



**A week of action on Food and Climate justice**  
**World food day-2014**



**Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum**

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**"A week of action on Food and Climate justice"**  
**World food day -2014**  
**Family farming:Feeding the world and ,caring for the earth**  
**Pakistan Fisherfolk forum**

**Concept:**

The 2014 World Food Day theme - Family Farming: "Feeding the world, caring for the earth" - has been chosen to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farmers. It focuses world attention on the significant role of family farming in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.

The UN General Assembly has designated 2014 "International Year of Family Farming." This is a strong signal that the international community recognizes the important contribution of family farmers to world food security.

Despite global efforts to curb the number of hungry and malnourished in the world, the figures are continuously climbing. Around the globe, 925 million people are hungry and malnourished (FAO 2012). In spite of positive economic indicators heralded by many countries in Asia, the region is home to the most number of hungry people with 578 million (FAO Hunger Report 2011) with women and children as the most vulnerable.

In October 2012, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) once again focused to the observance of the World Food Day (WFD) to raise awareness and understanding of approaches to ending hunger. Ironically, on the eve of the WFD is the International Rural Women's Day to recognize the critical role and contribution of rural women in food security and rural development. In the same month, FAO Committee on Food Security (CFS) meets for its 39th session and the issue of hunger and malnutrition will be on its agenda once again without recognizing that hunger and poverty are rooted in the lack of access to productive resources, particularly land, water and seeds.

With regard to local context that Sindh despite being richest in natural resources is highly food insecure province in Pakistan. "Despite having 14 million acres under crop cultivation in Sindh, over 71 per cent households in the province are food insecure — the highest level of food insecurity among the provinces and region. Of these food insecure households, 34pc are food insecure with moderate hunger and 17pc are food insecure with severe hunger, according to a report drafted by the provincial planning and development department

Eight of Sindh's all districts, most of them in the southern part of the province and in its coastal belt were identified as having 'extremely poor' conditions for access to food.

More alarming fact is that already fragile condition of food security is prone to affects of climate change. Sindh is very vulnerable the affects of change. Increasing acidification and sea level rise has been affecting marine life and poses threats to the coastal community. "Like other parts of the world, there is an evidence of sea level rise along the Pakistan coast also"

Sindh along with entire Pakistan has witnessed effects of severe weather such as 2010 flood and recent drought in Tharparkar desert and its impacts internal migration, destroyed livelihood, crop, livestock and infrastructure.

A report of metrological department depicts climate change situation in this way " Compounding

these problems are the expected increased risks to the coastal areas and the Indus deltaic region due to sea level rise, coastal erosion, saline sea water intrusion and increasing cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea. The Indus Delta is already located in the intense heat zone and any rise in temperature would impact human health due to heat strokes, diarrhea, cholera, vector borne diseases; and human settlements due to frequent floods, droughts and cyclones. In this region, temperature is likely to increase by 4°C till 2100 and rainfall is going to be highly variable on temporal and spatial scale. The deltaic region would not only be affected by the local weather conditions but also weather activities upstream Indus and over the neighboring sea in the south due to climate change

### **What we planned !**

Keeping all this in consideration, PFF on occasion of world food day 2014 has planned to mark week of action on Food and climate justice. Various activities ranging from mobilization meetings, public awareness raising ,walks, dialogues, family farmers short marches,theaters would be held. The entire galaxy of activities would be colored with cultural flavor and charm. The activities would be conducted in various districts

### **Press Conference: Launching of Week of action**

Food insecurity affects 60 per cent of Pakistan's population, agricultural scientists to help increase food production to feed the rapidly growing population. Risks associated with climate change increase communities exposure to poverty, hunger, disease, mortality and displacement. These risks are more disastrous for the communities that are already at risk to frequent natural hazards and have vulnerabilities that will expose them more to the impacts of climate change. In contrast to well-known single hazard events floods, earthquakes, climate change is a multi-hazard phenomenon. The likelihood that there would be extreme weather events in the future, areas that are prone to droughts might experience flash floods is a new quality of risks posed by climate change.

