PCRWR NEWS

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources

Vol. 39, No. 2 | Quarterly Newsletter | April-June 2022

Patron in Chief

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf

Editor

Dr. Hifza Rasheed

Assistant Editor

Anwaar Ahmad

Composer

Zeeshan Munawar

INSIDE

- National Workshop on Customized Irrigation and Climate Advisory Service (ICAS)
- 2nd International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 at Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Dr Kazim Niaz visited PCRWR
- Media Briefing to Highlight Artificial Groundwater Recharge Site in Kachnar park, Islamabad
- A Collaborative Agreement signed between PCRWR and AquAffirm Ltd. UK
- Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) between PCRWR and Fatima Jinnah Woman University
- Signing of Letter of Intent (LoL) between WWF, Pakistan & PCRWR
- Workshop on Water Resources Challenge in Azad Jammu and Kashmir
- Workshop on Salinity Policy Review – Adapting to Salinity in the Southern Indus Basin (ASSIB)
- Cholera Response Activities in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Training Workshop on Groundwater and Watershed Modelling
- Assessment of Surface and Groundwater Resources of Gawadar
- Improving Access to Clean Drinking Water for the Urban Poor in Karachi, Pakistan
- Participation in Workshop Organized by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
- Lectures Arranged in PCRWR Regional Office, Gilgit
- Visits, Meetings and Seminars
- Mid-Term Assessment and Distribution of Certificates of NAVTTC Courses

National Workshop on Customized Irrigation and Climate Advisory Services (ICAS)

National Workshop on Customized Irrigation and Climate Advisory Service (ICAS)

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) organized a National Workshop on Customized Irrigation and Climate Advisory Service (ICAS) in collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) on 24th May 2022 in Islamabad. The objective of the workshop was to bring together all the stakeholder organizations, individuals, researchers and "Citizen Scientists" working in the field of natural resource management for building resilience to climate change, agriculture and water productivity.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief guest Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources remarked that climate change was an emerging challenge to the water resources of Pakistan that demands rapid participatory actions. He appreciated the efforts made by PCRWR to engage farmers as "citizen scientists" in bringing, up innovative solutions for natural resource management and resilience to climate change. Dr. Aslam Perwaiz, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC highlighted that locally steered innovative solutions were key to building solutions for climate resilience. In his address, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR stressed that it was essential to convey irrigation scheduling information to farmers to avoid crisis situations in irrigated agriculture. In his keynote speech, Professor Faisal Hossain, University of Washington, USA remarked that there was a huge potential to utilize scientific data for the benefit of a common person.

Secretary, MoWR speaking at the occasion

Group photo of workshop participants with chief guest Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, MoWR

2nd International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 at Dushanbe, Tajikistan

PCRWR professionals participated in two side events at the 2nd International Conference on International Decade for Action 2018-2028 at Dushanbe, Tajikistan. In "side event", Building Evidence for Water-related Policy Making: The SDG 6 Policy "Support System (SDG-PSS)" organized by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, PCRWR team presented its learning experiences of using SDG 6.0 Policy Support System. The Chairman, PCRWR, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf was among the eminent panelists in the second side event organized by International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Science and evidence-based solutions to improve transboundary water cooperation in small transboundary tributaries of the Central Asia.

Group photo of event panelists

Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Dr Kazim Niaz visited PCRWR

The cabinet has approved the placement of PCRWR under the amber of MoWR. The Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Dr. Kazim Niaz visited PCRWR on 7th May, 2022 along with Joint Secretary (Water) and Joint Secretary (Admin). The Chairman, PCRWR welcomed the guests and gave a detailed briefing on PCRWR's activities and functions. The Secretary, MoWR also visited different facilities of PCRWR like Indus Telemetry, Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting model, Groundwater Recharge and Hydraulic Ram Pump. He showed keen interest in the initiatives taken up by the organization and appreciated the activities of PCRWR.

