



Project Activity Report

Training and Capacity Building in Sustainable Agricultural Water Management: Addressing Food Security and Social Instability in Pakistan

(SAWaM)



Introduction

Arid and semi-arid lands of Pakistan are characterized by low and highly variable rainfall, and inter-annual variability in the total annual precipitation. The onset of the rainy season is unpredictable and the length of the “dry season” varies from year to year. All these factors strongly limit primary productivity in these areas. In addition, the population growth and the predicted climate change are expected to further exacerbate this problem. The consequences would be reduction of usable lands and decrease of land productivity, widespread ecosystem degradation and higher risk of desertification. Focussing on above mentioned problems, an initiative is taken to improve the water management for sustainable agriculture in the form of a joint project “Sustainable agricultural water management in Pakistan: Addressing food security and social instability” (SAWaM-Pak) with specific objective of increasing food production and security in different regions of Pakistan. The project is under the kind patronage of the *Directorate General for Development Cooperation - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy* with research collaboration between National Research Council-Institute for Plant Protection, Agricultural Research Council and Istituto di Studi Europei "Alcide De Gasperi" and Department of Environmental Sciences, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. Ultimately, the project investments (equipment and human resources) will create permanent infrastructures in Pakistan that is used for capacity building programmes tailored for the local communities to enable them to apply the new water management techniques.

MOU Signed (2 November 2012)

Memorandum of Understanding for project titled “Training and capacity building in sustainable agricultural water management: Addressing food security and social instability in Pakistan” (SAWaM-Pak) was signed between National Research Council - Institute for Plant Protection (Italy) and PMAS- Arid Agriculture University (Pakistan) on 2nd November, 2012. This

project is co-financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate General for Development Cooperation.

Kick Start meeting (November 2012)

A kick-off meeting was held at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi in which all members (Italian and Pakistani) of the project participated. Plans for project activities and development of infrastructure were discussed during the meeting.