

# Over 4000 UCs water quality assessment completed



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Water quality assessment survey of more than 4,000 Union Councils has been completed up to June 2007, said annual performance report (2006-07) of Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR). According to the report, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources

(PCRWR) and Ministry of

Environment on July 14, 2006 for co-operation in research, sharing facilities and dissemination of knowledge and information under the Project entitled 'Clean Drinking Water for All'.

The project has been shifted to Ministry of Industries, Production and Special Initiatives from October 12, 2007. Under this agreement PCRWR has initiated water quality assessment survey for the installation of water filtration plants in 6,574 union councils in the four provinces, AJK and Northern Areas.

The survey includes field and laboratory analysis of water samples for 24 water quality parameters and evaluation of suitability of sites for the installation of water filtration plants. Water quality assessment survey of more than 4000 Union Councils has been completed up to June 2007.

According to the report, Pakistan Council of Research in water Resources has played its role as national apex research organisation by undertaking and promoting applied as well as basic research in all disciplines of water sector, in the various allied fields namely irrigation, drainage, surface and groundwater hydrology, tubewell technology, desertification control technologies, rainwater harvesting and storage, glaciology, water conservation, water quality, etc. PCRWR made its contribution in national economy by finding solution of problems in water sector.

The Council is pioneer in developing/introducing various technologies ie low

cost tile drainage systems, skimming wells, locally fabricated low cost soil and water measurement instruments and devices, low cost drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting system, artificial groundwater recharge techniques, desertification control, groundwater mapping, low cost arsenic removal techniques and water quality testing kits.

The Council has been declared as a focal point to perform surveillance and monitoring of drinking water and is now helping to implement a national program for the provision of safe drinking water. Moreover the Council has developed strong working relations with national, regional and international organisations in various disciplines of water resources.

According to the report, the major collaborative organisations are: United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), United Nation Children Fund (Unicef), Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), International Hydrological Programme for Hindukush-Himalayan Region (HP-HKH), Department for International Development (DFID), United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), International Waterlogging and Salinity Research Institute (IWASRI), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (Parc), Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and agricultural and engineering universities.

Counting its achievements, PCRWR report said that the development and evaluation of household filters for removal of arsenic, turbidity and bacteria is major achievement.

Meanwhile, a network of water resources has been established in the Cholistan Desert covering 26000 sq km including rainwater harvesting ponds, deep tube-wells, reverse osmosis plants etc, as a result it is estimated that more than 6.0 billion rupees are saved annually, which were lost due to reduction in livestock production in the form of mortality, diseases, reduction in meat and milk as well as damage to the crops during migration of human and livestock from desert to the irrigated areas.

Furthermore, it designed and developed efficient and economical water pumping system from the deep ponds, evaluated agricultural water management techniques like rainwater harvesting, trickle irrigation system, sprinkler irrigation system, bed and furrow irrigation, skimming well, tile drainage technology etc, Soil moisture instruments (Flumes, Evaporation Pan,

Tensiometer, Gypsum Block, Soil Water Extractor), Water Level Indicator, Salinity Sensor, Bubbler, Water Sampler, Sprinkler, Rain gun etc.

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