

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON PAKISTAN FOREST POLICY MARCH 6-8, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

An International Seminar was held by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives and the USAID on March 6-9, 1989, at Karachi with the aim to frame recommendations for a Forest Policy for Pakistan. More than sixty senior Federal and Provincial government officers, including serving and retired foresters and scientists representatives of wood-based industries in private sector, FAO Country Representative, and USAID Forestry Advisor in Pakistan and many international policy specialists attended the seminar.

In the augural session, Mr. Abeedullah Jan, Inspector General of Forests, Government of Pakistan welcomed Syed Abdullah Shah, Speaker, Sind Assembly, the Chief Guest, Dr. Raymond E. Fort, FAO Country Representative, Mr. Albert L. Merkel, USAID Forestry Advisor, the FAO and the other foreign and local participants in the seminar. He briefly reviewed the past forest policies in Pakistan, pointing out the deficiencies and accomplishments, and highlighted the need for a new forest policy.

Dr. Fort in his Keynote address, expressed FAO's strong support to Pakistan's desire to strengthen forestry development and policy, assuring that deliberations and recommendations of the seminar would help guide FAO activities with regard to Pakistan's forestry development in the future. Mr. Merkel stressed the importance of forest policy stating that only through a sound forest policy will Pakistan be able to identify the priority areas of development. Syed Abdullah Shah highlighted the need to have the cooperation really want their policies to succeed.

The first session of the Workshop was devoted to the presentations by policy specialists on forest policy issues faced both in Pakistan and other countries. The remainder of the workshop concentrated on identifying forest policy issues of concern to Pakistan and formulations of recommendations for implementation. Five Forest Policy papers were read by Dr. George Leonard, Dr. Mel Berg, Dr. Christoph Duerr, Dr. Kleine, and Mr. R.S. Gujral.

To facilitate the development of new Pakistan Forest Policy five working groups were formed to discuss priority and key-issues and give recommendations on them e.g. social-economuc conditions, inter-sectoral linkages, forestry related legislation, future objectives and direction, and financial and political support.

The recommendations on the Pakistan Forest Policy were presented, discussed and approved in the closing session. The workshop was closed with an address by the Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mr. Rao Sikandar Iqbal, and with a vote of thanks by Mr. Abeedullah Jan, Inspector General of Forests, Government of Pakistan.