The quotient of Family Farming is diminishing time to time, Family Farming contributing 70 percent food of the world. United Nations declared 2014 as International Year of Family Farming in 2012. In relevance to International Food Day, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum celebrating International Food Day as a Week of Action: Food Security, Family Farming and Climate Justice from 10th to



16th October 2014, various activities will be held in different Districts of Sindh. Opening of Week of Action: Food Security, Family Farming and Climate Justice, was held at Press Club Hyderabad, Chairperson of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum Muhammad Ali Shah and other members of PFF had a Press Conference regarding campaign.

During the Press Conference Muhammad Ali Shah said that, one billion family farmers facing food insecurity. Millions of families are starving hunger, though they are producing food for the world.

While addressing media persons, he said, about 28 per cent of the total land of Pakistan is cultivated, and nearly 80% per cent is irrigated through canals or tube wells. The water from three sources varies widely among different canal command areas. There is also a level of inequalities along the distribution system, due to influential management problems leading to tail shortages and unreliability of water supply. He moreover said, rising temperature is big threat to world, Sindh not received monsoon till October, and it is big sign changing of climate. Climate Change leads to Food Insecurity and things are going worst to worsen.

He emphasized that, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum initiated a week-long campaign for the Food Security, Family Farming and Climate Justice, throughout the campaign PFF workers will mobilize and motivate the people of remote areas of Sindh. Various activities like Rallies, Seminars, Mobilization, Motivation, Launching of International Voluntarily Guidelines and other activities will be held from 10th October to 16th October, 2014. Mr. Jamil Junejo Manager Programs, Majid Thahim Manager DRR, Amjad Mallah PFF Leader and Muhammad Mallah PFF Leader were also present in the Press Conference.

## Rally on Family Farming, Food Security and Climate Justice

Pakistan is a disaster prone country and is frequently exposed to natural hazards like floods, drought and cyclones. These hazards when combined with the vulnerabilities in the shape of poverty, exclusion, inequality and inappropriate political decisions and actions make people more susceptible to the impacts of hazards. The agricultural sector is most vulnerable to climate change and changes in cropping and productivity as a result of weather changes will affect the poor rural communities of the country. Thus any decline in the sector in terms of shifts in production and price patterns will add to the vulnerabilities of the people.



Risks associated with climate change increase communities' exposure to poverty, hunger, disease, mortality and displacement. These risks are more disastrous for the communities that are already at risk to frequent natural hazards and have vulnerabilities that will expose them more to the impacts of climate change. In contrast to well-known single hazard events floods, earthquakes; climate change is a multi-hazard phenomenon. The likelihood that there would be extreme weather events in the future, areas that are prone to droughts might experience flash floods is a new quality of risks posed by climate change.

The economy of Pakistan is primarily agrarian. The production system which is predominantly irrigation uses 97 percent of the available river water and provides over 90 percent of the agricultural produce.

As Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum celebrating World Food Day, throughout the week from 10th October to 16th October 2014, a rally was held on 10th October 2014 in Jamshoro District. Peasants and Fishers was part of the rally. Marchers chanted slogans "Eco-Terrorism must be stopped", "Food is Right-Food for All" and others. The rally was led by General Secretary of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum Mr.Saeed Baloch, Mr. Mustafa Gurgaize, Maria Soomro. The mass of rally was 210 persons, walking starts from Taluka Hospital Kotri, ended at AllahWala Chowk Kotri of District Jamshoro, at the end of rally Mr. Saeed Baloch during the oration said that, owing to climatic change the agriculture sector is also being affected because of which food insecurity is existing, however, if available water reservoirs are used properly and modern technology of irrigation is adopted the formers would be able to irrigate their lands and could produce maximum food. In total, 80 districts out of 120 are vulnerable to food insecurity. More than half of the moderately and reasonably secure districts are in Punjab.

He moreover said, the intrusion of salt water in the coastal areas of Pakistan is a serious threat to food security in these areas. The main causes for this phenomenon are a major reduction in water flow reaching the sea, reducing the salinity, and with this flow an important silt load.

