

# AVN

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## Flour crisis: Imran swings into action

### AVN Report

**LAHORE** - Prime Minister Imran Khan recently announced a countrywide crackdown on elements responsible for "illegal price hike" and hoarding the commodity. The PM directed the officials to take effective measures for stabilizing the rates of wheat flour and directed the officials concerned to act against people involved in creating "an artificial crisis of flour" in the country. Earlier, for the second time in a month, the price of flour went up by up to Rs6 per kg across

the country with the commodity being sold at Rs70 per kg in Lahore, Karachi, and other cities. According to Flour Mills Association, the hike was due to lack of subsidy from the government. "The price was increased after a surge in wheat price," a statement issued by the association read. "The situation has worsened because of the government's [new] electricity and gas tariff," it added. To fix the situation, the government also planned to release 0.1 million tons of

wheat to KP from the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO) and also import 0.3 million tons to cater to the need across the country. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was most affected by the flour shortage after Punjab banned supply to the province to fix its own crisis earlier this week. According to details, there were only two-day flour stock left which led to an Rs5 per kg increase in the price. The dealers said that delivery from Punjab has been

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## Rs4.20 bln approved for seven agri, livestock: Officials

### AVN Report

**PESHAWAR** - According to a recent press release, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has approved seven gigantic projects recently. The project aimed to promote agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors in erstwhile Fata, have total worth of Rs4.20 billion.



As per sources, 10 new projects focusing on enhancement of meat and milk production, water conservation, livestock and dairy development had been prepared

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## Halal Products: PHA Chief aims at International Export Markets

### AVN Report

**ISLAMABAD** - Director General, Pakistan Halal Authority (PHA), Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Muhammad Tariq Masood recently announced that the newly established Pakistan Halal Authority (PHA) aimed to capture international markets for export of Halal products especially meat. This would enable Pakistan to get its due share in the rapidly growing global Halal market. While talking to the media, Dr. Muhammad Tariq Masood said "Pakistan with 160 million livestock is among top livestock producing countries but unfortunately having minimal share in the \$3trillion estimated livestock product output including milk, beef, mutton, poultry meat, eggs, wool, hair, skins, hides and bones."

Dr. Muhammad Tariq Masood was of the view that a large number of Pakistanis were living in other countries

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High Quality - Our Strength

# Saudi Arabian Livestock Company plans to invest in Pakistan

**AVN Report**

**ISLAMABAD** - Prime Minister Imran Khan recently met the officials from Saudi Arabian Company, Al-Tamimi Group of Companies. Imran welcomed the investment intention of the company in the food processing, livestock and dairy and meat processing sectors of Pakistan. PM's adviser Razak Dawood and other senior officials were also present during the meeting.

While talking to the Al-Tamimi Group of Companies Chairman, Sheikh Tariq Ali Abdullah, the Prime Minister stressed on the changes taken by the government about the ease-of-conducting business and offering a one window solution to the potential investors.

PM Khan said that Pakistan was blessed with twelve climatic zones and was a suitable location for a lot of agricultural activities and products, fruits, dairy and



fisheries production.

PM Imran stated that the government was also focusing its attention on research and development for enhancing productivity and a surge in exports with the aid of private investors.

PM Pakistan also mentioned that the government was planning on setting up an export-oriented grading and standardization of the indigenous fruits like mango, peach, apple and the citrus fruits for meeting the

international demand as these fruits were extensively desired for their taste and quality.

The chairman of the Al-Tamimi Group lauded the steps taken by the government for acquiring the economic balance and growth. He said that the economic stability was a major reason for attracting the foreign investors and the international businesses were now definite to make an investment in Pakistan owing to the clarity and the facilitation offered to the businessmen.

## Poultry units distributed among deserving people

**AVN Report**

**FAISALABAD** - A ceremony for distributing poultry units was held at civil veterinary hospital recently.

The poultry units comprising of five hens and one rooster were distributed among 500 deserving people selected through draws on subsidized rates.

As many as 1,900 poultry units were being distributed among needy people across the division.

Earlier, The Livestock Department distributed poultry units among deserving people in tehsil Pasrur, Sialkot.

Deputy Director Dr Inam Ali Athar told the media that 40 poultry units were distributed through transparent balloting. He said that as per Prime Minister's programme, the Government officials have distributed poultry units on 30 per cent subsidized rates.



## Department needs to be automated: Secretary Livestock

**AVN Report**

**LAHORE** - A meeting of divisional directors at the Livestock Secretariat was recently held. The event was chaired by Secretary Livestock, Nadeem Irshad Kiyani who presided the meeting via video conference. The livestock secretary took notice of the departmental matters and directed the DG to solve the matters on priority basis. While addressing the meeting, Nadeem Irshad said that holding of the online meeting helped clear out the departmental issues and added that it also helped in improving official matters. He further said that the livestock department was being automated to improve organizational efficiency and to provide better services to stakeholders.

The livestock department was fully benefiting from the information and communication technologies to automate the system, Irshad added.



# China eyes on agri, meat import from Pakistan

**AVN Report**

**ISLAMABAD** - Chinese Ambassador, Yao Jing recently had a meeting with Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar. The meeting decided that Chinese experts would visit quarantine facilities of the country soon to import meat, potatoes, onions, mangoes and cherries from Pakistan.



In a meeting with Federal Minister, Jing said that China wanted to build stronger socio-economic ties with Pakistan and enhance its imports from Islamabad as well. "China has a great demand for meat and poultry products and it can be a lucrative international market for Pakistan," he stressed. "Both countries must work together for the removal of technical barriers like sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) and quarantine requirements." The Chinese ambassador expressed confidence in Bakhtiar as former minister for planning and development because of his contribution to the expansion of phase-II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Yao Jing also acknowledged Bakhtiar's efforts towards giving new impetus to agricultural cooperation under CPEC. Speaking on the occasion, Bakhtiar said the government was focusing on strategically structuring agriculture under CPEC. "We want to enhance the productivity of cotton, which has plummeted considerably," the Minister emphasised.

Makhdoom Bakhtiar pointed out that Pak-China Centre of Excellence was planned to be established in Multan in close coordination with Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) in order to devise a holistic strategy.

Bakhtiar also apprised the Chinese ambassador of the ongoing threat posed by locust and efforts to contain the menace. He added that under the Prime Minister's National Agriculture Emergency Programme, the government was leaving no stone unturned to align the sector with international standards.

"To achieve this, we need to equip the agriculture sector with modern farm machinery, facilitate low-cost production and modern research," Makhdoom said. "Before next meeting of the joint working group, both countries must work together to finalise the execution plan."

