

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(Development), 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.

The Additional Commissioner (Development), Northern Areas commenting on his experience of work with AKRSP informed the meeting that the approach of the AKRSP was not very different from that of the LB&RD except that they have the resources and expertise to carry out feasibility studies and prepare blue-prints of the village level projects. In case of LB&RD, this is hardly ever done in respect of any project and the survey, implementation and maintenance of the project is entirely left on the local councillors with some assistance from LB&RD staff. Another significant departure was that under AKRSP, the definition of self help does not mean free labour but requires organisation and weekly meetings with savings and responsibility for maintenance of the project.

The GM elaborated that AKRSP works in close collaboration with the District and Union Councils and in case of Northern Areas, the cooperation of the Members of the Northern Areas Council (MNAC) has also been very substantial. Similarly the Chairman, District Council Gilgit has accompanied MG on its visits to villages. Under AKRSP strategy to supplement and compliment the work of the councils, a broad-based organisation is being fostered in each village where AKRSP undertakes development activities. Invariably this VO includes the elected councillors. To foster this organisation, the programming cycle developed by AKRSP is based on a diagnostic survey which has the following components:

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
<u>I: DIAGNOSTIC SURVEY</u>	
Project identification, preparation and appraisal through village dialogues.	
1: <u>IDENTIFICATION</u> <u>FIRST DIALOGUE</u>	
-     Explanation of AKRSP methods and objectives	General Manager
-     Identification of productive rural projects	Villagers
2: <u>PREPARATION</u> <u>SECOND DIALOGUE</u>	
-     Feasibility of physical infrastructure works or economic infrastructure scheme	PSE Prog. Sr. Agrlst.
-     Preparation of blueprints and objective plan	Prog. Trg. Splt & villagers.
-     Cost estimation	
3. <u>APPRAISAL</u> <u>THIRD DIALOGUE</u>	
-     Explanation of terms of partnership	Prog. Trg. Splt
-     Acceptance/rejection of terms of partnership	Villagers

- Assessment of range of benefits of projects/scheme, implying acceptance or rejection. Management Group

## II: IMPLEMENTATION

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|----|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Base-line survey for evaluation                 | Prog. Economist                               |
| 2. | Execution of project/scheme<br>Monitoring of VO | Village Organisation<br>Prog. Trg. Specialist |
| 3. | Training and supervision of VO                  | Management Group                              |

## III: COMPLETION

- |    |                                                                                 |                                  |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Management of project/scheme, including maintenance, monitoring and evaluation. | VO with Prog.<br>Trg. Specialist |
| 2. | Post-project survey for evaluation                                              | Prog. Economist                  |
| 3. | Long-term evaluation of persistence of results                                  | Management Group                 |

The GM said that to undertake the diagnostic survey, a Social Organization Team comprising a Social Organiser (SO), a Sub-engineer and an Agricultural Extension person is required for a manageable identified geographical area. In case of Gilgit, AKRSP has set up three such units but ultimately hopes to have one in each of the nine tehsil of the district.

The DC informed that the district of Chitral is divided in two sub-divisions with headquarters at Buni and Chitral and comprises 8 tehsils with 11 union councils. At the sub-divisional level, besides the AC, most of the nation building departments have their offices. At the tehsil level, it is only Revenue, Police and Agricultural Extension Department which have extended their activities. In some cases, there are also Cooperative Inspectors. At the Union Council level, in most cases, there are only Union Council Secretary.

The Assistant Director, Local Government stated that his total staff comprised two Supervisors, two Sub-engineers and 11 Union Council Secretaries. Under the IRDP, a Markaz was established at Darosh (in Lower Chitral) but with the change in policy, the Project Manager and his staff had now been withdrawn.

The AD (Agriculture) also gave written report on the activities of agricultural development in the district.

The Commissioner suggested that initially two diagnostic survey teams be set up, one for Upper Chitral with headquarters at Buni and the other for Lower Chitral with headquarters at Darosh. In regard to staffing, the Chairman and the Commissioner expressed the view that a balance would be desirable in such appointments. The GM explained that since this was a highly specialized work which could only be done by experienced people, he would have to give experience and expertise precedence over other considerations; but in recruiting and training local staff for future expansion, the concerns expressed by the Chairman and the Commissioner, would be given due consideration. In view of the requirements of the programme, a consensus was reached that the first two teams may have to be found from outside the district of Chitral.

The Chairman of the District Council in his observations welcomed the initiative being taken by AKRSP in the development of the area and assured of all assistance from his side and the 33 councillors which comprise the District Council. He however requested GM to convey to His Highness the Aga Khan the dire need of the area for a tunnel at the Lowari Pass. In view of the Chairman without the solution of the communications problems of the Chitral area, the efforts of the AKRSP would not bear full fruits. The GM submitted that although he agreed with the Chairman about the solution of the problem of linking Chitral with the rest of the country throughout the year, he believed that there was considerable scope of ameliorating the conditions of the majority of the small farmers in Chitral through AKRSP strategy. The Commissioner (in a lighter vein)

observed that without the mention of the Lowari Tunnel, no development meeting would be complete. The Chairman reiterating, on behalf of the District Councillors expressed welcome and support for AKRSP activities and requested for its initiation at the earliest possible time. GM assure his best effort in this direction. The Commissioner stated that the divisional and district administration would be ready and expecting the second visit of the AKRSP MG soon after the Governor NWFP's projected visit to the Chitral area around 20th of April 1983.

The MG was entertained to a lavish lunch at the Scouts Mess arranged at only one hour's notice and the helicopter took off punctually at 1500 hours.

The MG is greatly indebted to the Commissioner, Malakand Division for having accompanied the group to Chitral at such short notice and organised such fruitful deliberations with the local officials.