

Daily Times

ISLAMABAD

Your Right to Know

Sunday, August 9, 2015

Kisan Mela adopts Save NARC resolution, condemns CDA proposal

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: A resolution adopted at the conclusion of a two-day Balochistan Kisan Mela condemned the proposal of Capital Development Authority (CDA) to convert National Agriculture Research Council (NARC) agricultural research land into a housing society.

A farmer representative of Qalat, Aghan Jan presented the resolution to the participants of the mela, stating that farmers of Balochistan condemn the CDA's proposal and urge the government to reject such summary.

Besides farmers of various districts of the Balochistan province, Baluchistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Sikandar Hayat Bosan, Provincial Minister of the Agriculture and Cooperatives Sardar Muhammad Aslam Bizenjo and United Nation Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Country Representative Patrick T Evans were present on the occasion. The mela, which was organised by the FAO in collaboration with the Balochistan government and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), featured several programmes including a conference on

'Agriculture Development of Balochistan'.

The resolution stated that the National Agriculture Research Council was the only one agriculture institute of international standard in the country.

The resolution said, "Whenever there arise any problem in the agriculture sector of the country, this institute had played central role to overcome the problem". "We the farmers of Balochistan and of other small provinces mostly depend on the National Agriculture Research Council for getting new skills, technologies and solution of our problems, because there is no well equipped agriculture institute in our province," it added.

Speaking on the occasion, Sikandar Hayat Bosan said that the federal government has initiated several agricultural development projects in the province of Balochistan to uplift this sector and raise income of the farmers.

Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Malik, while speaking on the occasion, urged the federal government to improve the agricultural resources of the Balochistan province for the betterment of farmers. He said that the provincial government would extend all support for all the projects launched for the devel-

opment of the province.

Sardar Aslam Bizenjo said, "Majority of the population in the province is engaged in agriculture for their livelihoods. To enhance agriculture development and crop productivity in the province, the provincial government is launching 2015-16 as the 'Year of Agriculture in Balochistan'."

On the occasion, FAO Country Representative Patrick T. Evans said that his organisation was currently implementing two programmes in 14 districts of Balochistan to help increase incomes of poor rural men and women through building capacities of farmers to benefit from increased crop and livestock production and improved marketing and organisation.

He said FAO was supporting the government of Balochistan in the formulation of the Balochistan Agriculture Policy and Strategy and will also be providing support with the implementation of this policy."

Meanwhile, PARC Chairman Dr Iftikhar Ahmed said that his organisation has been working for the development of agriculture sector of Balochistan. He assured the participants that the PARC would keep on working and developing new technologies and crop varieties to facilitate Balochistan farmers.