The federal minister said the country was

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# Encourage private sector for milk and meat production: CS Punjab

## AVN Report

**LAHORE** - A delegation of private investors recently met Punjab Chief Secretary (CS Punjab), Major (retd) Azam Suleman Khan at Civil Secretariat. The meeting was attended by Dr Masood Rabbani, Capt (retd) Jaffar Chaudhry, Dr Suhail, Jahanzeb Barana, Waqar Ahmad, Khalid Mehmood and officers concerned CS Punjab said that the Livestock and Dairy Development Department should encourage private sector for enhancement of milk and meat production in the province. The meeting decided a detailed deliberations on a proposal by the delegates to establish a disease-free zone in Kasur. It was also agreed to set up checkpoints at all entry and exit points of the city. While briefing the participants, it was said that the proposed zone would

help save animals from diseases through timely vaccination, resulting in ample availability of healthy meat and milk for food. The delegates also



presented a proposal of setting up checkpoints to scan animals for diseases at entry and exit points of district Kasur.

The CS Punjab asked the delegation to prepare a workable model of the project so that it could be finalised with local administration in next meeting. He also inquired about tagging of animals and steps to save them from diseases.

Director General, Livestock Department Livestock

director told the

meeting that foot and mouth disease in Cholistan had been controlled. Six doses of vaccine were administered to animals in the area at a cost of Rs 2.5 billion. He mentioned that process of tagging animals had been completed.

The CS assured the delegation that the Punjab government would extend full cooperation to private investors for execution of the project and it would be replicated in other districts after success.

## Seminar on paradoxical agriculture held at UVAS

**LAHORE** - The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) recently arranged an awareness seminar on "Paradoxical Agriculture" at City Campus, Lahore. UVAS Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr Masood Rabbani chaired inaugural session of the seminar while a large number of UVAS faculty members from all campuses, staff and postgraduate students attended the occasion.



The objective of the seminar was to implement the strategy of paradoxical agriculture for high yield fodder/crops production. The event aimed to highlight the productivity of dairy animals which can provide the ultimate goal of food security in Pakistan.

Agriculture Expert, Muhammad Asif Sharif, delivered a detailed lecture and shared his ideas for new technology of change in existing production system for more production with minimum input cost. He said affordable crop production can reduce the input cost of livestock and poultry production. **-PR**

## Sindh all set for livestock expo in 2020

### AVN Report

**KARACHI** - The Sindh government recently announced to organise a livestock expo in the province in February 2020. The decision was announced in a meeting, chaired by Abdul Bari Pitafi, Sindh Livestock and Fisheries Minister. Muhammad Ismail Rahoo, Sindh Agriculture Minister was also present in the meeting. The event was attended by the livestock secretary, ministers and secretaries for the departments of culture and agriculture, sports secretary, fisheries director general, livestock director general, and representatives of the police and finance department.

The Livestock Minister said the livestock was an essential component of the human food requirement and the people in Sindh associated with the fisheries and animal farming needed to upgrade their



professional skills as they were still employing old ways to earn their livelihood.

Pitafi said the Sindh government would organise the livestock expo with the view to provide opportunity to people associated with this industry to improve their professional skills in order to make them abreast with the international trends prevailing in the livestock sector. Abdul Bari said that the forthcoming expo would provide a platform to gather under one roof fishermen, farmers, breeders, veterinary doctors, researchers, pharmaceutical companies, vaccinators and professionals of other relevant

sectors. He said the expo would enable these professionals to learn from each other's experiences.

The Minister said that the expo was being organised to promote the concept of food security as Pakistan was included in the countries facing the issue.

Muhammad Ismail Rahoo said that the agriculture and livestock sectors were inter-related as both the areas relied on each other for their growth and progress. He said that the progress of Sindh lied in the progress and development of both the agriculture and livestock sectors.

## Cruelty to animals should be discouraged: Secretary Livestock

### AVN Report

**MULTAN** - The Punjab government recently announced to restart the challan process to discourage cruelty to animals with an aim to protect the rights of animals and birds in the province.

According to the official sources, the process for challan and other punishments would be re-started during the current month of January. The government has directed the officials concerned to speed up the process of inspection of cruelty towards animals. Challan books will soon be distributed among officials of Society for Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), a government entity working to protect the rights of animals and birds, as per sources.

Special magistrates at district level are being deputed to impose fine and other punishments on persons, found involved in torturing animals, said Inspector SPCA Abu Suffian. The government has directed the district sessions judges to depute special magistrates in their respective districts.

While addressing to the media, Inspector Abu Suffian stated that Secretary Livestock Barrister Nabeel and honorary secretary SPCA Farhat Nazeer Awan

**Continued on Page 14**

# PARC aimed to provide affordable commodities

## AVN Report

**ISLAMABAD** - Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) has recently become partner with 'Durast Daam', an app launched by Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to local consumers on wholesale rates, besides the app would also provide information about the official fixed rates of other essential commodities.



The commodities which would be available on Durast Daam app include fresh fruits and vegetables, whereas the app would provide official fixed rates of the commodities including rice, pulses, poultry, milk, meat, and other eatable items.

Chairman PARC, Dr Muhammad Azeem Khan stated, "The initiative is aimed at promoting and strengthening government's efforts to promote e-commerce, safeguarding the common man from the effects of artificial price hike and provide proper prices to farmers for their produces." Chairman PARC said that PARC has established its link with Durast Daam app on pilot basis, adding that the scope would be further extended to other areas across the country to safeguard a common man from the rising inflationary shocks.

Besides, he said that the linkage with app would also help the farmers to sell their produces without any intervention of middle man to get proper prices of their produces and discouraging practices of hoarding, extra charging and over profiteering.

He said that the citizens linked with this app could book their orders and Durast Daam would deliver properly packed complete hygienic food items including fruit, vegetables without any extra delivery charges at the door steps of consumers. The PARC would also establish farmers market at National Agriculture Research Center in order to provide them opportunities to directly sell their products to council's warehouse without any involvement which would help in providing these items on further controlled rates to consumers, he added.

He said that the farmers' clusters would be linked with this market and PARC which was currently purchasing the commodities from open market would purchase from the farmers directly. He said that PARC would also provide over one million seedlings and seeds of different vegetables to citizen of twin cities and other interested stakeholders under its kitchen gardening program to encourage domestic vegetable farming.

He said that the outreach of the program was set to extend over 200 household during current season but PARC was determined to extend its technical support to more people than its set targets.

# Rs 5.762 billion released for agriculture development projects

## AVN Report

**ISLAMABAD** - According to the Pakistan Sector Development Program (PSDP) data release of the Planning Commission of Pakistan, the authorization of release of Rs 5.762 billion for the overall developmental projects of Ministry of National Food Security and Research has been done. The allocation done was under PSDP 2019-20 as against the total allocation of Rs12.047 billion. The Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms has so far given the authorization to release Rs 5.762 billion for various agriculture sector development projects under its PSDP for the financial year 2019-20 as against the total allocation of Rs 12.047 billion. Meanwhile, the authorities concerned had also given the authorization to release funds initiated under Prime Minister's Agriculture Emergency Program to uplift of agriculture and livestock sectors in the country. The authorities concerned had also given the authorization of release Rs 2.750 billion for national program for improvement of



water courses phase-I, as against the total allocation of Rs 5.500 billion in order to water conservation.

Under current year's development agenda, authorization of the release of Rs 300 million for national oil seed enhancement program as the government had allocated Rs600 million in its PSDP 2019-20.

