

Dy. No. 07
Date 01-01-2024

MOST IMMEDIATE

No.1-1/2019/DFSC-II/Senate
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Food Security & Research

.....
Islamabad, the 29th December, 2023

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2ND MEETING OF WHEAT BOARD

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith minutes of meeting of 2nd meeting of "Wheat Board" for appropriate action (s) at your end.

2. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl: As above.

PA: to Addl: Secy Food
Food Department
Diary No: 27
Date: 03-01-2024

(IMTIAZ ALI GOPANG)
Food Security Commissioner-II
Tel: 051-9208707

Distribution:

- ✓ 1. Secretary, Food Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore.
2. Secretary, Agriculture Department Government of Punjab, Lahore.
3. Secretary, Food Department Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.
4. Secretary, Food Department, Government of Balochistan, Quetta.
5. Secretary, Food Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
6. Managing Director, PASSCO, Lahore.
7. Abdul Karim, Director General, Agri. Policy Inst. (API), Islamabad.
8. Muhammad Azam Khan, Director General, FSC&RD, Islamabad.
9. Hamid Mahmood, Joint Secretary, Power Division, Islamabad.
10. Muhammad Aizaz Akram, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Islamabad.
11. Syed Altaf Ahmed Shah, Director General, CRS, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
12. Qamar Zaman, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.

CC:

1. PS to Chairman Senate Standing Committee on NFS&R, Islamabad.
2. PRO to Minister for NFS&R, Islamabad.
3. PS to Secretary, MNFS&R, Islamabad.
4. PS to Addl. Secretary-II, MNFS&R, Islamabad.
5. Dr. Saleem Mohsin, Chief, NFDC, Islamabad.
6. Dr. Haroon Sarwar, Economic Consultant, M/o NFS&R, Islamabad.

Diary No: 07
Date: 01-01-24
Food Department

Send to
OAP

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F. No.1-9/2013/DFSC-II/Wheat Proc.
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Food Security and Research

Subject: - **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2ND MEETING OF WHEAT BOARD**

2nd meeting of the Wheat Board was convened on **Tuesday the 19th December, 2023 at 12:00 pm** under the Chairmanship of the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research in the Committee Room, Block-B, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the Provincial Secretaries for Agriculture and Food Departments, Managing Director PASSCO, Heads of attached departments of MNFS&R and representatives of focal persons nominated by Organization/Ministries and Officials of the Ministry. List of participants is attached as **Annex-A**.

2. The meeting started with the recitation of few verses of Holy Quran and after the introduction of the participants, the Hon'ble Minister for NFS&R welcomed the participants and asked the Food Security Commissioner-II to deliberate on the agenda items. FSC-II explained that in compliance with the direction of the Senate Standing Committee on NFS&R, Wheat Board was notified 17-01-2022 as a consultative forum to discuss on the issues pertaining to wheat crop in terms of availability of agricultural inputs, evaluation of cost of production, release and procurement process and availability of certified seed to the farming community. It was explained that the agenda of the meeting would be considered as given below:

- i. Sowing progress of wheat crop 2023-24;
- ii. Current wheat stocks position;
- iii. Projected carry-forward stocks 2024;
- iv. Wheat pricing trend;
- v. Progress on the import of wheat 2023-24;
- vi. Quantum of Strategic Reserves;
- vii. Any other agenda item

3. Provincial representatives endorsed the data of wheat crop sowing already submitted by their Crop Reporting Services. It was explained that against the target of 22.23 million acres, sowing over 22.14 million acres has been completed with the achievement of 99.63%. Comprising completion of 103% in Punjab, 95% in Sindh, 99% in KP and 70% in Balochistan. Early sowing was possible due to vacant land, availability of certified seed, favorable season and wheat campaign launched by the respective Provincial Agriculture Extension Departments.

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4. On the issue of projection of carry-forward stocks it was explained that around 2.50 MMT stock would be leftover at the start of new food year to be started on 01-05-2024. The carry-forward stock would be comprised of 1.44 MMT with Punjab, 0.74 MMT with Sindh, 0.10 MMT with KP, 0.046 MMT with Balochistan and 1.12 MMT with PASSCO. Punjab explained that exact quantum would be depending on Ramadan Package. It was explained that the exact assessment would be made at the start of new Food Year to be started on 01-05-2024.

5. The matter of import of wheat by the private sector was discussed in detail. FSC-II explained that in order to bridge the gap of 2.40 MMT, MNFS&R moved Summary to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet to import 1.00 MMT milling wheat through Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) with multiple options. The ECC on 23-10-2023 approved the proposal and allowed TCP to import 1.00 MMT of milling wheat for the year 2023-24 to maintain strategic reserves of PASSCO. The decision of the ECC was ratified by the Federal Cabinet on 30-10-2023. Simultaneously, the private sector was encouraged to import wheat into the country after fulfilling codal formalities and paying taxes. Import of milling wheat by the private sector has improved the situation of demand and supply and minimized the gap of shortfall of wheat in the country. Department of Plant Protection (DPP) reported that up till 17-12-2023 around 25 vessels of the private sector have so far arrived in the country carrying 1.269 MMT of milling wheat.

