



EXPOSURE VISIT OF JOURNALISTS

BILLION TREE AFFORESTATION PROJECT

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA



(30th June, 2019 to 3rd July, 2019)

BACKGROUND:

National REDD+ Office in coordination with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Forest Department organized an exposure visit of mainstream journalists from print and electronic media to KP Billion Tree Afforestation Project (BTAP) from 30th June -3rd July, 2019. The objective of the visit was to inform and sensitize the journalists on the project and its achievements. Detail schedule of the BTAP visit is attached as **Annex-I**. Twenty (23) journalists from mainstream electronic and print media participated (list of participants is attached as **Annex-II**).

DAY TO DAY PROCEEDINGS

Day 1: 30th June, 2019:

All the participants gathered in National REDD+ Office at 2.0 PM, wherein Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah National REDD+ Coordinator (NRC) welcomed them and briefed them on Pakistan REDD+ Preparation Project and the purpose of visit. He informed that BTAP implemented by KP was one of the mega forestry initiative in the history of Pakistan which was successfully implemented by KP Forest Department and based on its success a similar up scaled project has been designed by the federal government for implementation at national level in collaboration with the provincial forestry departments. The purpose of the visit was to observe, document and disseminate lessons learnt from this project. He emphasized that media can play a vital role in spreading positive stories and creating public awareness on environmental issues. Later on, Mr. Pervez Manan National Forest Inventory Expert of National REDD+ Office updated the participants on schedule of the visit and then the group left for their first destination at Peshawar.



Day 2: 1st July, 2019:

BTAP Briefing at Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar:

A briefing on BTAP project was organized at Pakistan Forest Institute where Mr. Niaz Ali Khan Chief Conservator of Forests KP Central & Southern Region, Mr. Amjad Ali Shaikh Director General Pakistan Forest Institute, Mr. Shafqat Munir Conservator of Forests Southern Circle, Mr. Tehmasip Project Director KP BTAP and Dawood Afridi DPD KP BTAP greeted the participants. The participants were taken for a visit to PFI Museum.

After the recitation of Holy Quran the participants Mr. Tehmasip Khan, Project Director KP BTAP delivered a detail presentation on the project. He shared the summary of achievements as under:

Activity	Target of plants(million)	Achievement of plants (million)	Area treated (ha)	% of area added to forest area
Enclosure	600	732	306983	1.30
Plantation (all categories)	200	311	263213	3.1
Sowing			23096	
Farm Forestry	200	165	-	1.9
TOTAL	1000	1208	593292	6.3

After presentation Mr. Niaz Ali Khan CCF and PD BTAP responded to several queries raised by the participants following which the participant visited the GarhiChandan site tackled under BTAP.



PFI Museum



Presentation on BTAP, PFI Committee Room

Gari Chandan Plantation Area:

The Gari Chandan plantation area is located in Peshawar Forest Sub-division and covers an area of 800 ha. Mr. IshtiaqUrmer, Minister of KP Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department (FE&WD) along with Secretary KP FE&WD also met the journalists during the field visit. Mr. Gulzar-Ur-Rehman, DFO Peshawar briefed the delegation on Gari Chandan afforestation area in detail encompassing the whole process right from site selection to planting and then maintenance. Various tree species were planted based on the physiographic characteristics which included but not limited to *Acacia modesta*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Dodonaea viscosa* (Sanatha), *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (Eucalyptus), *Pinus roxburghii* (Chir Pine), *Callistemon viminalis* (Bottle Brush), *Dalbergia sissoo* (Shisham) etc.

After presentation, Syed Ishtiaq Urmer, Minister of KP Forestry, Environment & Wildlife welcomed the participants briefed them on the Green Growth Initiative and BTAP successes and requested the journalists to portray the reality. Ms. Marvi Sarmad, a senior journalist expressed viewson behalf of the group. She acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the KP Forest Department and thanked National REDD+ Office and Ministry of Climate Change on arranging the exposure visit which according to her has clarified a lot of misperceptions about the project. Mr. Niaz Ali Khan, Chief Conservator KP in his vote of thanks offered his thanks to the participating journalists and the Ministry of Climate Change for arranging the journalist visit.



The delegation was taken inside the plantation area. The DFO Peshawar addressed onsite queries of the participants. The journalists also interviewed members from local community, laborers and officials of Forest Department.



Gari Chandan Plantation Peshawar

Following the field visit, the delegation left for Mingora and halted there.

Day 3: 2nd July, 2019:

Malakand Forest Division:

The group left from Mingora at 9.00 am and reached Divisional Forest Officer Malakand Office at Batkhela at 10.30 AM, where Mr. Muhammad Riaz Chief Conservator of Forests Malakand Forest Region and Mr. Asghar Khan DFO Malakand welcome the participants. After recitation from Holy Quran and brief introduction the Chief Conservator of Forests, Malakand delivered a presentation on targets and achievements under BTAP in Malakand Forest Division. These are summarized as under:

Activity	Achievement
Enclosures	83 No.
Departmental Plantations	7913 Ha
Woodlots	3100 Ha
Departmental Nurseries	22.74 Ha
Private Nurseries	779 No.
Farm Forestry	14.08 million Plants
Mass Events	71 No.