An amount of Rs 200 million had also released for pilot project for development of shrimp farming cluster in order to promote the aquaculture and shrimp farming in the country as an amount of Rs 400 million earmarked for the projects in current year's development program.

Meanwhile, Rs 30 million was released for the Prime Minister Initiative for backyard poultry farming, Rs 80 million for save the calf and Rs100 million for promotion of trout

cage farming in Northern Areas of the country as against their respective allocations.

In order to enhance the productivity of all major crops, authorizations of release of Rs 255 million had given for rice as against the allocation of Rs 450 million, Rs100 million for sugarcane out of the total allocation of Rs 200 million for current fiscal year. The Planning Commission of Pakistan has also given the authorization of release of Rs 325 million for the productivity enhancement of wheat as against the total allocation of Rs 650 million of current financial year.

In order to enhance the output of cotton, the government had released Rs40 million for the better cotton initiatives as against the total allocation of Rs50 million during the current year's PSDP.

# Stray dogs should not be killed: Animal rights activists

## AVN Report

**LAHORE** - Animal lovers and rights activists recently held a press conference at Lahore Press Club after the chief minister recently gave orders of killing stray dogs to prevent people from getting bitten by them. Punjab Livestock Minister had earlier said that his department would vaccinate dogs for free if people bring them to it. They could return to where they lived without posing any threat to people.

Sarah Gandapur, fashion designer and animal rights activist, said, "If people feed and care for one dog in their street, it will guard all the houses in that street. We need to change the way we view and treat animals."

Aiza Haider, another animal rights activist, said Secretary Livestock had promised to revive Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). "We are seeking a meeting with the CM to put forth our plea to save animals and educate people on animal care." MPA Ayesha Iqbal of PTI had raised the issue of cruelty towards animals in

parliament, she pointed out.

There is a worldwide campaign to eradicate rabies from the world by 2030. "Pakistan, being a member of OIE, world organisation for animal health, has a commitment to it but it has yet to start this programme to fight rabies," she said.

Hamza Butt Advocate who is counsel in a case against dog culling being heard in Lahore High Court said, "We need to adopt WHO plan to make dogs' existence safe for themselves and people. The Sindh High Court has ruled against annual dog fights." He pointed out that criminals in the US had been identified to have a history of cruelty towards animals. "Children are watching us kill dogs. Watch out. Cruelty breeds cruelty," he warned. Sarah Gandapur called for making sanctuaries for animals and stop dog culling. She said the activists would soon present a bill to the government in this regard.



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# Fisheries in Pakistan: An insight to issues and available options

**Prof. Dr Abdullah G Arijjo & Dr Shayan Ahmad Arijjo**

Department of Parasitology  
Sindh Agriculture University-Pakistan



**T**he human body requires healthy food. Fish meat is highly valuable for its contents. Fish is a low-fat high-quality protein filled with omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin D and B2 (riboflavin). It is rich in calcium and phosphorus (a basic requirement for health bones) and a great source of minerals, such as iron, zinc, iodine, magnesium, and potassium.

Due to white meat, fishery plays a significant role in the national economy. It provides employment to about 300,000 fishermen directly. In addition, another 400,000 people are employed in supplementary industries. It is also a major source of export earnings. Earlier, it was found that fish and fishery products valued at the US, \$ 117 million, were exported from Pakistan.

The Federal Government has the responsibility of the fishery department in Exclusive Economic Zone of Pakistan. In addition, it is also responsible for making policies, inter-provincial co-ordination, planning, research, quality control, training, exploratory fishing, stock assessment, fisheries management, fleet improvement, data collection, and export etc. Pakistan is blessed with rich fishery potential. It is in the northern part of the Arabian Sea and has a coastline of about 1,120 km with a broad continental shelf. There are about 16,000 fishing boats in the coastal area of Pakistan which operate in shallow coastal waters as well as in offshore areas. These fishing boats undertake fishing trips lasting for a few hours to weeks, depending upon the type of fishing. Total production from inland and marine waters is approximately 0.60 million tons.

## **Aquaculture and Pakistan**

In the province of Sindh, Thatta and Badin Districts are highly suitable for aquaculture. Vast land areas with ample water supplies, suitable soil, extensive irrigation and drainage networks, perfect climate, temperature, and conditions make this area highly suitable for the culture of several fish species.

Presently fish farming in Sindh is carried out entirely on a low scale basis only in two districts i.e. Thatta and Badin. There are scattered fish ponds in district Sanghar, but

they are located way too below. With the vast resources at hand, if utilized properly, Sindh can be one of the leaders in the aquaculture industry in Pakistan, but this requires awareness and encouragement. There is dire need to understand the basic requirements for Aquaculture in Pakistan. Several thousand acres of land suitable for aquaculture is available in the Thatta & Badin districts at a cost of Rs. 20,000 - Rs 30, 000 per acre. The soils are nutrient-rich, slightly alkaline. Water bodies that already exist are habitat to highly valuable fauna and flora. This can fulfill the feeding requirement of herbivorous and carnivorous fishes.

## **Water Resources**

Pakistan is blessed with most extensive networks of irrigation canals. Surface water of good quality in aquaculture is available for 10/11 month of the year with ideal pH value of 7.5 and temperature ranging between 28 to 37 °C. Biotic and abiotic factors are highly supportive of fish farming. However, due to recent climatic changes, irrigation water is in short supply since 1999 and hence the stress has been more to conserve water by changing over from extensive farming towards more intensive culture methods.

The government sector is ready to support fish farming. Loans are easily approved, and basic permission is easily granted by the concerned Fisheries Department. Moreover, water bodies in Thatta & Badin Districts are virtually pollution free. The labour is cheap, available at Rs.5,000 to Rs. 7,000 per month. The temperature and weather conditions are favourable for optimum growth rates for 10 months of the year.

Despite of encouraging factors,

yet fisheries and aquaculture lurk in the lake for certain facilities. This includes lack of hatchery that can help introduce conventional and genetically improved, faster growing, disease resistant fish species such as Tilapia, Rohu, Mrigal, and Catla.

There is a lack of infrastructure to establish a feed mill. There is not a single feed mill for the aquaculture industry in Pakistan. Most fish feeds can be prepared locally for less than 50% of the cost of imported feeds. Besides, this will help provide jobs to native masses.

Kenjhar, with 50 km area with 25/35 feet depth is one of the largest lakes of Pakistan near Thatta. This lake may be ideal for aquaculture of trout fish. Besides, Pakistan has 1120 km long coastal line covering Badin, Thatta, Karachi, Pasni, Gwadar and Ormara with great potential of brackish water aquaculture and mariculture in the Thatta District of Sindh. There have been few attempts to culture shrimps but have not succeeded as the basic requirements for shrimp culture, feed and hatchery are non-existent in our country and imported feeds are very expensive and shrimp are difficult to acclimatize, and often high mortalities are reported.

