

# Pakistan OBSERVER

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## ECONOMY WATCH

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Pakistan  
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### Foreign Currency

Currency	Selling	Buying
USA	101.70	101.50
UK	159.11	158.80
Euro	112.74	112.52
Canada	77.56	77.41
Switzerland	103.98	103.77
Australia	74.99	74.85
Sweden	11.93	11.90
Japan	0.8175	0.8159
Norway	12.31	12.29
Singapore	72.21	72.07
Denmark	15.11	15.08
Saudi Arabia	27.11	27.06
Hong Kong	13.11	13.09
China	15.90	15.87
Kuwait	336.04	335.38
Malaysia	24.71	24.67
Newzealand	66.48	66.35
Qatar	27.93	27.88
UAE	27.69	27.63
Kr Won	0.0860	0.0858
Thailand	2.877	2.871

**Huawei's  
forecasts  
\$20b sales**

## Govt ensuring food, nutrition security: Bosan

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD—Highlighting the importance of bio-fortification of staple crops, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research (NFS&R), Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan said that the government was committed to ensure food and nutrition-secure Pakistan. Speaking at the roundtable meeting on "HarvestPlus Bio-fortification Programme in Pakistan," the federal minister said that the government has already taken many initiatives to ensure nutritious food for all.

He said that with the efforts of HarvesPlus and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, a bio-fortified wheat variety has been developed, which would ensure nutritious food for all, particularly for nutritious-deficient rural population to help them overcome health deficiencies. The Federal Minister said that food security and nutrition challenges were there but with the coordinated efforts these could be overcome, adding that the bio-fortified wheat variety Zincol will be released soon. The federal minister said that there was also need for launching soil-fertility campaign that would help bio-fortification of food crops.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Secretary for NFS&R, Seerat Asghar enumerated three dimensions of food security including, international, national and individual. He said that food security means when people have access to healthy and nutritious food. The Secretary said that Pakistan was producing surplus wheat and rice, however there is need to make these crops bio-fortified to help improve human health.

Earlier, Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, Hassan Nawaz Tarar said that his ministry was supporting and would support all the nutrition programmes to help food and nutritious secure Pakistan. He said that South Asia has been among the vulnerable regions in terms of nutrition, however added that the government would support all the measures aimed at creating food secure Pakistan.

In his welcome address, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad stressed the need for using diversified nutrients to ensure healthy society. He said that Pakistan was the first country that has introduced Zinc efficient wheat variety, which is going to be provided to farmers soon. He said that with coordinated efforts with HarvesPlus, Pakistan can overcome food deficiencies adding that ensuring food and nutrition secure Pakistan was also envisaged in Vision 2025.

Director HarvestPlus, Dr. Howarth Bouis while speaking on the occasion informed the participants that the organization was working with 43 countries, out of which 27 have already released bio-fortified crops. He said that bio-fortified crops needed to be mainstreamed through key stakeholders so that its benefits could reach to the common citizens.

PARC Member Plant Sciences, Dr. Shahid Masood said that the bio-fortified wheat variety Zincol 2015 would be released soon as it has already been approved by Variety Evaluation Committee and is in the process of release. He said that this variety was not only bio-fortified but as also resistant to leaf-rust and UG99.

### Corporate World



Federal Minister Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Secretary Seerat Asghar, Chairman PARC, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, PARC member, Dr. Shahid Masood, Director HarvestPlus, Dr. Howarth Bouis and Country Manager HarvestPlus, Qadir Bux Baloch after Bio-Fortification Roundtable Conference.

