

Mahmood Asghar

ABOUT ME

Highly experienced, qualified, motivated, Agriculture and management expert with a proven record of a highly successful career of over 36 years working on top leadership positions mainly in Government Departments and private sector in Gilgit-Baltistan. Possess highly refined and time-tested skills and expertise in Agri-based livelihoods, designing and implementing community-based agricultural development projects, research and development, monitoring, evaluation and management of public & private sector agriculture organizations, programs and projects. Proficient in leading teams, addressing technical challenges and resolving issues to enhance operational efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of development projects.

CONTACTS

[redacted]

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POST

Director Agriculture Research GB, Agriculture Complex KIU Road, Konodass Gilgit

PERMANENT ADDRESS

Mahmood Aghar Village Gullapor District Ghizer

LANGUAGES

- English
- Urdu
- Shina

PERSONAL DATA

- Date of Birth: 01-08-1964
- Marital Status: Married
- Father's Name: Sultan Akbar
- Domicile: District Ghizer

INTEREST

- Research Studies
- Book Reading
- Travelling
- Current Affairs

EDUCATION

- **Agriculture University, Peshawar Pakistan**
  M.Sc (Hons) Agriculture 1997
- **Agriculture University, Peshawar Pakistan**
  B.Sc (Hons) Agriculture 1988
- **BISE Karachi**
  F.Sc (Pre-Medical) 1983

Experience

Director Agriculture Research Gilgit Baltistan (October 2020 to August 01, 2024)

Job Responsibilities

- Supervise all the projects and interventions implemented by the Department of Agriculture Research in Gilgit-Baltistan at provincial level.
- Coordination and implementation of the policies and plans of Agriculture Research Department.
- Efficient and proper implementation of routine official business in accordance with the Rules of Business lay out by the Provincial Government of Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Overall supervision of agricultural development schemes in all the districts of Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Preparation, approval and execution of Project Proposals/ PC-1s on the basis of the needs of farming community in Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Preparation of work plans and budget for execution of Research activities at provincial level.
- Liaise and coordinate with NGOs and other Line departments for planning and implementation of Agricultural development Interventions.

Initiatives taken as Director Research, GB:

- *Variety Evaluation Experts Committee GB and GB Seed Council constituted and got notified for registration of open crop varieties;*
- *Open varieties of potato got registered through GB-Seed Council*
- *New source of registered varieties acquired for multiplication of disease free seed potato in GB*
- *Fully involved FSC & RD Gilgit in quality control as per the approved protocols of seed potato production system and discarded unregistered material;*

- ***ELISA tested In vitro plants of potato varieties procured from National level research institutes for micro-propagation in Tissue Culture Labs;***
- ***As a result of the above initiatives, the pre-Basic-I and Pre-Basic-II level seed potato is now being produced at local level in GB;***
- ***Introduced fruit plants tissue culture system for the first time in GB and trials conducted successfully on cherry rootstock;***
- ***Acquisition of PCR/ELISA equipment for testing potato viruses at local level.***
- ***Trained the Technical staff in PCR / ELISA test from National level institutes.***
- ***Developed collaboration with KOPIA, Pakistan and KOPIAN seed potato material produced through aeroponic system at NARC which is now being multiplied in GB***

Director Agriculture Extension Gilgit Region (December, 2016 to October, 2020)

Job Responsibilities:

- Supervise all the interventions carried out by the Department of Agriculture Extension in Gilgit Region.
- Coordinate and execute agriculture extension activities as per the approved policies of Agriculture Department in Gilgit Region.
- Responsible for the efficient and proper implementation of official business assigned to the department;
- Preparation, approval and execution of Project Proposals/PC-1s on the basis of the needs of farming community in Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Preparation and execution of work plans and budget for agricultural development in Gilgit region.
- Liaise and coordinate with NGOs and other line agencies.

Initiatives taken as Director Agri. Extension, Gilgit region:

- ***Designed and successfully implemented a special project on productivity enhancement of wheat on cost sharing basis with the farming community in Gilgit Region with the approval of Federal Government.***
- ***Established a honey-bee farming unit and introduced bee-farming as a sustainable means of income for landless poor households, especially for women Entrepreneurs on cost sharing basis with the back up support of Quality testing Lab.***
- ***Introduced E. Extension system for the first time in GB Agriculture with the backup support through establishment of E. Extension unit and E. Lab at Directorate level to enhance extension services in Gilgit Baltistan.***

Director Agriculture Extension Baltistan Region (May 2015 to December 2016)

Job Responsibilities:

- Supervise all the activities being carried out by the Department in Baltistan Region.
- Coordinate and execute the approved policies of Agriculture Department in Baltistan.
- Conduct routine official business of the Agriculture Department efficiently and properly as per GB Rules of Business.

- Overall supervision of development schemes in all districts of Baltistan Region.
- Preparation, approval and execution of Project Proposals/PC-1s keeping in view the needs of farming community of the region.
- Preparation and execution of work plans and budget for agricultural development in Gilgit region.
- Liaise and coordinate with NGOs and other line agencies.