## **World picture**

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) report recently published concluded that the fisheries and aquaculture is critically important for the food, nutrition and employment of millions of people, many of whom struggle to maintain reasonable livelihoods. The report further highlighted that total fish production reached an all-time high of 171 million tons, of which 88 per cent were utilized for direct human consumption, thanks to relatively

stable capture fisheries production, reduced wastage and continued aquaculture growth. This production resulted in a record-high per capita consumption of 20.3 kg in 2016. Since 1961, the annual global growth in fish consumption has been twice as high as population growth. This demonstrated that the fisheries sector is crucial in meeting FAO's goal of a world without hunger and malnutrition. While annual growth of aquaculture has declined in recent years, significant double-digit growth is still recorded in some countries, particularly in Africa and Asia. The sector's contribution to economic growth and the fight against poverty is growing.

Strengthened demand and higher prices increased the value of global fish exports in 2017 to USD 152 billion, 54 per cent originating from developing countries.

On the other hand, the Pakistan Economic Survey 2017-18 estimated that during the first eight months of the fiscal year 2017-18, total marine and inland fish production was estimated at 482,000 metric tons, out of which 338,000 metric tons was from marine waters and the remaining catch came from inland waters. Whereas the fish production for the same period of the fiscal year 2016-17 was estimated to be 477,000 metric tons in which 332,000 metric tons was from marine and the remaining was produced by inland fishery sector. During eight months of 2017-18, a total of 108,262 metric tons of fish and fishery products were exported. Pakistan's major buyers are China, Thailand, Malaysia, Middle East, Sri Lanka and Japan. Pakistan earned \$264 million, while the export for 2016-17 of fish and fishery products was 89,032 metric tons which earned \$239 million. The export of fish and fishery products has increased by 21.6 pc in quantity and 10.5pc in value during 2017-18. Developing countries supplied slightly more than 50%. Shrimp is the main fish commodity traded in value terms, accounting for about 19% of the total value of internationally traded fishery products, FAO reported.

In 2001, more than 80% of the total world import value was concentrated in developed countries, in Japan, the USA and in several EU countries. Japan has remained the major importer accounting for about 23% of the

*Continued on Page 15*

# Importance and Benefits of Goat Farming

By Sumaira Ali

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (SBBUVAS)

There are numerous blessings of goat farming business. That's why many farmers are raising goats for income and additionally for making their livelihood. Goats are smaller sized animals and they commonly require less care and management. Goats are actually brilliant creatures. Goats are being raised with other farm animals around the world for their meat, milk and skin. Goats are appropriate for small scale commercial operation. Today, many farmers are raising goats commercially to make profits. And business goat farming commercial enterprise is gaining reputation rapidly at some stage in the sector. High demand of the goat products in the market, low operating value and availability of many best goat breeds are the main blessings of goat farming commercial enterprise. In a few countries, there are many agencies which might be raising goats commercially and contributing a significant element of the marketplace.

The world population is growing gradually and food demand is additionally growing. Both small scale and business goat farming enterprise can play a very vital role in this matter.

It is very critical to choose a good breed for goat farming. Many breeds are found across the areas of Pakistan. Beetle, Naachi, Teddy, Daira Din Panah are some common breeds of Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan. Every breed has its unique characteristics which are suitable to its environmental conditions. After selection of a good breed, the management of the farm is very necessary. Health of the goats including regular deworming, good breeding plan, care of pregnant goats and feeding plan should

also be maintained. Goats are cheaper to maintain, without problems available and have a pleasant disposition. These animals are able to adapt various agro-climatic conditions ranging from arid dry to cold humid. They may be raised in plains, hilly tracts, sandy zones and at excessive altitudes. They are more tolerant to warm. Goats are afflicted by fewer ailments than other large animals. They have increased digestibility of crude fiber and can produce even on poor exceptional roughages. These animals can give more production in keeping with unit of investment. They are smaller in length and have a younger slaughter age. The meat of goats has no religious taboo and is relished by using all sections of society. The meat has less fat and is quite in demand.

Goats are known as the foster mom of man as their milk is considered better for human vitamins than different species of livestock. The milk is cheap, wholesome, effortlessly digestible and nutritious. It has lesser allergic issues than other species of livestock and is used as an Ayurveda remedy for persons in poor health with asthma, cough, diabetes etc. The milk has higher buffering features and this enhances its value for patients suffering from peptic ulcers, liver dysfunction, jaundice, biliary disorders and other digestive problems. It has higher phosphate content, which is advisable for vegetarian communities. Goat milk has a greater content of B-complex vitamins and is suitable for preparing quite

number milk products. Goats can be milked as often as required, stopping milk storage troubles and refrigeration costs. Goat hide is used for the manufacture of leather-based products. Hair is used for the manufacture of rugs and ropes. Pashmina shawls, Mohair and Cashmere carpets are in incredible demand and are offered at very excessive prices. Goat manure is 2.5 times richer in nitrogen and phosphoric acid than cow manure. For small farmers, hobby farmers and homesteaders alike, goats can be a great choice of species. They're good for milk, meat, fiber etc. Goat farming business can play a very important role in eradicating poverty from the poor countries. Goat farming is profitable and can make good profit from this business. So, it can be a great way for eradicating poverty. Commercial goat farming business can create an excellent employment opportunities for the educated unemployed people. Educated unemployed people can input into this profitable enterprise as an alternative of looking for conventional jobs. And that is also some of the main advantages of goat farming enterprise.



## Occurance and disease description of campylobacteriosis in poultry meat

By Syed Ehtisham-ul-Haque<sup>1</sup>, Zulqarnain Baqar<sup>1</sup>, Ali Usman<sup>2</sup>

Campylobacteriosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria of the genus *Campylobacter*. *Campylobacter* are thought to be a major public health concern in Pakistan as they cause food borne gastroenteritis and food poisoning in humans especially in children. Protective immunity developed in adults due to high level of infection in early ages *Campylobacter* spp., is a leading cause of gastroenteritis in humans. Campylobacteriosis is the public gastrointestinal disease spreading throughout the world.

Nevertheless the effect of campylobacteriosis is less frequently inspected in many parts of the world, comprising Pakistan. Contaminated food of animal and poultry origin is considered to be the most common sources. Some of these bacteria are multi-drug resistant and increase its prevalence rate. It is caused by *Campylobacter* spp. and *Campylobacter* is a gram negative microaerophilic bacilli bacteria. The genus *Campylobacter* belongs to family *Campylobacteriaceae*, consists of 13 *Campylobacter* spp. as like *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Campylobacter coli*, *Campylobacter lari* etc. Most

commonly identified bacterial cause of acute gastroenteritis is *C. jejuni* and clinical signs are fever, myalgia, arthralgia and diarrhea. This study aimed to determine and regulate the prevalence of *C. jejuni* as well as the antimicrobial resistance profiles of that bacteria in raw poultry meat and other poultry related samples (heart, breast meat, leg meat and intestinal contents) collected in a region of district Jhang Pakistan. A total of 400 samples of poultry meat including (heart, breast meat, leg meat, liver and intestinal contents) was screened for the presence of *C. jejuni* by selective enrichment culture followed by selective



plating on mCCDA agar. The prevalence of *C. jejuni* was assessed using biochemical tests such as oxidase, catalase and hippurate tests etc. providing microaerophilic environment. Data was analyzed statistically.