In the context of Sindh, Fair Indus river system water policies should be developed and implemented based on valid Sindh-Punjab agreements to ban construction of any structures upstream. A National and Provincial policy on food security should be developed by the concerned authorities. A new agreement should be developed that must recognize the internationally accepted lower riparian rights and ensure sufficient water availability in the lower basin and the ecological balance of the River Indus and the Indus delta. International monitoring and dispute arbitration should be included within the agreement to resolve disputes within the boundaries of international laws. Mr. Mustafa Gurgaize, Mr. Muhammad Mallah and Mr. Amjad Mallah also orate to rally-mass.

### **Rally on Family Farming, Food Security and Climate Justice at Thatta**

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum celebrating World Food Day, throughout the week from 10th October to 16th October 2014, a rally was held on 10th October 2014 in Thatta District. Peasants and Fishers was part of the rally. The slogan "Food is Right-Food for All" echoed and. The rally was led by Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum Chairperson Muhammad Ali Shah led the rally.



A Food Security Policy can be a major impetus to public action that would eradicate hunger: promptly; and perhaps even reduce malnutrition: significantly and for all time to come. This can only be so when society considers it intolerable that the country has been generating income per capita high enough to have zero impoverishment, yet remains plagued by mass hunger. Until this fact is acknowledged seriously by the state, there is no reason to be optimistic about Pakistanis achieving the right to food anytime soon.



He said Once the Indus Delta, a magnificent creation of the mighty Indus river, was the most prosperous, fertile and beautiful piece of land .The delta was such a vibrant and prosperous region livestock mushroomed, agricultural production boomed, fruits farms were plentiful, fresh water gushed and variety of fish species existed. However, there came an unfortunate man-made turn of events that drastically decreased the flow of water into the delta and subsequently destroyed it and changed it landscape entirely

Before the development of an irrigation system on the River Indus, the entire flow passed through Sindh's plains to the Arabian Sea, culminating into 17 branches called creeks and forming the seventh largest delta of the world. An annual flow of over 180 Million Acre feet (MAF) carrying a silt

load of about 440 million tons passed through Indus to the Arabian Sea. This vast flood plain area followed the course of the River Indus, extending 5 to 160 km. on either side.

One of the worst losses that has been incurred is sea intrusion and subsequent socio, economic, ecological and human crisis in delta. It has critically affected human settlements, agriculture, livestock and flora and fauna. It has deprived the deltaic people of various Human Rights, such as Right to Food, Right to Water, Right to Work, Right to Shelter and above all Right to Life.

## **Short March on family farming, family fishing at Badin**

A large number of fisher women and peasants women, with community youth hailing from different coastal villages and inland waters of the Badin District on Saturday joined the short march to mark the week of action to celebrate World Food Day. The march was organized by Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF).

The march started from Kazia Staff and culminated outside of press club Badin



PFF chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah, Manager programmes Jamil Junejo, Maria Soomro, Mithan Mallah, Omar Mallah, Sajan Mallah and others led the gathering. Community women and youth carrying banners and placards were shouting slogans to promote family farming and family fishing to save sources of livelihoods.



The majority of participants belong to traditional small scale fishermen, farmers and herder families, who are facing threats to their lives and sources of incomes. The area people criticized the ignorant by the policy makers and legislators in terms of development. That is why the living conditions are quite worst, as the people do not have access to basic facilities like potable water, education and health.

PFF chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah said Badin being located at the mouth of disaster might be wiped out from the earth, because of ignorance by the government authorities. He said the district once home to scenic lakes, wetlands and natural waterways, now can be seen turning in to barren lands and brackish lakes with no attraction for the birds and wildlife species.

“We want to ask the government to realize the fact and give the people back their sovereignty of food and natural resources. Sea is approaching fast, eroding hundreds of acres fertile land, pushing people to migrate from one place to the other in search of better living,” Shah said, while speaking to the crowd.

