

Minutes of First Meeting of the Steering Committee held on August 1, 2008 regarding Grant of State Land to Landless Harees in Sindh

Held in the Committee Room of P&D Deptt under ACS (D)
List of Participants attached at Annex-1

2. Meeting commenced with Bismillah-e-Rehman-ur-Rahim. Welcoming the participants, Chairman Steering Committee gave an overview of the approved policy on the program for Grant of State Land to Landless harees. The meeting was participated by the members of the Steering Committee and the Revenue Staff of four Districts namely; Larkana; Thatta; Nawabshah and Khairpur. Elaborating some of the broad features of the approved policy the Chairman/ ACS (D) emphasized that it was one of the most important programs of the Government and unlike past programs this has been planned to be a major poverty reduction program of the poor. Accordingly it was critical to ensure following three aspects of the program:

- The District Committees under the DCOs concerned had been created with primary objective of ensuring that the overall data regarding the State Land was accurate
- This Committee assisted by the entire Revenue staff in a District is to ensure that the Land is fully ready for grants and that:
 - It was free of all encumbrances which means that there is no illegal possession with any one else; its not under litigation nor is it a case of expired lease etc
 - Its physical status is such that its culturalable; it has availability of water; it is accessible (through katch or pacca) road. There is no issue of water logging and salinity etc
- Secondly, the Revenue Staff under the District Committee would also be responsible for ensuring that most genuine landless harees are targeted. In this contest the Revenue procedure would be followed however in order to ascertain and reconfirm that poor Harees are targeted, it has been approved by the competent Authority that Rural Support Programs Consortium (RSPCons) would be formally involved in the process of targeting genuine Harees.
- As per approved policy clear preference is to be accorded to the Women members of the Landless Harees

3. The Secretary Land Utilization too elaborated major features of the program and emphasized that the Revenue Staff must provide accurate assessment of the overall statistics and status of the State Land. The entire policy framework hinges on the condition of the land as the Government stands committed to providing land which can be immediately brought under cultivation. He stressed that all Districts are required to associate the RSPs in the process of targeting the genuine Harees and that subsequently the support package will be evolved through assistance of the RSPs. He maintained that Government intended to target the poorest of the poor and the District Committees with assistance of RSPs must ensure that this program is able to target the poorest of the poor.

4. Detailed discussions were held with the District Officer (Revenue) staff of the four participating Districts and after detail discussions following decisions were taken in the meeting:

Major Decisions:

- i. The District Committees would immediately hold meetings and prepare a detailed Work Plan for facilitating implementation of this program
- ii. The identified State Land (Deh-wise) would be divided in to the Lots of 8 Acres ideally in the shape of compact / contiguous parcels by District Revenue staff within a weeks time (by August 7, 2008).
- iii. All Districts would prepare Deh-Wise maps of the State Land to be granted and for each Deh, detailed information would be prepared listing out following features:
 - a) Free from encumbrances, including litigation, claim or encroachment
 - b) Irrigation /water availability
 - c) Access to Road (katcha/pacca)
 - d) Availability of Drainage (water logging & Salinity)
 - e) Renewable of old leases (Cancelled Grant)
- iv. In case of non availability of Maps; the DO Revenue will approach Director Surveys and Settlement, Government of Sindh for preparation of these Maps on most urgent basis. The Director Surveys and

Settlement would extend full support for early actions under this program.

- v. After Ascertaining condition/status of Land; the Land which is ready for grants would be shortlisted for grants in first phase. The DO Revenue would contact the Irrigation Deptt for providing Share List for the Land to be granted. Names of Land Owners to be provided subsequent to finalization of Land Grant
- vi. District Officer (Revenue) will also get in touch with EDO Agriculture regarding various issues relating to preparation of land such as land leveling; clearing the bushes etc.

5. Decisions Regarding District Larkana and District Khairpur

The Steering Committee examined the preparation status of District Larkana and District Khairpur and it was decided as under:

- i. **Both the Districts' Committees would hold urgent meetings and prepare the Work Plan.**
- ii. **The District Committees would re -ascertain the preparedness and issue Schedule by making announcement in Newspapers; through Radio and general publicity. All efforts will be made to give wide dissemination to this program through announcements from Mosques; announcements through mobile vehicles etc.**
- iii. **Application from Landless Harees would be received from August 10 to September 10, 2008. No Application would be entertained after the expiry date.**
- iv. The Applications so received would be forwarded to RSP for providing inputs on the eligible Harees on the basis of Poverty Score Card.
- v. Based on RSPs input, List of eligible beneficiaries would be placed before the Provincial Steering Committee for approval.

- vi.** The Entire Process is to completed by third week of September 2008 for initiating Grant of Sanads by last week of September 2008.
- vii.** RSPs, in the meanwhile, would examine details of land which would be provided by District Officer (Revenue) subsequent to this meeting and evolve a Support Package on the basis of a cooperative model.
- viii.** The Draft support package so prepared by the RSPCons would be placed before the Provincial Steering Committee for discussion and finalization.

6. Decisions Regarding District Thatta and Nawabshah

- i. The District Committee Thatta to hold meeting and take actions as at para 6 above. As soon as the District Committee ascertains its preparedness and confirms availability of ready land, the Steering Committee will approve issuance of Schedule for District Thatta
- ii. For District Nawabshah, it was informed that approximately 25,000 acres of land is available in only one Taluka namely Daur. A large part of it was sandy dunes and while there were some water courses however, the Irrigation Deptt would need to examine the status of availability of water. It was decided that DO Revenue will refer matter to Irrigation Xen and endorse copy to Secretary I&P who would have this subject examined

7. General Decisions

- i. The next meeting would be organized on Friday August 8, 2008 at 10 pm. Remaining Districts would also be invited to participate
- ii. Based on broad features reflected in the Minutes of this meeting, all the remaining District Committees to begin preparation
- iii. All District Committees must ensure full coordination with the RSPs for which they can contact Mr. Ghiyasuddin at Tel #
- iv. All District Committees must work on a Strict Timeline which ensures that land is available for disposal by next two to three months. Based on the preparedness of Districts, the Provincial

Steering Committee would approve dates for announcement of Schedule and collection of Applications.

- v. The Land Utilization Department would issue a general advertisement of the program however Specific Schedules will be Announced separately by each District Committee/ DO Revenue
- vi. The Secretaries I&P Deptt and the Agriculture Department would issue instructions to their lower formations for close coordinantion and full assistance to District Committee in this program

List of participants

1. Mr. Abdus Subhan Memon , Secretary, Land Utilization, BoR
2. Ms. Naheed S. Durrani, AFS (B&E), Finance Department
3. Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Additional Secretary (LU), BoR
4. Mr. Ghias M Khan, Manager (Spl Project) SRSO
5. Mr. Khalid Mujtaba Agha, District Officer Revenue, Larkana
6. Mr. Fazal Karim Khatri, Sr. Program Officer, SRP, Finance Department
7. Mr. Khadim Hussain Channa, Section Officer (Admn) LU, BoR.
8. Mr. Ghos Bux Jatoy, Mukhtiarkar, Larkana