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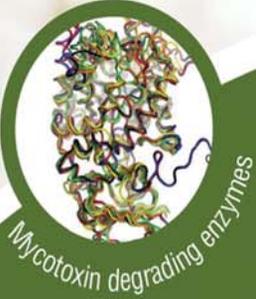
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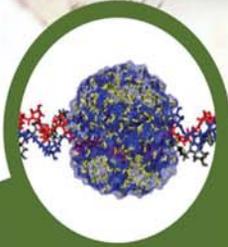
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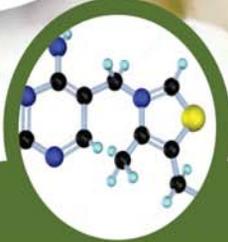
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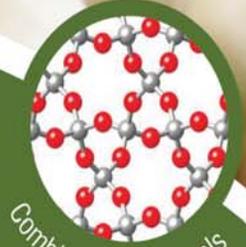
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## Rs4.20 bln approved for ...

### Continued from front page

after consultation with all stakeholders to alleviate poverty and generate employment opportunities for the tribesmen. Out of these projects, seven were approved by the competent forum on which around Rs4. 20billion would be spent during current fiscal year.

The Government has expedited work on Accelerated Implementation Program (AIP) 2019-20 by approving four mega projects for which Rs665 million have been already released. Similarly, PC-1 of the two gigantic projects worth Rs 12 billion has been prepared and were being sent to concerned forum for approval. The department has achieved 92% success in the allotted targets pertaining to development and provision of services to people.

As per the department's report for financial year 2019-20, PC-1 of the 15 new projects have been developed out of which approval of 14 projects including 11 Public Sector Development Projects (PSDP) worth Rs 44 billion were taken and funds of 10 projects have been already released. These PSDP and ADP (Annual Development Program) funded projects include bringing improvements in watercourses at national level, protection of water resources in rainy areas, construction of small and medium dams, production of wheat, rice, oil, protection of calves, fattening of animals and promotion of trout fish farming in the province including merged areas. Agriculture programs worth Rs1970million has been developed under AIP for erstwhile Fata with main focus on enhancement of crops' productivity, producing of virus free seeds and building of small dams to bring its vast areas under agriculture cover.

The programs developed under AIP include Integrated Agricultural Development Program (IADP) worth Rs750 million, merged areas' contribution to the Prime Minister's National Agriculture Emergency Program (NAEP) with a proposed allocation of Rs 640 million, construction of small check dams and watercourses with a safety amount of Rs580

million for the current fiscal year.

Under IADP, an inclusive program for production of virus free seeds would be launched in Kurrum and Orakzai tribal districts on which approximately Rs180 million would be spent during 2019-20. Similarly, work on 11 agriculture disciplines would be initiated under integrated agriculture developing program primarily focusing on construction of around 32,000 watercourses, building of small check dams for prevention of water's wastage and soil erosion and strengthening of poultry farming.

Behavioral science based adaptation for production of high value horticultural crops would be initiated to promote horticulture and flower industries. The Government would spend around Rs350 million on this project during current financial year. Rs 220 million have been proposed for land reclamation during current financial year.

Under the Prime Minister's National Agriculture Emergency Program, focus would be made on areas' enhancement for bolstering crops productivity specifically for oilseed such as sunflower, mustard and groundnut food which Rs120million were proposed.

Similarly, Rs120 million would be spent on crop productivity's enhancement of areas especially for pulses in merged areas. Conservation of land and construction of watercourses would enhance per acre production through enhanced irrigation network costing Rs270 million. To prevent canals water from wastage, Rs330 million would be spent on construction of small check dams and rainwater harvesting.

At least, 32,000 watercourses would be constructed during next four years in KP. Irrigation water has been released in the main canal of Gomal Zam Dam in South Waziristan tribal district with the capacity to irrigate 100,000 acres land in southern districts of KP. Work on the dam's second canal has been expedited following completion would irrigate additional one lakh acres barren and infertile land in KP. The official said about Rs13 billion would be spent on water conservation programs during next four years in the province.

As many as 10 cattle markets would be constructed in different districts with an estimated cost of Rs200 million besides establishment of livestock research and development facilities worth Rs100 million during current fiscal year. Likewise, Rs 500 million would be spent on establishment of small scale livestock farms and integrated livestock development programs. Moreover, 300 million were proposed for enhancement of livestock productivity to cater people's food requirements.

The department is giving top priority towards promotion of poultry farming by starting distribution of "five hens and one male poultry birds" among widows, orphans and poor people aimed at to alleviate poverty in rural areas. As per the program, one million poultry birds would be distributed among poor families on subsidized rates during next four years.

The applicant is only required to pay Rs1050 for each unit of poultry and approximately 250,000 numbers of units would be distributed amongst the deserving families each year. The department is developing new varieties of crops, fruits and vegetables to increase agricultural production in the province.

## China eyes on agri, meat ...

### Continued from page 04

moving ahead to collaborate in establishing a foot and mouth disease-free zone for livestock and a memorandum in that regard was currently being negotiated by both sides. He affirmed that if the two sides collaborated for the elimination of foot and mouth disease, it would boost Pakistan's meat exports to China.

## Cruelty to animals should ...

### Continued from page 06

were taking special interest to discourage all sorts of cruelty to animals. "They, both, were committed to protect the rights of animals," stated Inspector Abu Suffian. About Challan amount and other punishments, he said that a new draft was ready to be tabled in the assembly soon and the challan amount would be increased in near future.

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## Flour crisis: Imran ...

*Continued from front page*

halted completely.

Meanwhile, the Naanbai Association, Peshawar announced to go on strike across the province over the failure of its talks with the provincial government and district administration over roti price.

Meanwhile, Punjab and KP government officials held a video-link meeting in order to ensure uninterrupted transportation of wheat and flour from Punjab to KP. During the meeting, KP Chief Secretary (CS) Dr Kazim Niaz informed his counterpart about the problems being faced at borders during transportation of wheat and flour from Punjab to KP. Punjab CS, Azam Suleman Khan assured that all necessary arrangements would be made to resolve these problems and instructions have been issued to relevant authorities in this regard. The chief secretary assured that as soon as data about flour mills that send supply to KP was received it would be shared with the relevant authorities to ensure free transportation of wheat and flour.

The KP CS said that all kind of cooperation would be extended to Punjab regarding cross-border movement so that wheat and flour smuggling could be controlled. After the price hike, the concerned authorities in Punjab have warned the chakki operators against 'unapproved' increase of Rs6 per kg in the price of wheat flour.

The food department suspended licences of 15 mills and withheld wheat quota of 180 others following reports that these were either selling in the open market the subsidised grain consignments received from the government or simply smuggling the supplies out of the province.

