



PCRWR NEWS

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources

Vol. 37, No. 2

Quarterly Newsletter

April-June 2020

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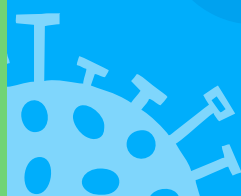
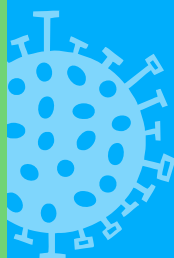
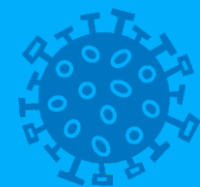
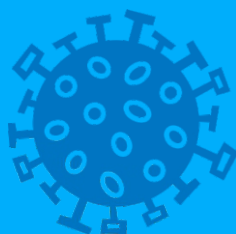
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Zeeshan Munawar

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Lets
**Not Forget the Water Crisis,
in this fight against Corona Virus**



Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

A webinar was jointly organized by PCRWR, NUST and UNESCO Pakistan office on June 17, 2020 on the subject of “Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM); a tool for Prevention and Smart Monitoring of COVID-19”. This webinar had 11-members panel comprising national water resources professionals and international experts. These include; Chairman PCRWR, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Mr. Ahmad Kamal, Chairman Federal Flood Commission, Engr. Habibullah Bodla, Additional Secretary

(Tech), Punjab Irrigation Department, Dr. Shahbaz Khan Director UNESCO Regional Science Bureau, Ms. Patrician McPhilips, Country Director UNESCO Pakistan office, Prof. Dr. Hamza Farooq Gabriel, Head (WRE&M) NUST, and other eminent national and international academia. There were around 50 participants at the webinar and around 9 to 10 female participants. Almost 37 participants watched the Facebook live feed. Overall, until now Facebook post has reached more than 4,500 users.



ISO-17025:2017 Accreditation of National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL)

National Water Quality Monitoring Laboratory (NWQL), Islamabad has been granted extension its ISO-17025 Accreditation for a period of three years (up till January 2023) and has received accreditation certificates from Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) after successful pre-assessment and full assessment. The NWQL is providing the accredited test results to its various stakeholders.



Quarterly Monitoring Bottled Water Report (January-March, 2020)

The bottled water quality monitoring report for the quarter January-March, 2020 was released in April 2020. Accordingly, sixty one (61) bottled/mineral water samples of commercially available brands were collected from 7 major cities (Tando Jam, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Islamabad, Muzaffarabad, Multan, Karachi). All samples were analyzed at National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) of PCRWR, Islamabad for physico-chemical and microbiological parameters. The comparison

of test results with permissible limits of Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) showed 07 brands unsafe for drinking due to chemical or microbiological contamination. The findings of quarterly monitoring of bottled water were submitted to the provincial chief secretaries and DG PSQCA for taking legal actions against unsafe brands. The report was also shared with the public through print/electronic media and at official website of PCRWR.

Approval of the Project titled “Capacity Building on Water Quality Monitoring SDG 6 (6.1) Reporting”

A PC-I titled “Capacity Building on water Quality Monitoring SDG 6 (6.1) Reporting” has been approved by the CDWP worth Rs. 1275.913 million to be sponsored jointly by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Government of Democratic People's Republic of Korea and GoP. The project will be executed by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), Government of Pakistan, PCRWR, Public Health Engineering Departments (Punjab, KP). The project is aimed to improve capacity of the government of Pakistan to achieve SDG 6 (6.1), provide people with safe drinking water and improve public health, strengthen the drinking water quality

monitoring and surveillance management system, and; strengthen coordination capacity of WASH Cell of MoCC on drinking water issues with provincial governments. The project scope includes: provision of equipment for water quality management (36 district labs in Punjab, 7 divisional labs in KP, one Lab in PCRWR at national level), capacity building for policy makers, master trainer and water quality test lab operation, visit of Korean experts for sharing knowledge and experiences, strengthening coordination with provincial governments on water related issues, and development of a statistical report on water in Islamabad. PCRWR will be actively involved in all of these activities.

Field Experimentation under ACIAR Project

A number of field experiments during Kharif 2020 are being carried out under ACIAR's project “Developing Approaches to Enhance Farmer Water Management Skills in Punjab Sindh and Balochistan”. The activities are being carried out following the SOP's to prevent COVID-19 spread. A detailed video for the installation of Chameleon Sensors and Fullstop is also shared with the farmers.



