



# BOSAN URGES PM NOT TO ALLOW CDA TO GRAB NARC LAND

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**Thursday, July 23, 2015** - Islamabad—Taking firm stand against conversion of land of NARC into a housing society, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research has requested the Prime Minister to play his role to save the national institution keeping the land mafia at a bay.

In response to the Chairman CDA's summary for conversion of land of National Agriculture Research Center, into a housing colony, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research has argued that nothing can be more myopic preposterous than CDA's proposal.

In a written letter (attested copy available with Pakistan Observer) Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, the federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, requested Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to reject CDA's summary in greater interest of nation.

"In its summary, CDA has surmised that the proposal would yield Rs 100 to 150 billion, major portion of which would go to private developer. CDA has, however, overlooked the fact that living nations do not put price-tags on its national institutions like NARC," Sikander Hayat Khan Bosan said. He added that if the capital Development Authority want to increase its resources, it should rather look towards its unfinished agenda of developing the residential sectors such as D-12, E-12, Parkenclave and others which are awaiting the completion for last many decades.

In a bid to draw Premier's attention to achievements of NARC, the federal minister said NARC is a national asset which, in a short span of its existence, developed a history of its own.

"Countless International scientists, Nobel laureates and foreign dignitaries have visited the center. They have worked with Pakistani scientists and have contributed to the progress of agriculture in country. There are roads and buildings to their names. This is very valuable history and any exercise to monetize its worth would be futile," Sikandar Hayat Khan told the Prime Minister through written letter.

Federal Minister especially mentioned in the letter that Government of Pakistan through its PSDP and the international Organizations, through their collaborative programs, have spent hundreds of billion of rupees in NARC's initiatives.

"The amount is much bigger than CDA's calculated benefits. No sane person would, therefore, opt for such a disadvantageous choice," stated the letter sent to Prime Minister on 6 July 2015.

Hailing from Multan's notable agriculturist family, Sikandar Hayat Bosan, the federal Minister for National Food Security and research, told the premier through written letter, that NARC's contribution to this country, its agriculture and its economy are limitless.

"If compiled, they would require books of many volume. Suffice would it to say that only development of high yielding and 'rust resistant wheat' varieties through National Coordinate Wheat Research Program has contributed more than 2000 billion rupees to Pakistan's economy. Pakistan is only 'bird flue free' country in SAARC region just because of

regional reference laboratory for poultry disease at NARC through its surveillance system has achieved this feat," Bosan's letter revealed.

The federal minister argued that NARC is host to many International Organizations including FAO, CYMMIT, ICARDA, ILRI, ICIMOD and others. Hence, conversion of NARC's land into housing society would send a wrong signal to the world regarding Pakistan's commitment to agriculture and its development.

Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, a veteran politician from Southern Punjab, also cautioned Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that decision to convert NARC's land into housing society would bring bad name to him and PML-N.

" Decision would otherwise be a politically very unpopular. I have already received strong protest from all across country from the chamber of Agriculture, from Kissan board and Kissan Abadgar Organizations. It will give further credence to propaganda that this government has anti-agriculture bias," Sikandar argued in the letter dated 6 July.

The federal Minister also noted that CDA's proposal was not legally tenable.

" Before parting, I may also add that CDA's proposal is not legally tenable, as well as the total term of lease is 90 years and not 30 years as has been contended by the CDA, in its summary," Sikandar said.

Well placed sources told Pakistan Observer that, following Sikandar Hayat Bosan's letter Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is all set to reject CDA's summary. While a formal announcement in this regards is expected in a few days.