An emergency meeting presided over by Chief Minister Usman Buzdar took stock of the demand and supply position of flour in the province. Food Minister Samiullah Chaudhry joined in through the video link.

The officials decided to take immediate administrative measures to restore the officially notified rate of flour and mobilised the food department and police apparatus to monitor misuse of the subsidised wheat supplies.

The food department claimed that following the instructions it has acted against 376 flour mills imposing Rs90.6m fine and suspended licences of 15 mills and wheat quota of 180 others. On the other hand, tandoor owners have set a seven-day deadline for the government to control the flour price otherwise they will increase the rates of roti and naan. Naan-Roti Association President, Aftab Aslam Gill has given a seven-day ultimatum to the government to control the wheat products' prices otherwise they will be forced to shift the flour price hike onto their customers.

Sindh and Balochistan were facing a shortage of flour and a subsequent

increase in the price of the commodity. The mill owners accused the provincial food department of creating a wheat crisis in provinces.

## Halal Products: PHA ...

*Continued from front page*

including Gulf countries, United States, United Kingdom as well as European countries which increased the demand of Halal meat substantially. Tariq Masood further said that Pakistan being the fifth largest dairy producer and supplier of cattle had a huge potential in livestock, dairy and poultry sectors and could export Halal products worth \$5 to \$6 billion a year by adopting serious measures. Since the Gulf countries had lifted their ban on Pakistan poultry imports imposed in 2004 following bird flu incidents, it was the right time for Pakistan to make its mark in the Gulf neighbors and in the world, Tariq stressed.

Dr. Masood said record maintenance of the animals that were slaughtered, ensuring adoption of Halal procedures during slaughtering and packaging and training of the workers in this field was also very crucial to raise international demand for Pakistani Halal meat.

Dr Masood said PHA would place its logo and stamp on the Halal products after checking the quality and standard for a minimal fee of Rs. 5,000 which will be acceptable for export to different countries.

Dr. Tariq Masood informed that his authority was working on introducing a subject related to Halal products at the universities level which was direly needed for promoting awareness about this subject and motivate scholars to conduct research on permissible and non-permissible foods, non-foods and services scientifically and religiously.

It was unfortunate that the concept of Halal (permissible in religion) was just limited to the meat for a common man however it has a bigger scope as it covers medicines, cosmetics, procedures as well as dresses and shoes, Tariq said.

Being a Muslim, it was essential for us to use medicines, cosmetics, dresses, shoes, toilet and other items after ensuring that these had no such element which was not permissible in our religious, Masood said while terming it indispensable to conduct research on this subject for educating the citizens.

Dr. Tariq Masood informed that his authority would of course maintain a list of permissible and non-permissible packed items which are imported from other countries including snacks for children. He said the pilot project of establishing PHA in the federal capital will afterwards replicated by the provinces to educate citizens and utilize Halal products trade potentials. It is pertinent to mention here that PHA will secure international recognition of the Halal logo to build confidence in the Halal Certification system and Pakistani Halal products abroad. The authority would also

coordinate with national and international organizations for strengthening the Halal sector and promote and encourage establishment of libraries and laboratories for the purpose of developing Halal sector.

The DG said the purpose of this authority was to promote imports and exports, trade and commerce at inter-provincial and international level in Halal articles and processes.

## Fisheries in Pakistan

*Continued from page 10*

total import value. USA was the second main importer with a share of 17%, followed by Spain, France, Italy, Germany, and the UK, as per FAO. About 74 per cent of world fish production is used for direct human consumption, whereas the remainder (about 26 per cent) is utilized for various non-food products, mostly for conversion to fishmeal and oil. Pakistan has a total coastline of 1,090 km and a total fishing area of approximately 300,000 sq. km. Pakistan's fishing waters are termed as highly rich in marine life with a vast variety of species having commercial value. However, this potential is not reflected in the export earnings from the fisheries sector. The exports of "Fish and Fish Preparation" were at \$134.5 million (with a volume of 93,214 tons) in 2002-03, as per EPB (Export Promotion Bureau ).

Pakistan's exports of fishery products stand at about 0.25% of world exports. A rough estimate based on maximum sustainable yield figures, existing value addition, and foreign benchmarks, puts our total export potential from this sector at around US\$ 1.0 billion from existing natural resources. If we include the high potential area of aquaculture, our fisheries sector can yield even higher export earnings.

Pakistan's domestic consumption is termed as one of the lowest in the world, at 1.6 kg per person per year (compared to a world average of 16.2 kg per person per year). Hence, most of the produce is exported. There is a great dependence on a few species for exports, with very little value addition. Most of the fish catch is from marine sources, which comprises about 70% of total fish exports. Pakistan exports fish mainly to Europe, the US, Japan, and Middle-Eastern countries. On the coast of Pakistan, there are more than 30 species of shrimps, 10 species of crabs, 5 species of lobster and about 70 commercial species of fish including sardine, Hilsa, shark, Mackerel, Butterfish, Pomfret, Sole, Tuna, sea bream, Jew fish and Cat Fish, Shark, and Eel. Marine fishing is undertaken from right beyond the coast to 200 nautical miles into the sea.

### Fish Harbors of Pakistan:

Nature has blessed Pakistan with highly productive fish harbours of Pakistan. Karachi Fisheries Harbor is being operated by the Provincial

Government of Sindh and handles about 90% of fish and seafood caught in Pakistan and 95% of fish and seafood exports from Pakistan. Korangi Fish Harbo, on the other hand, is being managed by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock. Pasni Fish Harbor is being operated by the Provincial Government of Baluchistan and Gwadar Fish Harbor is under the control by the Federal Ministry of Communication.

The Department of Livestock & Fisheries can embark up on novel projects on fish processing to bring improvement in fish export, but little has been done in spite that fact that Pakistani fish is exported to nearly 50 countries around the globe. Unfortunately, much attention has been focused on Agri-farming, farming of livestock animals i.e. sheep, goat, cattle and buffalo including poultry. There is huge potential in fisheries and aquaculture, which has been largely ignored.

### Health Benefits:

Published data based on experimentation is enough to convince that fish is highly healthy food for health, for, Fish Is High in Important Nutrients including high-quality protein, iodine and various vitamins and minerals. Fatty types of fish are also high in omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin D. Fish May Lower Your Risk of Heart Attacks and Strokes. Eating at least one serving of fish per week has been linked to a reduced risk of heart attacks and strokes, two of the world's biggest killers. Fish Contains Nutrients That Are Crucial During Development Fish is high in omega-3 fatty acids, which is essential for the development of the brain and eyes.

Fish is a source of vitamin D which is highly good for healthy bones. Fish consumption is also linked to a reduced risk of autoimmune diseases, including type 1 Diabetes. Eating fish has been linked to a reduced risk of type 1 diabetes and several other autoimmune diseases. Fish May Help Prevent Asthma in Children. studies show that children who eat more fish have a lower risk of developing asthma. Fish may protect your vision in old age. People who eat more fish have a much lower risk of developing macular degeneration, a leading cause of vision impairment and blindness.