Installation of Fullstop (nutrient monitoring tool) in the field

NASA Featured PCRWR's Irrigation Advisory Service on World Earth Day

NASA announced a comprehensive package of products featuring PCRWR-Pakistan work on irrigation advisory as part of 50th anniversary of Earth Day (23rd April, 2020). Such an explicit recognition by NASA has never been done for any other country before. This also highlights the role of PCRWR for societal accomplishment related to water and livelihood matters. Irrigation

Advisory Service in partnership with University of Washington USA, is being provided to 20,000 farmers across Pakistan on weekly basis through SMS. To subscribe for PCRWR's irrigation Advisory Service, please visit "Irrigation Advisory Service" tab at PCRWR website

(www.pcrwr.gov.pk/advisory.php)

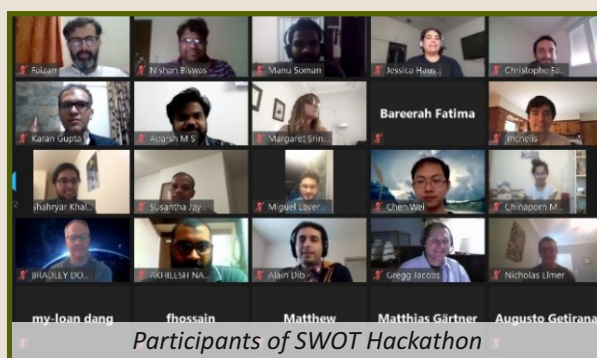


Link to this video: <https://gpm.nasa.gov/articles/celebrating-earth-day-gpm>

2020 SWOT Early Adopters Virtual Hackathon

A four-member team of PCRWR from its Islamabad, Lahore and Tandojam offices participated in SWOT Early Adopters Virtual Hackathon during May 26 to June 1, 2020. This event was organized by NASA's Early Adopters team and University of Washington USA. Surface, Water, Ocean and Topography Mission (satellite) of NASA is going to be launched in 2023. SWOT early adopters team based in Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) invited proposal for developing data application for higher social benefits of this launch. PCRWR has developed a proposal for monitoring

waterlogging in Sindh Province and narrow reaches of transboundary rivers. This event has helped PCRWR team to develop its capacity in techniques to use the satellite data.



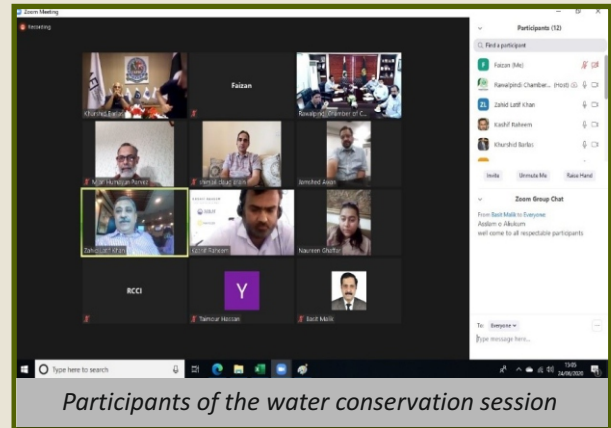
Provision of Vegetative Cover to Control Wind Erosion in Thal Desert

Two solar powered drip and sprinkler irrigation systems have been installed at farmer sites at Mankera and Ameerabad, district Bhakkar under the project titled, “Improved Land and Water Conservation Practices to Enhance Wasteland Productivity in Thal Desert”. Moreover, at three sites vegetative cover of indigenous Khagal plants (8,000 plants) have been provided for sand dune stabilization and to control the issue of wind erosion.



Water Conservation Session with Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries

A committee on Climate Change and Water of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) held a water conservation session on 24th June 2020 virtually. A number of members of the RCCI attended the meeting. Engr. Faizan ul Hasan, Director PCRWR briefed the participants about water conservation, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and smart water metering. The participants showed keen interest in PCRWR work and offered to collaborate in future as well.



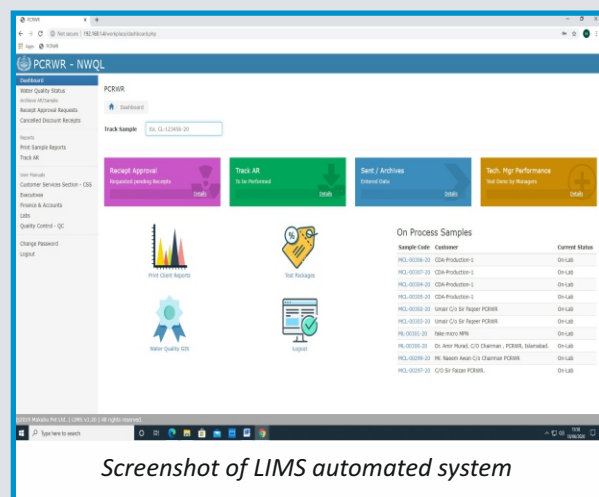
Provision of Technical Support to PHED (GoB) for Installation of Chlorination System and Water Quality Monitoring

PCRWR has provided technical support to Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Balochistan for installation of Chlorination System at various water supply schemes in eight districts of Balochistan. The technical support included the trainings of PHED field staff and operators for improvement of water supply and regular monitoring of water quality and testing. The task of installation of Chlorinators on 08 Water Supply Scheme has successfully been completed.



