

Newsletter

Launching Ceremony of Gomal Zam Command Area Advocacy Program (GZAP)

Introduction

Regional Institute of Policy Research and Training (RIPORT) arranged launching ceremony of GZAP at Pearl Continental Hotel Peshawar. The ceremony was attended by government line departments, communities of D.I.K & Tank districts, NGOs, INGOs and other stakeholders.

The project will be carried out in 7 UCs of Tank and 3 UCs of D.I.K, where farmers will be educated regarding canal irrigation system and increase in agriculture production due to Gomal Zam Dam.

Purpose of ceremony

- To get the support of various stakeholders before project intervention
- To know the perception of communities of D.I.K & Tank about the project in a larger platform

GZAP Objective

- a) Setting up a consultative institutional mechanism based on community & Govt. stakeholders for addressing agriculture/irrigation related challenges including conflict mitigation.
- b) To undertake research for identifying the agriculture/irrigation related challenges in the target area.

Panelist of Ceremony

The ceremony was chaired by Secretary Planning and Development Department (P&DD) Mr. Asad Ali Khan, Mr. Sadaqat Ullah Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Mr. Humayun Khan community representative, Ms. Ansa Amir Program Officer SGAFP – USAID and Chairman RIPORT Mr. Khalid Aziz were the speaker of the ceremony

Highlights of the day

Ceremony started with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by welcome note of **Chairman RIPORT**, during his speech he briefly introduced the project and how it will be beneficial to the local community. He further added that RIPORT will do advocacy GZAP project and educated the local farmers about transition from Rod Kohi to canal irrigation

system. He also shared the point mentioned in Letter of Support (LoS) provided by P&DD KP.

A research would be conducted by hiring consultants from different sectors with rich experience in Agriculture. The will build understanding about the current irrigation system, cropping pattern, canal irrigation, best water use practices, new seeds, demonstration of increase in food production, socio economic condition based on agriculture production. At the end of his speech he thanked P&DD, former secretary planning Mr. Saleem Jagra, Mr. Mujahid Saleem USAID and RIPORT staff for their efforts.

Community representative from Tank addresses and discussed the historical background of Rod Kohi and need of canal irrigation system for the areas. He said that the first feasibility report was made by the British Empire in 1914 and its second report was made in 1935.

After 1947 three times feasibility report was made but no focus was given but after community demand the work on Gomal Dam was started. He requested that training to the farmers should be arranged and also to provide them with modern equipment of agriculture for poverty reduction in the area. He appreciated the effort of SGAFP – USAID.

Representative from Administration of District Tank in his speech said that the project of GZD will be beneficial to the local community. It will also help to improve the socio-economic condition of the community. He added that RIPORT intervention at this phase will helpful for the local community and in conflict mitigation.

Representative from SGAFP briefed the participants about the concept behind the funded program and how RIPORT was selected through a competitive process. She assure that SGAFP will provide their technical assistant to RIPORT where needed.

Representative from P&DD said that water is an important component for agriculture that we are wasting by not storing it. He requested the communities of D.I.K and Tank to utilize the Dam water in a proper way to get benefit from it. He appreciated RIPORT efforts for undertaking the project and said that it will be a kind of public private partnership. He added that P&DD has recently approved a project for canal water distribution system of GZD related to agriculture development and that RIPORT advocacy would be a kind of pilot phase for the upcoming larger program of GZD by KP.

RIPORT advocacy program is most important through with communities will be mobilized on best water use practices, cropping pattern, increase in production and income and it falls in provincial development vision of KP and such initiative would lead to mega development project.

He also congratulated chairman RIPORT and assured him that P&D will support RIPORT in this project. He added that if RIPORT successfully undertakes this project P&DD will support RIPORT in future. Furthermore, P&D has owned this project and formed steering committee that

will be informed about project activities provide its valued suggestions and help RIPORT to solve problems if any.

