SUCCESS STORY

Facilitating Inter-Provincial Linkages in Pakistan’s Agriculture Sector

Successful agriculture technology transfer across different sectors in Pakistan calls for information exchange and close collaboration with the federal and provincial governments.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Pakistan Agricultural Technology Transfer Activity’s (PATTA) strategy is to collaborate closely with the Provincial Agriculture Departments to support agricultural technology transfer in their respective regions and facilitate smooth implementation of activities. As part of this continuous collaboration with government departments, PATTA organized an exposure visit of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government officials to Punjab province to share knowledge on how PATTA’s private-sector partners are managing their agriculture and livestock technology businesses.

In the consultative sessions held with KP officials, PATTA developed broader thematic areas to adopt during the visit, including new agricultural initiatives of the Punjab Government, such as promotion of: good agricultural practices, improved seeds, nursery certification systems, and extension services through call centers.

Based on these consultations, a four-day exposure visit was planned from February 17-20, 2021. The delegation was comprised of ten government officials and was led by Dr. Israr Ahmad Khan, KP Secretary Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries. Facilitated by PATTA’s Chief of Party and Director Agriculture Technologies, the visit focused on strengthening linkages between the KP Agriculture Department and agribusinesses operating from Punjab and exploring options to support KP farmers in improving productivity through modern technologies.

The unique four-day activity included tours to machinery production facilities, a model slaughterhouse, on-site demonstration of high-tech precision agriculture technologies, and meetings with Punjab government officials. The delegation was briefed on the Government of Punjab’s SMART agriculture initiative which includes issuance of soil health cards, soil profiling of farmers’ fields, data recording, and traceability analysis. They observed data collection system and live streaming of the farmers’ queries and responses of technical experts at the call center. The Punjab government officials also presented the International Organization for Standardization (ISO): 17025 analytical laboratory certification systems and its applications for the traceability of soil, water, agrochemicals, and fertilizer analysis.

“I appreciate USAID-PATTA for arranging this exposure visit, and I assure collaboration and facilitation to USAID and agribusiness partners on behalf of KP Government.”

Dr. Israr Ahmad Khan - Secretary Agriculture, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The exposure visit will have a long-lasting impact as PATTA continues working with agribusinesses to enhance awareness of agricultural technologies among farmer communities and address the key issues that hinder their acceptability and use. By the end of 2021, the activity will benefit 132,506 small farmers from technology adoption through increased awareness and engagement.