He said the community people should themselves see how the fish catch is declining in the sea and lakes around them. There is no more attraction for these people to live. The community women have lost their sources of incomes and sitting idle at homes. Now they are most vulnerable at the face of climate change.

## Short March on family farming , Sangher

On the occasion to celebrate the week of action on Food and Climate Justice. Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum Sanghar organized a short march led by Mr. Saeed Balouch Central General Secretary PFF. Hundreds of fishers and farmers including women, men and children attended that rally to highlight the issue of food insecurity in Sanghar. Number of civil society activists also participated the rally. Rally was started from Sabzi Mandi Sanghar. Participants having banners and play cards with different slogans that short march was culminated outside press club.



Mr. Saeed Blouch during his speech told the importance of the day, he said in Sindh climate change is the mega issue there is a shortage of food in Sindh due to climate change. He also highlighted that distribution of earth on inequality basis. He further added that dominance of influential person on water and lakes also affects it.

Further he shared fourteen million acre irrigation from which we get crop and wheat crop but after that 71% household have food issue, they don't have sufficient food to eat. And 17% household facing hard hunger situation daily in Sindh. He said on the event of celebration week of food we present this issue front of Sindh govt to work on this issue.

Mr. Ramzan Mallah Central Deputy General Secretary said 2lac 80 thousand acre is irrigated after that our citizen are facing drought of food in Sanghar. Should work on food security policy and should follow the policy for the protection of food at district level.

Mr. Abid Ali Mari said to protect irrigated earth to change in industrial and housing societies its best to make policy and should go on policy.

Miss Maria Soomro said this will be good to make policy for right utilize of food.

On this occasion Mr. Ayoub Mallah, Jabbar Junejo, Sabir Jarwar, Sajjad Kundher, Yaqoob Brohi and Jam Ghulam Qadir speech on the event of rally.

## Launching of Right to food and nutrition watch

Right to food and nutrition watch was launched at national level in Pakistan. The launching was made on 13 October, 2014.

The event attracted a large number of agriculturists, researchers, academia, writers and media persons, including Prof Ismail Kumbhar of Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Suleman G Abro of Sindh Agriculture Forestry Workers Coordinating Organisation (SAFWCO), Shabnam Baloch of Oxfam



GB, Nasir Panhwar of Center for Environment and Development (Cead), Mumtaz Mangi of FAO, representative of inland fishermen Mustafa Meerani, senior writers Speakers advocating the right to food called to formulate policy mechanism to stop commercialization in farming and fishing sectors to avoid the threats of food insecurity in the country.

They were discussing at a launch of 'The Watch -2014', a journal brought out by a consortium of right to food and nutrition, represented by 16 international organisations and networks. The report launched by Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) on Monday at Hyderabad Press Club on the occasion of its week-long activities to celebrate the World Food day.

PFF chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah said: "In the past we had family farming and family fishing in Pakistan's Sindh province but then the factory trawlers and corporate farming had wiped out the traditional fishing and farming mechanism." "In result the small-scale fishermen and farmers remained victims of this. It happens because of wrong policies designed by the successive governments without taking the community voice," said the PFF chairperson.

He justified that 1.5 billion family farmers are associated with their traditional work globally, contributing more than 70 percent product. But now he said specifically in the developing countries like Pakistan family farming is being replaced by the corporate farming.

Shah said it is for the first time the civil society organisations like Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum had got access to reach the world forums to incorporate their recommendations for policy guidelines and mechanisms at global level. It is the result of social movements with the communities' mobilisation at grassroots level and now the representatives of farmers and fishermen can attend the world forums.

Prof Ismail Kumbhar said there should be a food security authority at province level or social watch group to monitor the status of food availability and affordability. He said the food may be available but it is not safe for human consumption. Hence, there is need to see the food at dining table is safe.

Shabnam Baloch of Oxfam GB said the food is enough globally to meet requirement of entire world population. But there is the issue of inequality and bad governance in the government systems. That is why majority of the people do not have access to food and living vulnerable life in their countries.

She said Pakistan constitution guarantees to provide food to each citizen but due to inequality and bad governance the people are living below the poverty line.