Initiatives taken as Director Agri. Extension Baltistan region

- ***Introduced Floriculture farming as an income generation activity for poor farmers on trial basis. Based on the satisfactory results of the trials, designed and successfully implemented a project on Floriculture Development at GB level. Many women-led Enterprises are now earning income as a result of this initiative.***
- ***Designed and successfully implemented a development project on cultivation and processing of Buckwheat as a special and high value crop to attract the farming communities for cultivation of high value crops in the region.***
- ***Launched a project in Baltistan Region on the Japanese Concept of "One Village One product" (seven villages selected for seven Products) to enhance the production for variety and volume.***

Director Agriculture Gilgit-Baltistan (April 2011 to April 2015, before creation of Regional Directorates)

Job Responsibilities:

- Supervise all the activities being carried out by the Department of Agriculture GB
- Coordinate and execute the approved policies of Agriculture Department GB.
- Responsible for the efficient and proper execution of official business according to the Rules of Business Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Overall supervision of development schemes in all the districts of GB.
- Preparation, approval and execution of Project Proposals/PC-1s on the basis of the needs of farming community in Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Preparation and execution of work plans and budget for agricultural development in Gilgit region.
- Liaise and coordinate with NGOs and other line agencies.

New Initiatives taken during the period

- ***Designed, got approval and successfully implemented more than eight development projects worth of about Rs. 700 million for the first time in the history of GB Agriculture department on cost sharing basis with the farming communities. These projects transformed GB subsistence Horticulture Sector into commercially viable and rapidly growing industry within five years.***
- ***Successfully executed JICA assisted Technical Assistance project namely "The project for promotion of value-added Fruit products of Gilgit-Baltistan" as a team leader in GB with the Japanese counterpart staff.***

Deputy Secretary Food, Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Department Gilgit-Baltistan Secretariat, Gilgit (June 2008–April 2011)

- Supervise all the activities carried out by the Food, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries sectors;
- Coordinate and execute the approved policies of Food, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries sectors.
- Responsible for the efficient and proper execution of official business according to the Rules of Business Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Perform duties as acting Head of department in the absence of Secretary Food and Agriculture Gilgit Baltistan.

Agribusiness Specialist FANA (Agribusiness Development & Diversification Project, Ministry of food, Agriculture & Livestock Islamabad) April 2006–June 2008

- Initial evaluation of cost sharing grants proposals submitted by private sector on Horticulture &Horti-business and submission of these proposals to HPU, PHDEB for further screening & submission to the Agribusiness support fund(ASF)based at Lahore.
- Establishment of database of existing Agribusiness (Horticulture) Enterprises, BDSPs and farmer groups of the region.
- Assist and coordinate with National Horticulture Consultant and Horticulture Task Force in formulation of Horticulture Policy for Federally Administrated Northern Area (FANA).
- Holding dialogues with existing Agribusiness, Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) and farmers groups to create awareness regarding ASF packages.
- Provide support to existing agribusiness through the provision of operational audits to identify existing constraints and potential opportunities.
- Formulate, based on the needs identified, the requirements for new agribusiness opportunities and assist external third parties to prepare technologically appropriate feasibility studies to support the establishment of such opportunities.
- Where additional research and development is required to improve processes, conduct a detailed industry search of the latest development and prepare a summary of the additional research and development required by third party service providers.
- Evaluate specific training needs to improve the performance of the agribusiness sector and prepare periodic reports for onward submission to the National Training Specialist.
- Developed more than fifty Project proposals on different aspects of Horticultural Crops for the Promotion of Agribusiness SME,s in Gilgit-Baltistan and got approved from Agribusiness Support Fund (ASF), Lahore

Deputy Director Agriculture Ghanche, Baltistan (BPS-18) 2004 – April 2006

- Execution and operation of development schemes including on-farm water management projects.
- Overall supervision of Agriculture development activities in the District including

schemes of water conservation projects namely, **"National Program for Improvement of Water Courses in Gilgit-Baltistan" and "Improvement of Water Management practices in Gilgit-Baltistan".**

- Preparation, approval and execution of Project Proposals/PC-1s on the basis of the needs of farming community in Ghanche
- Preparation and execution of work plans and budget for agricultural development in Ganche District.
- Maintenance of accounts at District level.
- Holding Field days and workshops.
- Holding dialogues with the community organizations regarding agriculture interventions in the Areas, including water conservation project activities.
- Liaise and coordinate with NGOs involved in Agriculture development in the district.
- Supply of Agriculture inputs, such as Seeds, Plants, Agriculture Machinery, Tools/implements, Spray Machines etc. to the farmers of the district.
- Transfer of the modern Agriculture technology through Agriculture extension workers among the farmers of the district.
- Lead extension activity to improve the socio-economic condition/living standards of the farmers through boosting yield of different crops.
- Establishment of systematic orchards on scientific lines in private sector/interested growers land.

