

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT BoG OF THE PAKISTAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Agriculture plays a vital role for sustaining growth in the economy, ensuring food security and reducing poverty in Pakistan. Major policy initiative taken by the present Government emphasizes in achieving high growth rates in agriculture through technological innovations, investments and policy/institutional reforms.

The initiative involves repositioning of agriculture to achieve high growth rate in the sector, ensuring food security and alleviating poverty through: (i) investments in agriculture and water infrastructure; (ii) productivity enhancement through science based technologies; (iii) diversification into high value agriculture; (iv) improved access to agriculture support services (research, extension, marketing), supply of inputs and credit; (v) private sector-led investments in value chain; and (vi) policy interventions to make markets work better (both input and output markets).

During 2006-07, PARC has undertaken several initiatives to make its research system more efficient, vibrant, and responsive to the emerging challenges. The recent paradigm shift from green to gene revolution and from conventional agriculture to high value agriculture with emphasis on horticulture and livestock has underscored the need for strategic research on technologies which on the one-hand are pro-small farmers, pro-poor and pro-nature and on the other competitive in the global markets. The approval of PARC's reform agenda by the Prime Minister and allocation of Rs.3.0 billion for funding of high priority research, position PARC to pursue its mandate more efficiently and effectively.

I am confident that PARC management and staff along with their counterparts in the provincial agricultural research system will continue to strive achieving excellence in cutting edge research and innovations to help promote broad-based growth and reduce rural poverty.



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