Federal Secretary, MoWR chairing the meeting

Media Briefing to Highlight Artificial Groundwater Recharge Site in Kachnar park, Islamabad

International Water Management Institute (IWMI), PCRWR and WaterAid Pakistan jointly organized a media briefing to highlight the artificial groundwater recharge site in Kachnar park, Islamabad on 24th June, 2022. The site was developed by IWMI and PCRWR under a project, funded by WaterAid, Pakistan. Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, Country Representative, IWMI gave the welcome remarks and urged the media representatives to highlight water challenges in Islamabad.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR, highlighted that solution to the water supply challenge was linked with rainwater harvesting. He said "the annual average rainfall in Islamabad was about 1.3 m whereas, groundwater depletion is about 1 m annually". It means that if we conserve the available rainwater potential efficiently through recharge, we could easily manage the demand and supply gap.

Mr. Muhammad Yahya Akhunzada, Joint Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Water Resources, urged the media to sensitize public on rainwater harvesting for watering plants and conserving water resources at large. Rana Shakeel Asghar, Member (Finance), Capital Development Authority (CDA), appreciated the efforts of IWMI, PCRWR and WaterAid Pakistan in piloting the initiative and hoped that it will help to recharge groundwater. He informed that 100 groundwater recharge sites are being constructed by CDA in collaboration with PCRWR in Islamabad.

Mr. Arif Jabbar Khan, Country Director, WaterAid Pakistan said that Pakistan faced with challenges related to drinking water, both in terms of quality and quantity. Piloting and testing sustainable models that can be replicated by the public and private sectors is a key objective of WaterAid.

Glimpses of media briefing at Kachnar park, Islamabad

A collaborative agreement was signed between PCRWR and AquAffirm Ltd. UK

A collaborative agreement was signed between PCRWR and AquAffirm Ltd. UK on 20th June 2022. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Chairman, PCRWR welcomed AquAffirm team including Dr. David Sarphie, CEO AquAffirm Ltd. and Dr. Hanadi Nixon, Chief Scientist, AquAffirm Ltd. Dr Hifza Rasheed, (D.G) Water Quality briefed about the purpose and deliverables of agreement as to conduct validation of AquAffirm rapid sensor-based testing of arsenic and its real time mapping using Aquasoft software in 13 tehsils of Punjab. Dr. David Sarphie highlighted that this validation would support the activities of the World Bank project "Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project". Chairman, PCRWR and Dr. David Sarphei, AquAffirm signed the agreement. Following agreement signing, laboratory and field training on validation activities was undertaken at PCRWR, Islamabad and arsenic affected areas of Lahore and Kasur.

Group photo of participants

Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) between PCRWR and Fatima Jinnah Woman University

An AoC was signed between PCRWR and Fatima Jinnah Woman University, Rawalpindi at PCRWR Headquarters, Islamabad on April 26, 2022. The institutions agreed to collaborate on different projects and initiatives aimed to create awareness related to water issues. The AoC was signed by Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources and Dr. Saima Hamid, Vice Chancellor, Fatima Jinnah Woman University, Rawalpindi.

Chairman PCRWR presenting souvenir to V.C FJWU

Signing of Letter of Intent (LoL) between WWF, Pakistan & PCRWR

The Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between PCRWR and WWF-Pak on May 18, 2022 to support the implementation of Australia-Pakistan Water Security Initiative (APWSI) in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The LoI signing ceremony was held at PCRWR, Islamabad. LoI was formally signed by Dr. Muhammad Ashraf (Chairman, PCRWR) and Dr. Hammad Naqi Khan (DG, WWF-Pak).

