

Agricultural Linkages Program, Development Projects and Programs

Agricultural Linkage Programs

- Since the creation of AREF, PARC has launched two batches of ALP (1st in December 2000 and 2nd in July 2002) for funding the research projects under which 1236 preliminary proposals were received. Consequently, BOD of ALP approved 257 projects costing Rs.765.89 million. At present, 141 projects are in operation and 89 projects (85 of 1st batch and 4 projects of 2nd batch) have completed while nine projects are in the process of agreement, fourteen dropped and three were terminated all over Pakistan.
- The main emphasis of ALP is to provide operational funding for research activities, however, some sophisticated and latest equipments were also allowed to procure to equip the laboratories in the deficient areas. A ratio of 60:40 of operational to capital items was maintained. On completion of ALP projects, the equipments purchased by the host institutions were handed over to them to strengthen their capabilities.
- Further, a number of young scientists were engaged to build the technical human resources capacity under the ALP projects by recruiting on contract as research associates and research fellows. Twenty four students were awarded Ph.Ds., 72 completed their M.Sc/M.Phil and 20 B.Sc degrees from the different academic institutions in the country. Moreover, 150 research papers were published in national and international journals. More than 50 labs. have been strengthened to accomplish the desired sophisticated research.
- The 3rd batch of ALP was announced in March 2006 by calling preliminary proposals from the scientific community all over the country under the approved priority research areas. In response to PARC's call for 3rd batch proposals, 599 concept papers were received, against which 160 were short-listed as per full details (Table).
- Of 143 detailed projects, 44 were considered in the 8th & 9th TAC meeting and 19 projects were recommended by TAC and 17 projects have been approved by the BOD of ALP in its meeting held on 9th April , 2007. The remaining 99 detailed projects will be considered in the forth coming meeting of TAC.

Region-wise Recommendations of Preliminary Proposals of 3rd Batch			
Region	Recommended	Not Recommended	Total
AJ & K	1	1	2
Balochistan	3	16	19
Northern Areas	0	3	3
NWFP	26	97	133
Other Federal	0	3	3
Other Private/NGO	7	15	22
PARC/NARC	49	77	126
Punjab	53	133	186
Sindh	21	94	115
Total	160	439	589

Up-dated Documentations of Completed ALP Projects and ALP International Workshops

- Three international workshops successfully organized in collaboration with USDA on 24-26 April, 2001, 20th April, 2004 and December 13, 2006 respectively. The purpose of these workshops was to internationalize the program and seeking partnership with potential national and international development agencies committed to poverty reduction through sharing science in a changing world to find solutions to real life problems of agricultural community. More than 200 scientists and policy makers from all over Pakistan, representative of USDA and diplomats attended the workshop.
- In the workshop, a compendium of completed ALP project was launched and distributed among the participants.

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Monitoring and Review

- Monitoring and Review/Evaluation of ALP projects are regular activities of ALP Secretariat. Annual Review meetings are convened at PARC Headquarters on completion of one year of implementation. On-site review of projects is also being carried out regularly by the team of experts/external reviewers, representatives of Technical Divisions, Finance Division and ALP Secretariat.

Financial Status

- An amount of Rs. 630 million has been earned by investing the total amount of Agricultural Research Endowment Fund (AREF) i.e. Rs 1.3 billion. The total approved cost of 85 completed and 146 on-going projects is Rs. 192.78 million and Rs. 486.13 million respectively. Up to 31st December, 2007 against the releases of Rs. 442.254 million an expenditure of Rs. 361.195 million have been reported.

Developmental Projects and Programs

- During 2006-07, ten projects were financed out of PSDP fund sources with estimated total cost of Rs.4018.049 million that arrived after revised allocation of Rs.660.581 million. Of these, two projects with an estimated total cost of Rs.57.010 million that became Rs.19.300 million after revised allocation shall be completed on June 30, 2007. In addition to the PSDP projects, nine development projects won funds out of ASPL-II source with total cost of Rs.260.280 million (Annexure Va). Out of total ASPL-II funds, two projects with total cost of Rs.55.398 million will be completed during the closing of the current financial year (Annexure Vb).
Moreover, a mega project entitled “Research for Agricultural Development Program” costing Rs.2.963 billion got approved.