Realising the significance and importance of report, PFF being active member of the consortium has launched the Watch Journal here in Pakistan.

Earlier, Jamil Junejo introduced the objectives of the report launch, linking it with the immediate need of world scenario at the face of climatic change and its impacts on food resources.

Nasir Panhwar said Pakistan should design action plan to ensure safe food availability to every citizen. Because, he said, land grabbing has become the global issue and major parts of the land are being utilised for commercial purposes.

He said food availability and affordability can be seen separately, because for majority of people food items may be available but they cannot afford to buy the same. This is the main problem, which can be resolved through policy mechanism. Poverty does not allow the people to buy food and die in the hunger.

The speakers pointed out that this situation may lead to further anarchy, law and order and increase suicide rates in the society. It was the common understanding that the threats to food security are visible. Hence, the policy makers should design strategy to cope with the fears and avoid the disaster of malnutrition among minor children

## **Seminar on food and climate justice Badin**

A seminar on climate Justice and Food Security was held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in Gym Khana Hall Badin with 217 (153 Male and 64 female) participation of community members, NGOs, Media and Line Department and Layers.

Program was started with calling the guest on stage from following guests:

Mr. Mohmmad Ali Shah chairman of Pakistan Fisher folk Forum and World Forum of Fisher People, Mr. Mustafa Meerani Senior Vice Chairperson, Mr. Essa Member of Layers Association, Mr. Tanveer Arain President of Badin Press Club, Ms. Keenjhar Memon Information Officer, Mr. Khadim Talpur activist of Anti LBOD Tahreek, Mr. Hyder Panhwar from NGO and Ms. ABida Jamali Associate of PFF.

All speakers highlighted the issues of water bodies, Indus delta and Ramsar Sites.

Mr. Mohmmad Ali Shah chairman of Pakistan Fisher folk Forum and World Forum of Fisher People shared back ground of the day, further he shared that after abolish the contract system in Sindh, and we are working against the contract system in water bodies of Punjab. PFF is the only organization who is working for Indus River, Dams and against the contract system on water bodies.

Talking on highbred seed he shared that in past all people used the handmade seeds, this highbred seed is introduced by industrialist, this seed reduced the capacity of soil.

Discussing on family forming he shared that 1.5 people of world are involved in Family Forming, 58% population of Pakistan is un secured regarding the Food while in Sindh 71% population is un secured.

8 Districts of Sindh are extremely facing the issue of Food Security, Badin is also from them, while Badin is contributing 60% of Oil and Gas in production of Pakistan.

LBOD is responsible for destroying of Badin.

Further he said that need to struggle hard like Fishermen were stands against the Rangers.

### **Theater Performance:**

Theater was presented by theater group of PFF Badin against the LBOD and Highbred seed. There was a nice script, audience understand the issue very well after theater performance.

### **Food Stall:**

For promoting the family forming a stall of local food items was decorated, it was a nice stall, all local vegetables and seeds were presented.



## Dialogue on FAO guidelines on small scale fisheries

PFF held a dialogue on FAO guidelines on Small scale fisheries endorsed recently by FAO council. The dialogue was held 15 October, 2014 at hotel Indus Hyderabad. Experts on Wednesday warned against vanishing seafood sources of both freshwater and the sea in Sindh province, despite being home to 1260 fresh waters, river streams and canals.



They were speaking at a dialogue on reviewing FAO guidelines on small scale fisheries, organized by Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) at a local hotel. They said all the world known Ramsar sites and wetlands either have depleted few years back or fighting the war of survival due to pathetic approach of the government.

They urged upon the government to incorporate the valuable points of FAO guidelines to protect the sources of incomes of hundreds of fishermen, who derive their livelihoods from lakes, rivers streams, ponds and canals through their forefathers.

Not only fish, the water vegetables, which once were demanding food sources for the communities now have declined, forcing the people to shift hands to alternate sources of incomes, said Mustafa Meerani, vice chairman Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum.

Meerani, belongs to Manchhar Lake, is known expert keeping eye on the inland water, status of fish stocks, water quality and vegetation.