Chairman PCRWR presenting souvenir to DG, WWF-Pak

Workshop on Water Resources Challenge in Azad Jammu and Kashmir

PCRWR in collaboration with Islamic Relief organized a state-level workshop on water resources challenges in Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Muzaffarabad on 23rd June, 2022. Dr. Hifza Rasheed, Director General (WQ), PCRWR presented an overview of the water challenges in Pakistan including AJ&K. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Khwaja Farooq Ahmed, Minister for LG&RD Govt. of AJ&K. Participants from stakeholder organizations i.e., govt. departments, UN agencies, academia and private organizations working in the water sector in AJ&K participated in the workshop. During panel discussion session, it was highlighted that there is an immense need to address prevailing issues such as water shortage, unsafe water quality and disposal of untreated wastewater in Neelam-Jhelum Rivers. Participants stressed on the water quality profiling and developing solutions to address these challenges in AJ&K. It was also underlined that there is dire need to develop decentralized wastewater treatment facilities to restore ecosystem health. Dr. Hifza Rasheed also highlighted the need of approval and implementation of AJ&K water policy as well as development of AJ&K Water Act with defined roles and responsibilities of different agencies in AJ&K.

A Letter of Intent between PCRWR and Islamic Relief was signed to work jointly on addressing water challenges faced across the country including AJ&K. At the end, Country Director, Islamic Relief, Mr Raza Narejo and the Minister for AJ&K LG&RD, Mr. Khwaja Farooq Ahmed addressed the workshop with the commitment to take initiatives as highlighted by the panelists and the participants.

Glimpse of signing ceremony

Group photo of workshop participants

Workshop on Salinity Policy Review – Adapting to Salinity in the Southern Indus Basin (ASSIB)

PCRWR and Mehran University of Engineering and Technology organized a workshop on 12th May, 2022 in Islamabad to present the review of salinity policies to stakeholders. The workshop was organized under the project "Adapting to salinity in the Southern Indus Basin project" led by Charles Stuart University and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Number of national experts from stakeholder organizations participated in the workshop. The workshop was also joined online by the international experts from Charles Stuart University, CSIRO, and the University of Canberra. The Secretary of Agriculture, South Punjab also appreciated the recommendations of the policy review report in his concluding remarks.

Glimpse of the workshop

Cholera Response Activities in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhunkhwa

PCRWR in collaboration with UNICEF, Pakistan is conducting water quality monitoring and treatment in cholera affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces in response to cholera outbreak. PCRWR teams are undertaking testing for cholera agent Vibrio cholerae for water sources mapping followed by the disinfection of water supply and storage and community awareness in Karachi Central, Karachi East and Karachi South districts of Sindh, Dera Bugti, Harnai and Chaman districts of Balochistan province, Sawat and Kohat districts of KP. PCRWR teams are working day and night in close coordination with provincial stakeholder organizations to help them and local communities to reduce mortality and morbidity rates especially of children under five.

PCRWR team collecting samples

Training Workshop on Groundwater and Watershed Modelling

A training workshop on "Groundwater and Watershed Modelling" was organized under Graduate Information Management System (GIMS) Project from 16th to 20th May, 2022 at PCRWR Regional Office, Lahore. The objective of the training was to build the capacity in groundwater and surface water modeling, in which 11 participants from Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) and PCRWR and resource persons participated.

A glimpse of the training

Assessment of Surface and Groundwater Resources of Gawadar

PCRWR on the direction of the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives has recently conducted a comprehensive study to conduct a wholesome analysis of water supply, distribution and management in Gwadar city. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the current and future gaps in water supply of Gwadar city and to assist the local stakeholders in bridging these gaps. This wholesome analysis was based on the data obtained through field team visits, assessment of groundwater potential, water quality assessment and review of available statistics. Detailed report comprising current situation of water supply, demand, gaps, water quality and way forward has been shared with the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Gwadar Development Authority and all stakeholders for further actions.

Swad Dam 67 km from Gawadar

Improving Access to Clean Drinking Water for the Urban Poor in Karachi, Pakistan

PCRWR in collaboration with WaterAid Pakistan through a project envisioned for provision of improved access to sustainable clean drinking water to the communities in urban poor areas of Karachi, established solarized water filtration plant. Solar powered Ultra Filtration (UF) plant having capacity of 70,000 GPD have been installed in Gadap Town, district Malir, Karachi. The filtration plant will be operated by the local community through water user committee. Approximately 15,000-20,000 people are benefiting on daily basis.