### Fisheries and Job Market

Fisheries and aquaculture have a great role in supporting farm families and the national economy of Pakistan. Most of the population of the coastal areas of Sindh and Baluchistan depend on fisheries for livelihood. It is also a major source of export earnings. Nearly 16000 families are involved in the fish industry in coastal areas alone. Indirect benefits are yet to be compiled. The government should pay more attention to the development of the fish industry as it can support family income and may an excellent source of earning foreign capital.

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18kg	4ml	200kg	40ml
22.5kg	5ml	250kg	50ml
27kg	6ml	300kg	60ml
36kg	7ml	350kg	70ml
40.5kg	8ml		
45kg	9ml		
	10ml		

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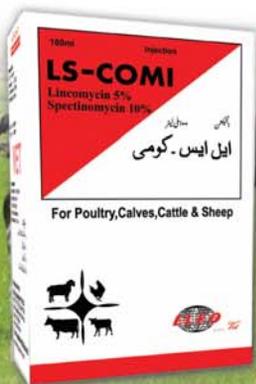


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**Poultry:** Treatment of mycoplasma involving E. Coli, airsacculitis and avian cholera.

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<b>Poultry</b>	0.2ml/kg once daily for 3 days
<b>Sheep &amp; Goat</b>	1ml/10kg I/M once daily for 3 days
<b>Dogs &amp; Cats</b>	1ml/5kg I/M at 12-24 hours. Interval upto 21 days.



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By **Syed Balaj Hussain**  
 University Of Veterinary And Animal Sciences,  
 Lahore , (Jhang Campus).

# Benefits of Bacterial based Nanorobotics against cancer cells



outside they cannot be affected by body fluids and chemicals. These nanorobots contain a small amount of chemical energy that becomes fuel for their survival when they combine with blood. The nanorobots contain the optimal quantity of nanomedicines that could be injected deep inside the tumor cells by the mean of pricking with needle. The navigation of nanorobots is controlled by using those bacteria that have magnetosomes effect in them. Magnetosomes are membranous structures present in magnetotactic bacteria (MTB). They contain iron-rich magnetic particles that are enclosed within a lipid bilayer membrane e.g Magnetococcus Marinus. Nanorobot then find out the way to reach its targeted site that is cancerous cells by the mean of magnetic field. Researchers can examine externally with the help of small size camera fitted inside the nanorobots to detect the location inside the body. The nanorobots only destroy cancerous cells without touching healthy cells and dispel out them through the body.

The cell is the basic unit of life. Our body contains multiple types of cells that perform different tasks in the body. Every cell contains a control house within it, known as the nucleus that contains chromosomes in it. The chromosomes are basically like a house full of genes that assign the future of that particular cell. This is done by providing information coded in proteins and RNA molecules due to which the cell performs different functions. For example, when the cells have to divide? When the cells have to go for death? What should be the nature of the cell? Usually the genes code information correctly but sometimes mutation occurs due to loss of the gene. This could be done due to the gene being damaged or they may be copied twice that leads to abnormal division of cells known as cancer. From past decades, the cancerous cells are treated through the chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

There are different side effects of these therapies e.g hair loss, fatigue, anemia, nausea, body temperature fluctuation. To eliminate these side effects the scientists are moving towards very fast, target-specific, painless and automated techniques known as nanorobotics. Nanorobotics are named due to their small size of 0.5 - 3 micron or 1-100 nm parts. The bacterial based nanorobots are designed in such a

way that, they can recognize the area of low oxygen. This is formed because the rapid proliferation of tumors cells leads to the formation of oxygen evacuate zone and these zones are very hard to treat. Hence, to make nanorobots more effective for the treatment, microsensors, actuator and therapeutic agents are used that are biodegradable naturally. Inside the nanorobots, there is vacuum environment and

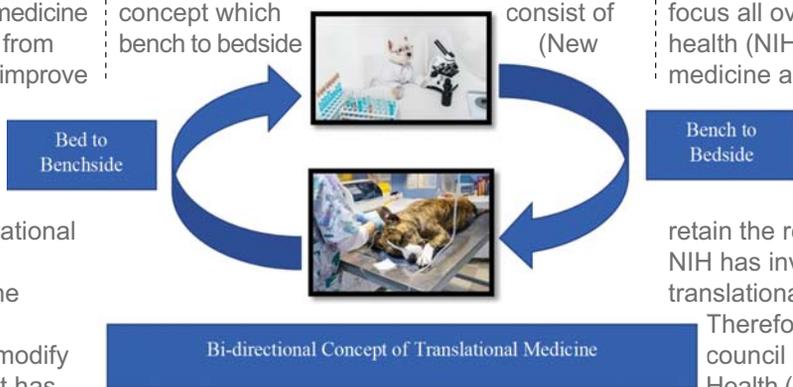
# Translational Medicine: An emerging concept in field of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. **Tanveer Ahmad, Dr. Saleem Akhtar & Dr. Adeel Ahmad**  
 Department of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences,  
 Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan

Translational medicine is a rapidly growing discipline in biomedical research. This aims to accelerate the discovery of new diagnostic tools and treatments by using a multi-disciplinary "bench-to-bedside" approach. According to John Hutton, translational medicine implements scientific research arising from laboratory into clinical tools. This could improve human as well as animal health by reducing morbidity and mortality rate. According to Barry S. Collier, the implementation of scientific knowledge to address health need is called translational medicine. Translational medicine is enhancing the efficiency of biomedical research and application, rather than attempting to modify existing processes within disciplines. It has emerged on the basis of information gathered from different investigative sources. Now due to this approach, human and animals biology and diseases are well understood and remedies more rapidly identified and tested. This eventually could result in improved patient health. In 1990, translational medicine was introduced but it gained worldwide attention in 2000. Basically, translational medicine term originated from bench to bedside concept. In 2003, the Institute of Medicine Clinical Research presented the model of translational research as a two-phase process of research progressing from basic science to clinical science and clinical

science to public health impact. Translational medicine implements laboratory discoveries into clinical applications to answer clinical questions to help in prediction, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases. Actually translational medicine converts the basic research achievements of medical biology into practical theory, technology and methods that will link laboratory and clinical practice.

Translational medicine is actually bi-directional concept which consist of bench to bedside (New



therapeutic techniques are developed through research and then tested clinically) and Bedside to bench (It provide feedback of new therapeutic technique which are tested clinically and also guides that how these can be improved). Because on Global level, life expectancy is rapidly increasing which results in increased prevalence of chronic diseases which lead to prolong and costly treatment. These chronic diseases continue to increase which result in more health care expenditure. Now a day's diagnostic techniques are also improved, therefore requirement for treatment of newly identified diseases is also increased. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is

supporting translational medicine for the development of new diagnostic techniques, vaccines and treatment for human being and animals. For this there should be good infrastructure of research labs, funding agency of domestic animal research, development of domestic animals disease record and development of techniques to perform clinical trials. This will result in increased number of veterinarians with translation medicine research focus all over the world. National institute of health (NIH), USA is also funding translational medicine and clinical research for institutional training, support for disease specific centers, clinical trials, molecular screening libraries and loan repayment program to attract and retain the researchers in this filed. Recently NIH has invested 36% of its budget in translational medicine and clinical research.