He said water vegetables with rich nutrients were main sources of taking food by local fishermen residing at the inland waters long ago. But now not only land grabbing, but lake grabbing has also become the issue, which is enough for eye-opening of the policy makers. The government by launching major projects without taking the local people in to confidence has spoiled the natural resources.

For instance, oil and gas exploring companies have identified the fresh water bodies for installations and disturbing the local people, specifically fishermen to migrate to safer places.

He said Manchar, the biggest lake of the province, presently has lost its scenic beauty and water quality. Residents travel hundreds of miles away in the search of better living, leaving their children and elderly parents back at ancestral abodes.

Nasir Panhwar of Centre for Environment and Development (CEAD) said fish is consumed in Sindh largely as compared to other provinces of Pakistan. But now, he said, it seems the people are losing their access to even fish due to lack of affordability. The majority of people cannot have two meals a day in many areas of the Sindh province.

He said there might be some waters wherefrom small scale fishermen produce more fish but they do not get benefits because of exploitative market mechanism.

He suggested to promote community based fish, forest and farming in Sindh to end the hunger and fear of food insecurity.

PFF chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah said earlier research findings showed that fish could be only source of food when entire (food) sources will be depleted from the world. But the recent researches show that the fish stocks have already depleted fast due to over fishing by factory trawlers.

Quoting reports, Shah said 80 percent of total seafood comes from continental shelf, which are made by freshwater river streams. But since the rivers are chained by mega water projects, the natural seafood sources have depleted.

He said factory trawlers have got control of fish stocks all over the world, forcing fishermen to live without proper nutrients.

Zulfiqar Halepoto gave technical input on voluntary guideline on small-scale fishing, saying the capitalists have influence on the Pakistani government and governance system. In result, the poor people are losing their resources. He said these guidelines can be adopted over all the sources, including fishing, farming, forests and land management to avoid fears of food insecurity.

Punhal Sario of Sindh Hari Porhiat Council said the demand for having right to food and alleviation of poverty should become the slogan for the entire civil society of Pakistan, linking it to the global movements to protect the resources.

He said now civil society has got space to the major forums of the world, hence social movement is only way out to force the government to implement the laws to alleviate poverty. Because the poverty has destroyed the values set by our forefathers. The poverty has spoiled the cultural values. The rulers have imposed floods, manmade disasters and starvation through destroying natural resources. That is why the mineral-rich Sindh people are facing starvation and hunger and displacement.

Dr Aneela Naz Soomro of Sindh University, Noor Ahmed Jinjhi, Waheed Jamali, Dr Ali Murtaza Dharejo, Mustafa Gurgaiz and Jamil Junejo also spoke on the occasion.

## **Dialogue of Climate Justice and Food security**

PFF after held a dialogue of Climate Justice and Food security on 16<sup>th</sup> October,2014 at Hotel Beach Luxury,2014 at Karachi.

Muhammad Ali Shah ,Haroon Shah Rizvi, Director Marine Fisheries Department, Ishaq Manghrio, a Sindh folklore writer, Prof Ismail Kumbhar of Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Dr Sono KHangharani, CEO of Hissar Foundation Karachi, Saeed baloch, Mustafa Gurgaiz, Fatima Majeed and others also spoke on the occasion.

PFF Chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah in his presentation on the 'global oceans grabbing and threats to food security' said that seas are being encroached for commercialization, causing displacement of local communities because of losing sources of incomes. He said the poor are victims of inequality. These people do not have access to safe and proper food sources. They are being deprived of their right to natural resources. He said the projects of increasing urbanization like development of Zulfiqarabad city in Thatta district is ocean grabbing, which may affect hundreds of families to lose their source of incomes and migrate to other areas. He said the leading corporate sector and multinational companies are in the line of investment on commercialization in the coastal areas and will affect the people and their natural resources. Shah said the government is issuing licenses to factory trawlers for fishing, which are exploiting fish stocks.



