

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic

93rd meeting of National Account Committee (NAC) was held in Statistics Division on 3rd May 2013 chaired by the Secretary Statistics Division to review and examine estimates of GDP for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 at constant cost of 1999-2000, estimates of GDP for the year 2012-13 (provisional) at constant cost of 1999-2000, estimates of Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) for

the year 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 at current market prices and any other business with permission of the chair. Representatives of Planning & Development Division were also present in the meeting.

Macroeconomic Section convened a meeting on 8th May 2013 on Macroeconomic Framework chaired by the Advisor, Finance Division. Representatives of ministries, State Bank of

Pakistan, SUPARCO and other departments/institutions attended the meeting and gave their input on economic issues/challenges faced by the country and discussed targets set in Macroeconomic Framework. Emphasis was on macroeconomic stability for achieving sustained economic growth. Further, it was decided that crop sector target was not satisfactory and it may be revised on higher side.

Money Prices & Fiscal Policy

Monthly update on inflation for the period July-April 2012-13 and Stock Market Development for April 2013 were prepared. Brief for trend in prices, monetary aggregates, fiscal policy and stock market was prepared. Moreover,

information/input on the following issues was compiled:

- Consolidated fiscal developments during July-March 2012-13
- FBR tax collection performance during July-March 2012-13

- Monetary developments during 1st July 2012 to 3rd May 2013
- Tariff rationalization
- National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- Regional prices

Food and Agriculture

Following activities were carried out during the month:

- Meetings were arranged with regard to clearance of liabilities of the project "White Revolution-Doodh Darya Project/Pakistan Dairy Development Company". Different issues, especially payment of markup to banks on behalf of farmers were dis-

cussed in detail, keeping in view the post devolution scenario.

- Projects "Sustainable Livestock Development for Rural Sindh" and "Technical Assistance (T.A) Grant for On-farm Water Management for Improvement of Rural Farm Profitability and Productivity Enhancement" were scrutinized.

- Views/comments on "Global Food Security Update" published by World Food Program and information on "One UN Programme for Pakistan for 2013-17" were consolidated.

National Fertilizer Development Centre

Total fertilizer nutrient offtake during April 2013 was about 194 thousand tonnes compared to 207 thousand tonnes of April 2012, showing a decrease of 6.5 percent. Among nutrients, offtake of all major nutrients including nitrogen, phosphate and potash decreased by 2.3, 24.8 and 43.5 percent respectively.

Urea offtake during April 2013 was 314 thousand tonnes, which increased by 1.9 percent

over April 2012 (308 thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was 52 thousand tonnes, which registered a decrease of 13.7 percent as compared to April 2012 (60 thousand tonnes).

Due to prevailing energy crisis in the country, SNGPL has shifted gas supply to power generation activities. Resultantly urea plants on SNGPL may not get gas supply to operate even at 40 percent of their installed capacity. At present, four urea plants lo-

cated on MARI Gas Company network and one plant of Agritech (Ltd.) based on SNGPL network are operational but remaining urea plants at SNGPL network are not operational due to gas load-shedding. It was expected to review gas availability position to urea plants at SNGPL network, but still the situation regarding provision of gas supply is not clear. If gas shortage policy continues at present level, it will be difficult to achieve urea production target.

Nutrition

A meeting with UN agencies was held on 16th May under the chairmanship of Secretary Planning & Development Division to discuss the following points:

- Coordination and collaboration among stakeholders
- UN agencies support to Ministry of Planning & Development for
- Reporting for International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)
- Interacting with Scaling

Up Nutrition (SUN)

- Multi-sectoral Plan Formulation
- Food Fortification Program
- Capacity Building
- Plan of work and budget resources
- Report on estimated cost of minimum food basket for May 2013 was compiled. The report highlights national, provincial and regional estimates and comparisons, which

are as under:

- Cost remains almost stable with minor variations as compared to cost of April 2013 at national, provincial and regional levels.
- Cost for May 2013 compared with the same month of last year has increased by 9% at national level and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11% in Federal Area, 10% in Sindh and 8% in Punjab and Baluchistan.

Governance

Different activities were performed in the Governance Section as detailed below:

- Meetings to discuss the Concept Clearance Proposals of Securities and

Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) were arranged.

- Working papers for CCP on Strengthening Market Governance through Im-

proved Regulations, CCP and capacity building of SECP were drafted.

