



International Water
Management Institute



British
High Commission
Islamabad



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Consultative Workshop with Okara Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Water Issues

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023
Venue: Usmania Restaurant, G.T. Road, Bypass Okara,
District Okara, Punjab, Pakistan

Background

Pakistan is the eighth most vulnerable country to climate change according to Germanwatch's Global Climate Risk Index 2021. Heavy reliance on groundwater for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses has led to the Indus River Basin aquifer becoming the second most over-stressed underground water reserve in the world. According to Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), over 60 per cent of irrigation, 70 per cent of drinking water, and 100 per cent of industry in Pakistan is dependent on it.

Approximately, over 90 per cent of Pakistan's water resources are used in the agriculture sector, which directly employs 42 per cent of the total labour force. Pakistan is actually exporting its water resources, thus making its economy 'a water economy'. Over 26 per cent of crop-related groundwater depletion in Pakistan is due to crops exported globally, the majority of which (82 per cent) is embedded in rice exports.

Water availability and potential shortages have direct implications on the industrial sector in district Okara. The textile industry is a significant contributor to the local economy and includes the production of cotton yarn, cloth, and garments. District Okara has a growing leather industry, which is producing leather products such as shoes, belts, and bags. The food processing industry in district Okara is also growing and includes the production of juices, snacks, and dairy products.

To ensure water security, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan is implementing the Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Programme Component 1: Climate Resilient Solutions for Improving Water Governance (CRS-IWaG) supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK. The programme aims to improve water governance in Pakistan by strengthening national capacities for implementing climate-smart interventions.

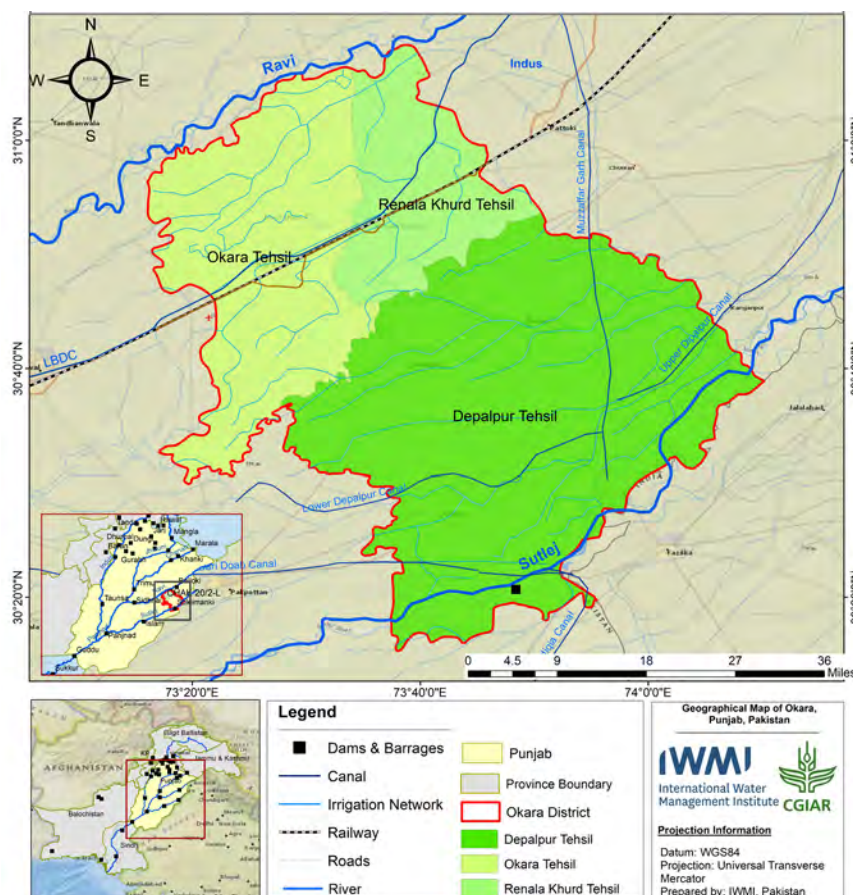


Figure 1 Okara is the pilot district of WRAP Programme Component 1: CRS-IWaG

About the workshop

IWMI Pakistan is organizing a “Consultative Workshop with Okara Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Water Issues” to identify the issues and challenges faced by industrial water users in district Okara.

Okara is the pilot district for WRAP Programme Component 1: CRS-IWaG, which aims to improve water governance in district Okara through interventions in the water sector to benefit various water users, including the industrial sector.



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Figure 2 The textile industry in district Okara contributes to the local economy and produces cotton yarn, cloth, and garments

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023

Timings: 15:30 – 18:00 PKT

Venue: Usmania Restaurant, G.T. Road, Bypass Okara, district Okara, Punjab, Pakistan



Photo by Antonio Grosz on Unsplash

Figure 3 District Okara is famous for livestock and dairy products and employs significant labour force

Objectives

The workshop has the following objectives:

- Identify the issues and challenges faced by industrial water users in district Okara.
- Identify potential strategies for the industrial sector to cope with the new water regime in Punjab.

Target Audience

Okara Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Agenda

Timings	Activity	Focal person
15:30 - 16:00	Registration	
16:00 - 16:05	Recitation	
16:05 - 16:20	Welcome remarks	Dr. Mohsin Hafeez <i>Country Representative - IWMI Pakistan and Project Leader, Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Programme Component 1: Climate Resilient Solutions for Improving Water Governance (CRS-IWaG)</i>
16:20 - 16:30	Welcome note	Ch. Fayyaz Zafar <i>Executive Committee Member Okara Chamber of Commerce & Industry</i>
16:30 - 17:30	Water availability challenges and coping strategies by industrial sector	<i>Dialogue with the members of Okara Chamber of Commerce & Industry</i> Moderated by Dr Abdur Rehman Cheema <i>Regional Researcher - Water Governance and Institutional Specialist, IWMI Pakistan</i>
17:30 - 17:40	Vote of thanks	Ch. Habib Ul Haq <i>Executive Committee Member Okara Chamber of Commerce & Industry</i>
17:40 - 18:00	Prayer break	
18:00	Networking and dinner	

For more information about WRAP Programme Component 1: CRS-IWaG

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