This exercise defiantly will affect the small-scale fishermen Secretary Sindh Food Department Saeed Ahmed Awan said wheat stock available to Sindh is 1190000 tons. This year the government has increased support price and purchased more than 1200000 tons and benefitted the growers.

He said this while speaking at a seminar on Climate Justice and Food Security to observe The World Food Day, organized by Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) on Thursday at a local hotel.

The Secretary Food admits the wheat deficit usually and said the government imports annually. But this year the province has enough stock to meet the need.



He said the government had distributed 40,000 bags free of cost among the people of Thar and planning to supply more wheat to the people in the desert, who are facing acute drought and starvation.

Speakers urged the government to design the policy keeping in mind the depleting natural resources including lands, lakes, forests and grazing fields to avoid threats to food resources in the country.

Tauseef Alam, Chief Meteorologist, Meteorological Department of Pakistan in his presentation on climate change and its impact said Pakistan is among a few countries facing larger effects of weather pattern change. For instance, he said, Siachen glaciers are melting fast and, may cause water scarcity in the country.

He said the recent monsoon status and changing rain frequency is enough for eye opening that how it affects the people, where the heavy rains cause flooding. Some areas receive heavy rains over 600-millimeter, that pose disastrous. He said urbanization and industrialization are contributing factors affecting the nature and ecology.



Dr Aly Ercelan, renowned researcher said there is a need to be united for the protection of rights of fishermen. For example, he said Gizri fishermen faced problems of fishing, because of encroachment on their traditional routes to landing sites near Karachi's Defence Housing Authority. Originally these fishermen have been there through their generations. But when the government allotted land to certain development scheme, that affected the lives and livelihoods of these families. A news appeared which said that the Board of Revenue had provided the land to DHA, where fishermen's



jetty was to be built. But later the DHA violated the rule and stopped the fishermen not to use jetties.

He also highlighted the issue of coal-fired plants at Jamshoro, which will dump waste in to the River Indus. This will play havoc with the communities, residing along the river. The communities should take the matter and join PFF campaign to save ecology and their lives.

Karamat Ali, Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER) said the governments have a weapon of malnutrition to kill their people in the South Asia region. He said if we see the history, these nations were living together without feeling religion and ethnic recognition. But then we saw how these nations were divided and break their unity. Now these nations again are fighting each other, putting the poor people vulnerable to this unending war.

He said the seas, lands, glaciers are common resources, which presently are bone of contentions within neighboring countries. Pakistan and India cannot draw the line between their sea territories to avoid conflict, which is affecting the poor fishermen of both sides.

He said Line of Control (LOC) is not controlled by any government. Both, Pakistan and Indian military forces are exchanging firing and killing the citizens residing both the sides. He said despite the fact of the poverty and malnutrition these governments are spending billions of rupees to strengthen their weapons and nuclear power..



Barrister Qazi Athar sharing his learning said in the world people know about their natural resources and own the same because they have linked themselves to such resources, specifically land and

water. But the people here in Pakistan do not know about their resources and rights. That is why they do not show ownership on the natural resources.

He said: “water scarcity has become the main problem in Sindh, because our lifeline River Indus has been made dumping site of industrial and urban waste, polluting the water.”

Qazi said it seems use of mineral water has become a growing trend in the society. He urged upon the need to improve water quality and stop dumping the waste in to the water resources to avoid water shortage and discourage this trend.

Abdul Rauf, Deputy Director Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) portrayed the issue of vegetables being cultivated in the river beds, including Malir River of Karachi, using sewerage and industrial waste. It is hazardous that these vegetables are being used by the unaware citizens. He told the audience that SEPA has taken action and found the source of sewerage water for cultivation and compiled reports with suggestions to stop this exercise to avoid impacts on human health.

He said factories should be forced to ensure emissions as per the protocol and stop violations of law to reduce the effects of climate change.

He said sea level is on rise because of the stoppage of fresh water to stream in to the sea. In result, it has affected badly the soil fertility in the entire coastal zones. Apart from this, due to lack of awareness the community people are cleaning mangroves forests, posing threats to their own life and sources of livelihoods.

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