Therefore, Pakistan veterinary medical council (PVMC) and National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad should also provide support to promote translational medicine and clinical research because there is good infrastructure in universities and research centers in our country. This step may stimulate the vision for translational and clinical research so that these disciplines remain powerful engines for creativity. The translational medicine tries to synchronize new research in clinical practice and to combine clinical observation and quires into scientific suggestion in laboratories. Therefore, the goal of translational medicine is to help patients with new diagnostics techniques, medicinal products and new medical research for curing diseases and minimizing the treatment cost.



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**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

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**Cattle:** 600mg per 50 kg body weight daily for 3 to 5 days.

**Sheep & Goat:** 600mg per 50 kg body weight daily for 3 to 5 days.

**PACKING:**

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# Poultry: PABF and Lahore chamber discuss trade

AVN Report

**LAHORE** - A delegation of Pak-America Business Forum (PABF) led by its President Riaz Hussain recently met with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh to discuss business and trade related

instruments, processed food, financial services, retail sector, agriculture technology, poultry and meat.

Irfan said that Pakistan and United States were steady trading partners and USA came at 1st and 4th place among the top exporting and

in further strengthening the trade and investment relations between both the countries.

Irfan Iqbal also called for direct market access to Pakistani exporters in United States. He said that textile was the largest export sector to US from Pakistan. "We have the



matters. LCCI Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad and Executive Committee Members Haji Asif Sehar, Fayyaz Haider and Haris Attiq were also present.

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that Pakistan was a land of opportunities for foreign investors, who can invest here in potential areas including pharmaceuticals, leather, light engineering, surgical

importing countries for Pakistan around the globe.

LCCI President said that from 2016 on, trade volume improved from US \$ 5.4 billion to US \$ 6.4 billion and reached up to US \$ 6.8 billion in 2018, and it could be doubled through favorable policy initiatives. He hoped that interaction between Pakistani and American businessmen would go a long way

potential to double and even triple our export of this sector immediately by just giving direct access to US retailers and by encouraging value addition," he claimed.

On this occasion, the PABF President Riaz Hussain said that mission of Pak-America Business Forum was to foster, develop and expand strategic business alliance between US and Pakistan.

## 'Mother Nature comes to rescue'

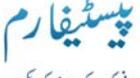
**Australia: Wild kangaroos celebrating the arrival of rain after months of extreme heat and**



**drought caused by destructive bush-fire in the country.**

**The blaze burned millions of acres of land and over 1.25 billions animals, as per reports.**



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130 ملین ڈالر مالیت کے پروگرام Rural Strengthening Markets for Agriculture and Transformation (SMART) سے الگ ہونے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اس پانچ سالہ معاہدے کا مقصد زرعی اصلاحات کے تحت گندم کی سرکاری خریداری کا حجم کم کر کے 2 ملین ٹن پر لانا تھا۔ اس اقدام کا مقصد آٹے کی قیمتوں میں

بعد ازاں فلور ملوں کو گندم کی فراہمی کے مرحلے میں بھی سبسڈی دی جاتی ہے تاکہ عوام کو رعایتی نرخوں پر آٹا مل سکے۔ گندم کی خریداری کے لیے بینکوں سے قرض بھی لیا جاتا ہے۔ ورلڈ بینک کی رپورٹ کے مطابق پنجاب نوڈ ڈپارٹمنٹ کمرشل بینکوں سے ہر سال 9 سے 12 فیصد شرح سود پر قرض لیتا ہے۔ حال ہی میں پنجاب حکومت نے عالمی بینک کے

## زراعت؛ مسلسل مشکلات سے دوچار اہم ترین اقتصادی شعبہ

لاہور: پاکستان میں زرعی شعبہ جسے قومی معیشت کی ریڑھ کی ہڈی گردانا جاتا ہے، طویل وقتوں سے مسائل سے دوچار چلا آ رہا ہے۔ ایک دور میں مجموعی ملکی پیداوار (جی ڈی پی) میں زراعت کا حصہ 53 فیصد ہوا کرتا تھا جو گھٹتے گھٹتے اب محض 18.5 فیصد کے لگ بھگ رہ گیا ہے۔

25.195 ملین ٹن رہی۔ وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتیں گندم کی ضرورت کے تناسب سے ہر سال پاکستان ایگریکلچر اسٹوریج اینڈ سروسز کارپوریشن (پاسکو) صوبائی حکمہ ہائے خوراک کے ذریعے گندم کی خریداری کرتی ہیں۔ پاکستان کسان اتحاد کے صدر خالد کھوکھر کہا کہ



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تمام اہم فصلوں کی امدادی قیمت کا تعین ناگزیر ہوتا ہے کیوں کہ اس سے کاشت کار مطمئن ہو جاتے ہیں انھیں اپنی فصل کی حکومت سے مناسب قیمت ملے گی۔

انھوں نے زور دیا کہ حکومت، بھارت کی طرح کاشتکاری سے منسلک ضروریات پر کسانوں کو سبسڈی دے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ اس وقت حکومت جی ڈی پی کے 0.2 فیصد کے مساوی سبسڈی دے رہی ہے جسے 2 فیصد تک بڑھایا جانا چاہیے۔ حکومت گندم پر تین طرح کی سبسڈی فراہم کرتی ہے۔ پہلے مرحلے میں وہ بیجوں، کھاد وغیرہ پر سبسڈی دیتی ہے اور امدادی قیمت کا تعین کرتی ہے۔

اکنامک سروے آف پاکستان کے مطابق مالی سال 2018-19 میں زرعی شعبے کی شرح نمو 0.85 فیصد رہی جبکہ ہدف 3.8 فیصد رکھا گیا تھا۔ تمام اہم فصلوں کی پیداوار اوسطاً منفی 4.43 فیصد رہی جبکہ پیداوار میں اضافے کا ہدف 3.6 فیصد مقرر کیا گیا تھا۔ جہاں تک حکومت کا سوال ہے تو اس کا دعویٰ ہے کہ کسانوں کو کھاد، بیجوں، زرعی ادویہ وغیرہ پر سبسڈی دی گئی اور کچھ فصلوں جیسے گندم کی امدادی قیمت کے تعین میں اس امر کو مد نظر رکھا گیا کہ ملک ان کی پیداوار میں خود کفیل رہے اور نوڈ سکیورٹی کا خطرہ ناپید ہو جائے۔ بہر حال اسٹیک ہولڈرز کی جانب سے امدادی قیمت کے تعین کے عمل پر شدید تنقید کی جا رہی ہے۔ اگرچہ حکومت ہر سال گندم کی امدادی قیمت کا اعلان کرتی ہے، اس کے باوجود مالی سال 2018-19 میں گندم کی پیداوار صرف 0.5 فیصد اضافے