Photo of filtration plant

Capacity Building Training of Professionals on ADCP Data Acquisition

PCRWR, DRIP, Tandojam organized a three days training program under the Graduate Information Management System (GIMS) project for capacity building of professionals on Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) data acquisition, practical demonstration, data processing and analysis at DRIP, Tandojam office from June 07, 2022 to June 09, 2022. Ten (10) professionals from SIDA, Hyderabad, and PCRWR attended the training program.

A glimpse of the field training day

Participation in Workshop Organized by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Engr. Faizan-ul-Hasan, Secretary, PCRWR and Hafiz Abdul Salam, Regional Director, DRIP attended a workshop organized by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) on May 16, 2022, in Jamshoro. This workshop was intended to identify opportunities for collaboration in Pakistan as part of its Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia project.

A glimpse of the workshop

Lectures Arranged in PCRWR Regional Office, Gilgit

Ms. Saiqa Imran, Senior Research Officer, and Ms. Farah Naz, Research Officer delivered the lectures to students of water quality testing and treatment diploma course under Kamyab Jawan Program in Regional Office, Gilgit. On their visit to Gilgit, the officers conducted meetings with officials of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) in Gilgit to discuss water issues of Gilgit Baltistan and prospects for further collaboration.

A glimpse of a meeting in Gilgit

Delegation of Hungarian Water Experts Visit PCRWR, Islamabad

Hungarian water experts visited PCRWR, Islamabad on 17th May, 2022. The delegation comprised of Mr. Peter Kovacs, Water Director, Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Mr. Jeno Labdy, General Director, Mr. Attila Lovas, Director, Middle Tisza Region and Mr. Zoltan Bencs, Director, South Transdanubian from Water Management Directorate, Hungary.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR welcomed the guests and gave an overview of the initiatives taken by the council to combat the water issues in Pakistan. The Chairman discussed the possible areas of collaboration of mutual interest. Mr. Peter Kovas appreciated the work of PCRWR and emphasized the need for collaboration and capacity building of the professionals of both countries in the future.

Group photo of PCRWR and Hungarian Officials

A delegation from FCDO and IWMI visited PCRWR, Islamabad

A delegation comprising of officials from the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) visited PCRWR on 19th April 2022. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR welcomed the guest and gave a brief on the collaborative activities of PCRWR and IWMI. He also described the ongoing project of PCRWR with CDA in which PCRWR is accounting for surface and groundwater balance in the ICT area.

Ms. Pauline Seenan, Head Climate and Resilience Group, British High Commission, Islamabad, briefed the participants about the Water Governance Project objectives. Ms. Sana Zia, UK Development Adviser Punjab, gave a brief about the pilot area of the Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP) and the project would be implemented in Punjab.

Chairman, PCRWR briefing delegation on PCRWR activities

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Pakistan team visited PCRWR

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Pakistan team visited PCRWR, Headquarters, Islamabad on April 25, 2022. The agenda of the meeting was to brief the ADPC team on PCRWR research activities. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR welcomed the guests and gave a brief on ongoing activities of PCRWR.

Lt. Gen (R) Nadeem Ahmed, National Advisor, APDC, applauded different initiatives of PCRWR to address the issues related to water sector and showed his great interest to work in the collaboration in the light of Programme of Cooperation (PoC) signed between the two organizations.

A glimpse of a meeting in Gilgit

Professor Dr. Faisal Hossain, University of Washington visited PCRWR

Prof. Dr. Faisal Hossain, University of Washington visited R&D Centre, DRIP Tandojam and Sialmore on 25th May 2022 and 26th May, 2022 respectively. Engr. Faizan ul Hasan, Secretary, PCRWR and Ms. Bareerah Fatima, Deputy Director, PCRWR accompanied the delegate.