After presentation, CCF Malakand and DFO Malakand responded to queries and comments by the participants. The participants visited Tube Nursery measuring 2 acres established at the Divisional Office having 918000 plants, with diverse species composition, including Chir Pine (60%) Shisham (20%), Phulai (10%), Eucalyptus (5%) and Pistachio (5%). Nursery was well maintained and well stocked.



Divisional Office Tube Nursery Malakand

The delegation also visited Bare-Rooted Nursery at Sakhakot spread over an area of 2 hectares having poplar plants. Nursery was found well stocked and vigorous.



Sakhakot Bare-rooted Nursery Malakand

Field Visit to Hero Shah Block Plantation:

The journalists' delegation visited Hero Shah sub-valley Malakand, wherein they observed block plantation over an area of 4500 Hectares having major species of Eucalyptus, Phulai, Dodonaea with pit and inter-sowing of indigenous species. The plantation was very well established, vigorous and well maintained. Mr. Ghulam Murtaza SDFO Dargai briefed the delegation in detail encompassing the whole process right from site selection to planting and maintenance. Later on, CCF and DFO Malakand addressed queries of the participants. The journalists also interviewed local community representatives, laborers and officials of Forest Department. Following the field visit, the participants left for Peshawar and halted there.



Hero Shah Plantation Area Malakand

Day 4: 3rd July, 2019:

Plantation along Hazara Motorway:

The group left for Haripur at 9.00 am. On way to Haripur the group visited plantation along the Hazara Motorway. Mr. Azhar Ali Khan Chief Conservator Hazara, Mr. Ijaz Qadir Conservator Lower Hazara, Mr. Malak Sagheer Conservator Watershed, Mr. Rizwan Ahmad Kazmi DFO Haripur and Mr. Ibrar Ahmad DFO Daur Watershed received the delegation. After a brief introduction, Malak Sagheer, Conservator of Forests, Watershed briefed the participants about the volunteer sowing activity carried out by officers and staff of Hazara Forest Region along the both sides of Hazara motorway for the land stabilization. Different species were sown namely Sanatha (*Dodonaea viscosa*), Babul (*Acacia nilotica*) etc having very promising results. CCF Hazara responded to onsite queries of the participants.



Hazara Motorway Sowing Area

Visit to Baldhair Block Plantation:

The journalists visit Baldhair Afforestation area of Haripur, wherein Chief Conservator of Forests Hazara briefed the delegation on the project activities and the process. The area extends over 102 Hectares having main species of Chir pine, Eucalyptus, Robinia, Dodonaea and Phulai with inter-sowing of various indigenous species. The plantation was vigorous and well maintained. The CCF Hazara and CF Watershed addressed queries of the participants. The journalists also interviewed local community representatives, laborers and officials of Forest Department.



Baldhair Block Plantation Haripur

Visit to Nakapa Tube Nursery:

The group visited Nakapa Tube Nursery raised over an area of 1 Hectare having major species of Chir Pine. The nursery was well maintained and well stocked. After a detailed onsite briefing by CF Lower Hazara Mr. Ijaz Qadir, the CCF Hazara addressed queries of the participants before the delegation left for Islamabad.



Nakapa Tube Nursery Haripur

Debriefing to Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change in MoCC:

At the conclusion of visit a debriefing was held in Committee Room of the Ministry of Climate Change which was chaired by Mr. Amin Aslam Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change and attended by Mr. Hassan Nasir Jami Secretary, MoCC who welcomed the participants. Mr. Ghulam Qadir Shah, National REDD+ Coordinator provided a brief introductory overview of the visit and invited Ms. Marvi Sarmad, Senior Journalist to share field observations on behalf of the group. Ms. Marvi gave a detailed overview of the visit. She expressed that this was the first ever visit to BTAP project which has provided media with an in-depth understanding of BTAP project and achievements in the face of hard criticism over it. She expressed her satisfaction on the project; however, raised concerns over non-payment of salaries to the labors who were involved in various project activities. She also shared that much criticism on Eucalyptus has also been clarified during meetings with local communities who see it as an important species which has generated good economic returns for them. She remarked that the field visit has revealed that BTAP has been a very good initiative. She added that it was important to provide access to information to media through website, as media was interested in knowing the details of monitoring and benefit sharing

framework employed under the project. Finally, she thanked MoCC for arranging the visit as it has clarified a lot of misconception about the project in their minds and requested for more such visits for the media to show the factual position to the general public.

Mr. Hassan Hayat, Producer from PTV remarked that the visit has contributed to perceptual change and the interaction with the staff of KP Forest Department has revealed that everyone was committed to this initiative. He recommended award for the field staff who have implemented the project activities with dedication.

The other journalists raised several queries related to the 10 Billion Tree Project and frequent fire incidents which has resulted in loss of lives and whether government was allocating budgets for establishing forest fire frightening mechanism.

