



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

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Speakers for adopting innovative ways of irrigation

Monday, 21 January 2013 18:09 Posted by Shoaib-ur-Rehman Siddiqui



ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a seminar here on Monday called for adopting innovative techniques of irrigation to overcome the water shortage and sustainable agriculture growth for food security across the globe including Pakistan.

A five-day long International Seminar on "Innovations in Irrigation Water Management for Sustainable Food Security" was organized by National Productivity Organization (NPO), Ministry of Industries in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization, Asian Productivity Organization, United States Department of Agriculture and Ministry of National Food Security.

The main aim of the event was to share the best international practices of irrigation and water management to enhance food productivity and increase the food security in the country.

Addressing the inaugural session of the seminar, Chief Executive Officer NPO, Khawaja Muhammad Yousuf said that the organization was taking steps to create awareness among all stakeholders to introduce and use innovative technologies to develop food safety and food security in the country.

He said that the seminar will gather international participants from twenty different countries with an objective to address the challenges of complex solution of food insecurity, he added.

Besides the session would share innovative approaches towards cropping and farming systems practices in irrigated areas adding that three experts from Asian Productivity Organization (APO), one local and one from USA are attending the session.

He said that international programme comes with a realization that achieving food security in the face of additional food demand could be possible through raising productivity of existing irrigated farmland, upgrading rainfed farming and increasing international trade in food for overcoming food security concerns of the future.

In view of the huge untapped food production potential of the irrigated agriculture in Pakistan, raising productivity of this sector must be the key consideration in producing the additional food needed.

Not only Pakistan but also Asia is subject to shrinking water resources problem, therefore, he urged the experts for introducing innovative approaches that can address the challenges of irrigated agriculture.

He said that potential to produce more food with existing or even less water and preventing the deterioration of water quality through contamination by soil runoff, nutrients and agrochemicals also be discussed.