Engr. Zia ul Haq briefing Dr Faisal Hossain at R&D farm Sialmore

Deputy Director General, IWMI visited PCRWR, Islamabad

Dr. Racheal McDonnel, Deputy Director-General, IWMI visited PCRWR headquarters, Islamabad on 19th May 2022. Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, Country Director, IWMI, Pakistan also accompanied the guest. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR welcomed the guests and presented a detailed overview of R&D activities and initiatives taken up by the Council to combat the water issues in Pakistan. The Chairman briefly discussed the ongoing collaborated projects of PCRWR with IWMI, Pakistan.

Dr. Racheal McDonnel appreciated the work of PCRWR and stressed upon the need to strengthen the collaboration between PCRWR and IWMI.

A group photo with Dr. Racheal McDonnel, IWMI

A delegation of Experts from KOICA visited PCRWR, Islamabad

A delegation comprising of Mr. Sunbaek Bang, Team Leader/Cooperation Business Team, Ms. Jin Yu, Deputy Director/Cooperation Business Team and Mr. Abdul Rehman, Program Officer, KOICA visited PCRWR on May 31, 2022.

The visit was intended to discuss components of KOICA grant-in-aid project "Capacity Building on Water Quality Monitoring SDG 6 (6.1) Reporting" such as training, basic plan for developing an Management information system (MIS) in KP, water challenges report of Islamabad and developing Standard Operating Procedures for PHED Laboratories in KP and Punjab.

A glimpse of the meeting

Officials from WASA and PHA Punjab Visited PCRWR Regional Office, Lahore

Officials from WASA and PHA, Government of Punjab visited PCRWR Regional Office, Lahore, on 7th April 2022. PCRWR team organized a technical session on the design, installation and maintenance and operation of recharge wells and monitoring of groundwater levels using CTD divers along with a demonstration session. The participants appreciated the knowledge exchange activity.

Group photo of the WASA, PHA and PCRWR Officials

A delegation from Secours Islamic, France visited PCRWR Field Station, Mithi

Dr. Altaf Ali Abro, Head of Mission and Country Manager, Secours Islamic, France (SIF), Islamabad, Pakistan along with Mr. Neel Amber, Managing Officer, Secours Islamic, France, Mithi visited DRIP-PCRWR, Tandojam on May 16, 2022. Engr. Nazar Gul, Deputy Director, DRIP-PCRWR, Tandojam briefed the delegation about the contribution of PCRWR to drought mitigation activities being carried out at Mithi.

PCRWR officer briefing R&D activities

Mid-Term Assessment and Distribution of Certificates of NAVTTC Courses

PCRWR, Lahore conducted a mid-term assessment of Batch-III of NAVTTC diploma course on "Water Quality Testing & Treatment Technicians" under the banner of Prime Minister Hunermand Program on 9th June, 2022 at the auditorium of Regional Office, PCRWR, Lahore.

Meanwhile, Regional Office, Karachi organized distribution of certificates ceremonies for the students of Batch-II diploma course on 05 and 20 April, 2022 at Badin and Regional Office, Karachi respectively.

Glimpse of the Mid-term Assessment being carried out

NIH Team visited PCRWR, Lahore

PCRWR is collaborating with the National Institute of Health, Islamabad for One Health Surveillance TRIUMPH project (Improving the TRIcycle protocol: upscaling to national Monitoring, detection of CPE and WGS pipelines). A team comprising of professionals of National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad visited the PCRWR office, Islamabad and Lahore to discuss the role of PCRWR in R&D activities of One Health Project. The project activities will start soon after signing of a formal collaborative agreement between both partners.

Group photo of the WASA, PHA and PCRWR Officials

Retirement

Mr. Amanullah retired from service of PCRWR on 9th June, 2022 from the post of Public Relation Officer (PRO). PCRWR wish him happy and healthy life ahead.

Condolence

Mr. Murad Khan, Naib Qasid/Guard of the Council deceased on 19th June, 2022. May Allah SWT shower his blessings upon the departed soul and give patience to the family of the deceased.