- Comments on the following projects were prepared:
 - Construction of Islamabad

Governance

High Court in Sector G-5/1, Islamabad

- Construction of SM Barracks, Other Married Accommodation etc. for HQ G-B Scouts and 113 Wing at Gilgit
- Construction of Single and Married Accommodation of Officers/JCO's/Other for HQ G-B Scouts Gilgit (Revised PC-1)
- Construction of Wing Office Quarter Guard, JCO's/Officers, Mess and Accommodation etc. for Gilgit-Biltistan Scouts and

113 Wing at Gilgit (Revised PC-1)

- Construction of Family Suits at NAB Balochistan, Quetta
- Construction of Officers Mess and Bachelor Lodges at NAB Quetta
- Construction of Additional Two Stories Office Building for Statistics Division and its Attached Department at Islamabad
- Punjab Economic Opportunities Programme (PEOP) (Revised PC-1)

(cont...)

Moreover, ten (10) nominations for local and twenty three (23) for foreign trainings/workshops/conferences were processed wherein eight (8) local and five (5) foreign nominations were finalized and forwarded to agencies concerned. Two meetings of the committee on foreign training were arranged whereas 3 officers attended the foreign training/seminar/workshop during the month.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI)

The Institute conducted following training courses during May 2013.

Effective Project Management Skills (6-8 May 2013): Objective of this short training course was to familiarize the participants with skills needed for effective management of projects. Themes covered included introduction to Project Cycle Management, Application of MS Project Software, Project Management Techniques, Logical Framework Approach as Project Implementation and Management Techniques, Project Accounting and Financial Management.

Investment Analysis and Appraisal (20-22 May 2013):

This training was designed around the core areas of project planning,

investment appraisal, social cost-benefit analysis, project risk, distributional effects and impact assessment. It covered both private and public sector investment and appraisal techniques, emphasizing on development projects, which are wholly or partially funded from the public sector. Themes covered included overview of planning procedure and process in Pakistan, investment analysis and appraisal, risk identification, case studies and risk sensitivity assessment and management.

Macroeconomic Modeling (28-31 May 2013):

Basic objective of this course was to develop the understanding of the structure and dynamics of Pakistan's economy. It was also aimed to analyze the fundamental models of macro-

economics which are widely used to analyze the basic features of macro economy. Major focus was on macroeconomic indicators which are used to develop models that explain the relationship between factors such as national income, output, consumption, inflation, savings, investment, national trade and national finance.

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ISLAMABAD.**

Education

Comments on the following education sector projects/issues were consolidated:

- Basic Education for the Poor BEF Project in AJ&K (IDB Assistance)
- Sectoral policies/strategies and concept clearance proposal for foreign assistance for Gilgit-Baltistan Education Project (GBEP)
- Phase-II
- Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) between Government of Pakistan and Republic of Korea
- Sectoral priorities for seeking foreign assistance
- Second Annual Review of Pak-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD)
- Macroeconomic Framework (MTDF 2013-18)
- Re-appropriation of funds of Rs. 0.516 million
- Improving human development indicators in Pakistan with focus on MDGs relating to education and six EFA goals

Projects Wing

Evaluation

Draft evaluation report prepared by Projects Wing of the project "Deep Sea Gwadar Port" was discussed in a meeting under the chairmanship of DG (Evaluation) on May 28, 2013 with the Chairman Gwadar Development Authority. After detailed deliberations with the concerned stakeholders, draft evaluation report has been finalized and will be issued soon.

Similarly, a meeting of DG (Evaluation) was held with the executing agency on draft evaluation report of the project "Establishment



of Biosafety Centre" of Ministry of Climate Change during the month. The report is being finalized.

Management Information System (MIS)

MIS Section has been assigned the task by the Secretary Ministry of P&D to re-develop and upgrade the PMES software through its own resources after termination of the support/maintenance contract with the vendor. The MIS soft-

ware development team has been extensively involved in this task with utmost dedication to develop an improved version of PMES with the latest web technologies available. It is expected that this new PMES version will be available on-line for use by all users by the first week of July 2013.

Monitoring

Projects Wing has monitored 36 development projects during the month of May 2013.

Administration

A farewell party in the honor of Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haque, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, was arranged on 6th May 2013

who left his office on expiry of his tenure.

Mr. Zamir Ahmed, a senior officer of the Economists

Group, was posted as Joint Chief Economist (Macro) on May 24, 2013.