-AWB,FOS AND WUAS

HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014 AT HOTEL INDUS HYDERABAD

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