Development of Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

The NWQL technical and management service delivery and documentation system needed to be automated (software based) in 2020 as per requirement of ISO-17025: 2017. Accordingly, the automation of laboratory work flow (samples receiving, payment, testing, results recording, quality control and report generation) has been developed and tested. The automation of forms and format related to ISO-17025:2017 accreditation system is targeted to be completed by the end of current quarter.



Virtual Meetings of All ACIAR Project Teams

ACIAR is carrying out nine research studies with different partners in Pakistan with PCRWR being lead partner in two of them. Regular meetings have been conducted to keep track of the activities of all the projects by the ACIAR. However, the meetings are being conducted virtually on fortnightly basis amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Engr. Faizan ul Hasan, Project Leader, PCRWR has participated in these meetings and briefed the ACIAR team about the progress of the activities being carried out by PCRWR and its partner organizations during the quarter.



Visit of Balochistan Food Authority team to PCRWR, Quetta

A three-member team of Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) consisting of Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Director, Mr. Naqeeb Ullah, Deputy Director and Ms. Bakhtawar, Assistant Director visited the Water Resources Research Center, PCRWR, Quetta on June 10, 2020. Mr. Muhammad Dilshad Arshad, Deputy Director, WRRRC gave a brief regarding water resource management and R&D activities while Ms. Ziviqar, Deputy Director/SRO briefed the delegation regarding water quality analysis. The delegate showed their keen interest in future possible collaboration with PCRWR.

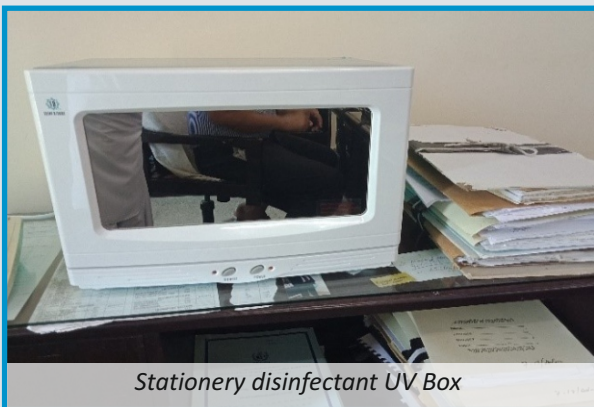


COVID-19 Preventive Measures

PCRWR has developed Walk through Sanitizer Gates, equipped its offices with stationary disinfectant UV Box and hand sanitizers. Moreover, sample collection for testing facility for general public has been streamlined and is being carried out at designated points by strictly following the SOP for COVID-19 prevention.



Picture of Walk through Sanitizer Gate



Stationery disinfectant UV Box

Virtual Meetings with IWMI Pakistan Office

Three online meetings were held with IWMI Pakistan on the agenda of Indus Telemetry and SMS based Irrigation Advisory Service on April 24 and two meetings on June 9, 2020. During these meetings, future work plan for Indus Telemetry and SMS based advisory services in Tank District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were discussed.

Participation in Showcasing Technologies in Post Covid-19

PCRWR has participated in the technology showcasing event organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology on April 30, 2020 at COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad. PCRWR walk-in sanitizer and PCRWR UV Disinfection Chamber were displayed.



Joint stall of PCRWR and PCSIR at COMSTECH

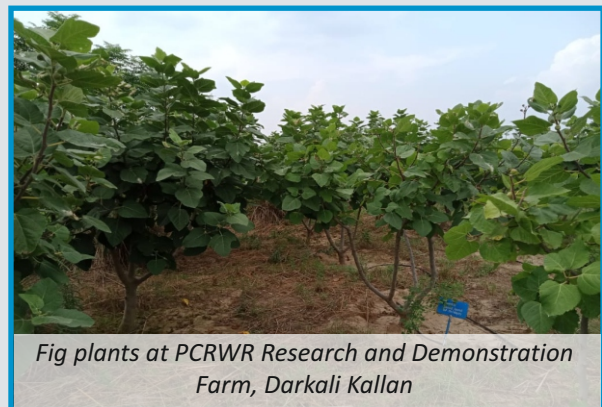


Fig plants at PCRWR Research and Demonstration Farm, Darkali Kallan

Sad Demise

With profound grief and sorrow we bid our final farewell to Mr. Muhammad Khan Marri, Ex. Director, DRIP, PCRWR, Tandojam who breathed his last on 02 June 2020 due to sudden cardiac arrest. PCRWR will always remain indebted to him for his services in the water sector. May Allah Almighty take the departed soul to His heavenly aboard and give the family and friends strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

COVID-19 Prevention Tips



WASH

Wash your hands frequently - for at least 20 seconds



COVER

Use tissue paper when you cough or sneeze and dispose of them immediately, use your elbow if a tissue paper not available



AVOID

Do not touch surfaces and then your mouth, eyes or nose



DISTANCE

Practice social distancing by not shaking hands, hugging etc.



ISOLATE

Stay home if you become ill and prevent the spread of the illness



PCRWR

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