Responding the observations and queries raised by the journalist, Mr. Amin Aslam, the Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change informed that 10BTTP have been conceived at a total cost of Rs. 125 billion with 50% share each by the federal and provincial governments committed over the next four years. He confirmed that for the implementation of Phase-I of the project RS7.5 billion have been allocated and will be released soon after the approval of scheme by CDWP on 4th July, 2019. He assured that funds release will help in clearing the pending liabilities of all those who were involved in the project. He informed that climate change was also contributing to increasing frequency of fire incidents and assured that under 10BTTP firefighting mechanism will be up-graded. He added that Billion Tree Project of KP was a revolutionary project which turned the tide not only in terms of ecology but also contributed in social development through livelihoods generation. He added that KP BTAP has gained international fame. IUCN, WEF, WWF have recognized the achievements under the project through third party verification and the project is the 1st to have achieved its commitments under the Bonn Challenge in the shortest period of time. Mr. Amin Aslam added, "I went recently to the United Nations General Assembly session on climate change wherein the President has taken keen interest in BTAP and they are mulling over to take it as one of the best model projects across the world".

The journalists during their interaction with the Advisor to P.M showed keen interest in the constructive projection of the first ever mega forestry initiative. They mentioned that the exposure visit has helped them attain firsthand knowledge and practical

aspects of BTAP project and also buster the myth of eucalyptus being mongered by the critics of the project.



Meeting ended with vote of thanks.

Annex-I

SCHEDULE FOR THE EXPOSURE VISIT OF THE JOURNALISTS TO KP BILLION TREE AFFORESTATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES From 30th June to 3rd July, 2019

Date:	Timing	Particulars	Venue	Remarks
30-6-2019	14:00-15:00 HRS	Assembling of Participants at National REDD+ Office	National REDD+ Office, Adventure Complex, Garden Avenue, Shakarprian, Islamabad	
	15:00 HRS	Departure from Islamabad to Peshawar	Stay at Peshawar	
01-7-2019	09: 00-10:00 HRS	Presentation on BTAP by PD BTAP	CCF/PD BTAP Office Peshawar	
	10:00-14:00 HRS	Visit to BTAP Activities in Peshawar Forest Division	Peshawar Forest Division	Pack Lunch in Field
	14:00-18:00 HRS	Journey from Peshawar to Mingora	Stay at Mingora	
02-7-2019	09:00-10:15	Journey from Mingora to Malakand	DFO Malakand Office	
	10:15-10:45	Presentation/ overview on BTAP activities in Malakand Forest Division	DFO Malakand Office	
	10:45-14:00	Visit to BTAP Activities in Malakand Forest Division	Malakand Forest Division	Pack Lunch in Field
	14:00 to 17:00	Journey from Malakand to Peshawar	Stay at Peshawar	
03-7-2019	09:00-11:00 HRS	Journey from Peshawar to Haripur	Haripur	
	11: 00-14:00 HRS	Visit to BTAP Activities in Galies/ Haripur/ Daur Forest Division	Haripur	Pack Lunch in Field
	14:00- 16:00 HRS	Journey From Haripur to Islamabad	Ministry of Climate Change , Islamabad	
	16:00- 18:00 HRS	Meeting with Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change	Ministry of Climate Change , Islamabad	

Annex-II**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS: JOURNALISTS EXPOSURE VISIT TO KP BTAP
30.06.2019 – 03.07.2019**

S.No	Name and Designation	Media House	Contact NO.
Electronic Media			
1.	Hassan Hayat Khan Producer Program	PTV	03225100203
2.	Badhur Ali Cameraman	PTV	
3.	AjmalKiani Producer	Capital TV	03335515611
4.	IbrarulHaq Cameraman	Capital TV	-
5.	Mr. JawwadAsghar, Sub-Editor/Reporter	Radio Pakistan	03215369783 03334262884
6.	Zulfiqar Gurmani Bureau Chief	KTN	03003416164
7.	Saqib Cameraman	KTN	-
8.	Nair Ali Senior Analyst	News One	03005552208
9.	M. Naveed Cameraman	News One	
10.	Ayesha Naz Reporter	Aaj News	03215097910
11.	Rozina Reporter	24 News	03465042149
12.	Shabir Hussain	Express TV	03465180733
Print Media			
13	MarviSarmad Special Correspondent	Daily Times	03215366122
14	Tahir Amin Repoter	Business Recorder	03339877174
15	Nadeem Tanoli Reporter	Daily Peak Point	03017777874
16	Mukhtar Reporter	NNI News	03145283492
17	Ghulam Abbass Senior Journalist	Pakistan Today	03452740522
18	ImranaKomal Reporter	92 News	03077353308
19	Qalb Ali Reporter	Dawn	03225154900
20	Shehzad Yousafzai	News Watch	03005050603
21	Rizwan Haider Beat Reporter CC	Daily Patriot	03335343391
22	Muhammad Azam Chief reporter	Daily Pakistan	03015254148
23	Ali Jabir Malik Reporter	APP	03005158965
MoCC			
24	Pervez Manan NFI Expert	NRO, MoCC	03445003377
25	Kalim Khan Admn	NRO, MoCC	
26	Sohaib Umer Media Coordinator	MoCC	03470151402