

April 4, 1983

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Extension of AKRSP activities to the district of Chitral.

Participants:

- Mr. Shamsheer Ali Khan, Commissioner, Malakand Division
- Mr. Zahoor A. Malik, Additional Commissioner(Dev), Northern Areas, Gilgit.
- Mr. Taj Mohammad, DC Chitral
- Mr. Khurshid Ali, Chairman, District Council Chitral
- Mr. Khalid Mansoor, Assistant Director, Local Government and Rural Development Department, Chitral.
- Mr. Jehanzeb, Executive Engineer, Communications and Buildings, Chitral.
- Mr. Abdur Rauf Yousufzai, SP Chitral.
- Mr. Pinin Shah, AD, Agriculture Department, Chitral
- Lt. Col. M. Nayyar Murad, Commandant, Chitral Scouts
- Mr. Hussain Wali Khan, PSE AKRSP
- Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, GM AKRSP

The visit to Chitral was postponed due to technical reasons from 3.4.1983, which unfortunately resulted in the Additional Chief Secretary (Planning & Development Department), Government of NWFP not being able to accompany the team, on the helicopter, from Saidu Sharif to Chitral. Sahibzada, Imtiaz Ahmad, the Additional Chief Secretary had to return to Peshawar on the 3rd evening after having waited for the helicopter on 3rd morning. The Additional Commissioner (Development), NAs very kindly agreed to accompany the team from Gilgit on the request of the GM.

The Commissioner, Malakand Division briefly explained the AKRSP and introduced the GM to the local officials and thereafter requested the GM to brief the meeting about the aims and objectives of AKRSP in a greater detail.

The GM briefly explained the non-communal nature of the programme which the Commissioner thought was being contradicted by AKRSP's initial thrust in Upper Chitral only and therefore, strongly advocated commencement of the programme simultaneously in both the parts of Chitral. The GM promised to submit a proposal recommending expansion of AKRSP activities to both areas for consideration of the Chairman, AKRSP Board of Directors.

Elucidating the strategy of AKRSP, as approved by its Board of Directors, the GM explained that the programme is based on three essentials of agricultural and rural development namely (a) provision of physical productive infrastructure i.e. irrigation, land development, flood protection works, link roads etc., (b) establishment of an administrative infrastructure i.e. extension services, backed its provision of supplies such as inputs, credit etc., and (c) fostering of a social and economic infrastructure i.e. VOs to help small farmers to overcome handicaps of subsistence holdings.

The GM stated that the above mentioned principles were the distillation of the experience of the world in the field spread over a period of nearly 150 years. He pointed out that in case of small farmers, like that of the district of Chitral, where the total cultivated area is only 18,132.18 acres divided up amongst 90% of a total population of 210,000, an approach to develop agriculture which succeeded with big holdings like in America or England, would not be applicable. Hence for the small land holders of Chitral, it is important to understand

that without giving them the economies of scale, it would not be possible to improve their economic condition.

At this juncture, the Chairman District Council intervened and informed the meeting that the District Councillors are in session in the District Council Hall and were in act expecting the team yesterday and would greatly benefit by what the GM was saying about AKRSP. However, we were handicapped by time constraint and as the helicopter came to Chitral against the advice of the weather Pundits, the helicopter crew was keen to cross Lowari Top before 1500 hours. The top is still covered with snow and traffic to Chitral by road is totally suspended. The Commissioner assured the Chairman that this is only a preliminary visit and that the MG of the AKRSP would henceforth be making more frequent visits and the district councillors would very soon get an opportunity to have discussions with GM and the MG in a less hurried situation. The Chairman seemed satisfied at this offer.