Agriculture Officer (staff officer and DDO Directorate of Agriculture GB) May 1992-2004

- Maintenance of accounts and preparation of budget at Directorate level.
- Drawing and Disbursing of all the Projects of annual development programme as well as regular allocated budget.
- Monitoring of seed act enforcement activities in GB, particularly for the potato crops.
- Monitoring of seed potato quality produced in the tissue culture Lab. Green and Screen houses at Directorate level.
- Evaluation of technical reports produced by International /National consultants (FAO) on Potato/Vegetable seed production.
- Monitoring and evaluation of MINFAL assisted water management project activities in the field.
- Worked as Drawing and Disbursing officer of MINFAL assisted On Farm Water Management projects launched through Department of Agriculture GB during 1992 to 1997.
- Management of staff in the office of Director Agriculture GB.
- Preparation of development projects.
- Preparation of presentation and briefings of agriculture sector.
- Monitoring and evaluation of development projects of the sector **(i.e Livestock & Fisheries department Gilgit Baltistan).**
- Preparation and submission of monthly, Quarterly and annual reports.
- Liaise and coordinate with NGOs involved in agriculture development in the area.

Regional Program Agriculturist, Aga Khan rural Support Programme, Baltistan (1991-1992)

- Supervision and liaison of all agriculture activities in the region.
- Holding dialogues with Vos/Wos regarding agriculture interventions in the area including execution of new schemes on **irrigation channels and water courses improved at village level.**
- Conduct training on modern agriculture technology to the progressive farmers.
- Preparation and submission of monthly, Quarterly and annual reports.
- Procurement and distribution of agriculture in puts to the farmers in the project area.
- Holding field days and workshops.
- Preparation of work plans and budget for agriculture activities in the region.
- Preparation of extension messages.

Project Agriculturist, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Baltistan (1988-1992)

- Holding dialogues with Vos/Wos regarding agriculture interventions in the area.
- Establishment of community fruit nurseries and orchards.
- Conduct training on modern agriculture technology to the progressive farmers.
- Development of training manuals.
- Preparation of extension messages for the farmers.
- Demonstration of plastic tunnels for off-season vegetable production.

Technical publications/ Research Studies

- Research Study on the judicious use of environment friendly pesticides in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Leaflets published

- Potato growing in Gilgit-Baltistan
- Fertilizer uses.
- Vegetable growing in Baltistan.
- Maize cultivation as fodder in Gilgit-Baltistan

Local Trainings attended

- Two week training course on **"Training of Trainers (TOT)"** from National Center for Rural Development (NCRD) Islamabad.
- Two week **"Secretariat Training Course"** from Secretariat staff Islamabad.
- One week training on **"Integrated pest Management (IPM)"** with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- One week training on **"Potato production"** with FAO Technical staff.
- Attended training workshops on **"National Resource Management"** at SDPI, Islamabad.
- Attended training workshops on **"Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)"** through NACS IUCN-Pakistan.

- Attended training workshops on **"Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA)"** through NACS IUCN-Pakistan.
- Attended Training workshops on **"Project Proposal Development"** at Eco-conservation Initiatives, Islamabad through NACS IUCN-Pakistan.
- Conducted **"Participatory Rapid Horticulture Appraisal (PRHA)"** of Potential Crops of Sind through ASF, Pakistan
- Attended training course on **"Crop Management Practices In Hilly Areas"** organized by PARD, Peshawar.
- Attended four days National workshop on **"Identification Of Potato Viruses And Their Detection Through Elisa"**
- Attended ten days Training and Analysis Workshop on **"Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)"** organized by FAO and WFP.

Foreign Trainings attended

- Attended One week training on **"Multicountry Observational Study Mission on Best Cases of Green Supply Chains for Agribusiness SMEs, in Republic of South Korea"** organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO).
- Attended **"International seminar on Soil and Water Conservation and Dry Land Farming"** sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Organized by Yangling International Exchange Center from June 11 to 25, 2009 in Yangling, the People's Republic of China
- Attended one month Focused Training program on **"Local Industry Development in Agricultural Regions by Strengthening Capacity of Management and Marketing"** in Japan organized by JICA, Japan
- Attended Country-Focused Training program on **"Agricultural Extension System"** w.e.f 4th November 2014 to 14th November 2014 in Japan organized by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Representation in Key Strategic Forums

- Member of Project implementation committee of IFAD assisted ETI Project GB
- Member of technical working group of inter-sectoral nutritional strategy forum GB.
- Member of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) forum for evaluation of mega projects in GB;
- Focal person of intellectual property organization (IPO) Pakistan from GB;

References

- **Mr. Khadim Hussain Saleem** Program coordinator IFAD Assisted "Economic Transformation Initiative" Project GB and Former Secretary Agriculture Livestock & Fisheries GB.
  Phone # [redacted]
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  Email: [redacted]
- **Mr. Irshad Khan Abbasi** , Program advisor , Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan
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