6. Current wheat stocks at the level of 6.48 MMT was reported by the Provincial Food Departments, comprising 3.72 MMT with Punjab, 0.82 MMT with Sindh, 0.20 MMT with KP, 0.089 MMT with Balochistan and 1.65 MMT with PASSCO. Provincial Food Secretaries showed their concern over the import of wheat by the private sector and proposed to stop it, immediately. Director Food Sindh informed that due to huge supply of imported wheat, the release price of wheat has been decreased from Rs. 4,600 to Rs. 4,400/40 Kg. It was apprised by the FSC-II that in order to bridge the gap of 2.40 MMT private sector has so far imported a quantum of 1.269 MMT and as per agreed commitments the private sector has aligned their vessels and it is expected that a quantity from 1.00 to 1.20 MMT would further be imported by the private sector till the end of February, 2024. Because of an equilibrium in demand and supply of wheat and in the wake of sufficient carry-forward stocks with the public sector the Federal Government has dropped the proposal of import of wheat by the public sector. Therefore, private sector has to fill the gap of addition import of 1.00 MMT which was supposed to be imported through TCP in the country.

Contd.../P-03

7. Representatives of Food Department, KP request the forum to increase ratio of local and imported from 50:50 basis. The AS-II, MNFS&R responded that the ratio has already been decided by the Federal Cabinet on the basis of available stock with PASSCO. Managing Director, PASSCO responded that so far 0.819 MMT of local and 0.802 MMT of imported wheat is available with PASSCO which already constitutes 50:50 basis for distribution amongst its recipients. MD, PASSCO requested the forum to resolve its issue of huge receivables of the recipient agencies and provinces. He explained that at the mean time receivable amounting Rs. 47 billion against KP, 32.2 billion against Punjab and 17.1 billion against Sindh are outstanding which should be paid at the earliest. The AS-II, MNFS&R supported the version of the MD, PASSCO and asked provinces to pay off their liabilities on account of wheat lifted from PASSCO, because of its delay a circular debt has been increasing which are affecting PASSCO's operations.

8. On the issue of strategic reserves it was explained that the ECC of the Cabinet on 30-08-2022 decided to re-fix the national wheat strategic reserves to the level of 2.00 MMT. The decision of the ECC was ratified by the Federal Cabinet on 06-09-2022. The decision was made in the wake of Covid-19 and uncertainty of food security situation due to Russia-Ukraine war. As Pakistan has imported a maximum quantity from the Black Sea region countries, therefore, the quantum of strategic reserves was enhanced. However, in order to maintain such a huge stock a considerable cost is required, therefore, Federal Government is taking appropriate steps either to reduce the quantum of strategic reserves to the level of 1.00 MMT or Provincial Governments of Punjab and Sindh may be asked to retain 0.50 MMT each.

9. Representatives of Food Department, KP request the forum to increase ratio of local and imported from 50:50 basis. The AS-II, MNFS&R responded that the ratio has already been decided by the Federal Cabinet on the basis of available stock with PASSCO. Managing Director, PASSCO responded that so far 0.819 MMT of local and 0.802 MMT of imported wheat is available

10. Meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair.



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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

2nd MEETING OF "WHEAT BOARD" HELD ON 19-12-2023 AT 12:00 PM

1. Federal Minister, M/o NFS&R, Islamabad. **(In Chair)**
2. Muhammad Asif, Additional Secretary-II, M/o NFS&R, Islamabad.
3. Imtiaz Ali Gopang, Food Security Commissioner-II, M/o NFS&R, Islamabad.
4. Dr. Saleem Mohsin, Chief, NFDC, Islamabad.
5. Dr. Haroon Sarwar, Economic Consultant, M/o NFS&R, Islamabad.
6. Hamid Mahmood, Joint Secretary, Power Division, Islamabad.
7. Secretary, Food Department Government of Punjab, Lahore.
8. Secretary, Agriculture Department Government of Punjab, Lahore.
9. Secretary, Food Department Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.
10. Secretary, Food Department Government of Balochistan, Quetta.
11. Secretary, Food Department Government of Sindh, Karachi.
12. Managing Director, PASSCO, Lahore.
13. Abdul Karim, Director General, Agri. Policy Inst. (API), Islamabad.
14. Muhammad Azam Khan, Director General, FSC&RD, Islamabad.
15. Muhammad Aizaz Akram, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Islamabad.
16. Syed Altaf Ahmed Shah, Director General, CRS, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
17. Qamar Zaman, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.
18. PRO to Minister, M/o NFS&R, Islamabad.





NO.SO (F-I).5-1 /2022
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
FOOD DEPARTMENT

Dated Lahore the 04th January, 2024

To

✓
The Director Food,
Punjab, Lahore.

1/1/24
Subject:

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2ND MEETING OF WHEAT BOARD.

I am directed to refer to the subject noted above and to enclose herewith copy of letter No. 1-1/2019/DSFC-II/Secy dated 29-12-2023 alongwith Minutes of Meeting of 2nd Meeting of Wheat Board received from Food Security Commissioner-II, Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Government of Pakistan.

2. I am further directed to request you to take further necessary action as per Minutes/Decision enclosed.


SECTION OFFICER (WHEAT)

o/c