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DRAFT

PUNJAB WATER POLICY

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT



SEQUENCE

- Back Drop
- Issues & Challenges
- Objectives
- Main Policy Actions
- Way Forward



Back Drop

- Rapid population growth, over exploitation of groundwater and climate change
- After 18th Amendment Provincial subject
- Punjab Water Policy in line with National Water Policy
- Implementation of Climate Change Policy challenged in the Lahore High Court in 2015
- One of the pivotal action of climate change policy pertains to water sector
- Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah in January 2017 gave direction for early approval of Punjab Water Policy



Approval of Draft PWP

Draft Punjab Water Policy approval is solicited from Cabinet Committee to;

- Address Punjab water issues in holistic manner
- Sustainable management of water resources
- Emphasized by:
 - Lahore High Court (LHC)
 - World Bank (SMART program; one of DLI action is water policy approval) & ADB



Policy Formulation

- **The first draft of PWP was prepared by Dr. Shahid Ahmed, Water Expert (Retd. from NARC)**
- **Finalized by Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Hashmi, Ph.D (USA), Advisor & Senior Faculty Member, NUCES-FAST University, Ex-Vice President & Head Water Resources Division, NESPAK**
- **Consultation from Reference reports:**
 - **WAPDA Vision 2025 (WAPDA, 2003)**
 - **Asian Bank Water Sector Strategy Report (2002)**
 - **Pakistan Water Economy Running Dry (John Brisco's 2005)**
 - **Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) for Indus Basin (WWF's 2012)**
 - **A Productive and Water Secure Pakistan (FODP 2012)**
 - **Draft National Water Policy 2017 (MOWP 2017)**



Water Sector Challenges

- Water Stress is Increasing
- Over Exploitation of Groundwater
- Degradation of Land and Water Resources
- Increasing Flooding and Drainage Issues
- Low Water Productivity
- High Risk of Climate Change
- Poor Governance and Trust
- Financial sustainability
- Poor Database and Water Informatics



Objectives

- Crux: *“provide policy guidelines for the sustainable management of water resources”*
- Specific objectives are outlined as below:
 - Increase Water Availability
 - Improve Water Quality
 - Manage Groundwater Abstraction
 - Adaptation to Climate Change, Floods and Droughts
 - Rigorously Pursue Demand Management
 - Improve Water Governance
 - Ensure Financial Sustainability
 - Develop Database and Water Informatics
 - Address Trans-boundary Issues

Main Policy Actions

- Increasing Surface Water Availability
- Sustainable Groundwater Abstraction
- Water Use and Allocations
- Adaption to Climate Change and Floods
- Water Conservation
- Improving Water Productivity
- Improving Water Governance
- Financial Sustainability
- Trans-boundary Issues and Inter Provincial Harmony
- Enforce Drinking Water and Sanitation Standards
- Maintain the Land Resource
- Develop Knowledge Database and Water Informatics
- Awareness Raising, Capacity Building and Research & Development



Way Forward

- **Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Framework** should be developed with detailed time bound implementation mechanism
- An **Apex Implementation Body** be formed to support and monitor the implementation of Water Policy
- A **water crisis awareness campaign** be launched to apprise general public about impending water issues
- Monitor the **groundwater flows** across the border
- Out of box solution must be sought for the construction of **large dams**



THANKS

Committee Members who Reviewed Draft Water Policy

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