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Report – In-House Meeting

“Pakistan-China Agriculture Cooperation Dialogue”

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PICTURES OF THE EVENT





The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an In-House Meeting with a Chinese delegation for Pakistan-China Agriculture Cooperation Dialogue. The Chinese side was represented by agricultural stakeholders including Mr. Guanghui Chen; Ms. Zihan Mo; Mr. Guoxing Fo; Mr. Guihe Wang; Ms. Wenqing Xu and Mr. Zihai Wang. They were joined by Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, former VC Faisalabad Agriculture University; Dr. Farida Faisal, University of Arid Agriculture Rawalpindi; Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director SDPI; Mr. Shakeel Ramay, Executive Director, Zalmi Foundation; Mr. Asif Sharif, CEO Pedevan Group and Air Marshal Rashid Kaleem.

Opening the proceedings, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI, Dr. Talat Shabbir welcomed the Chinese delegation and introduced the Pakistani participants.

Ms. Uroosa Khan, Associate Editor at CPSC gave a brief introduction of ISSI to the delegation about the activities and research work carried out at the Institute.

Mr. Chen thanked CPSC and ISSI for hosting them and providing them the opportunity for exploring agriculture cooperation opportunities in Pakistan.

Mr. Shakeel Ramay gave an overview of agriculture sector's performance in Pakistan and suggested possible areas of cooperation. Mr. Ramay mentioned that Supply Chain Management, research capability and post-harvest losses are the main challenges faced by this sector. He added that poor supply chain facilities damage the agricultural products which leave them unsuitable for overseas shipment. He also said that small farm sizes across Pakistan are not suited for market size production.

Highlighting the productivity gap with other countries, Mr. Ramay stated that there is plenty of room and opportunities for foreign investors in Pakistan. By adding agriculture component in CPEC, the objective of uplifting poverty can be realized. He stressed that delegates should explore cooperation in seed production to enhance productivity of Pakistani farms.

Mr. Chen stated that there are multiple factors involved in agri-business, and thus, a systematic approach is required to address the issues. Recalling his visit to Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, he said that he came across many new ideas and we are ready to join hands with our

Pakistani counterparts. He also said that China could benefit from Pakistan's livestock industry since meat production in China is not enough to meet the domestic demand.

He encouraged both sides to adopt green and innovative agricultural practices. Given that climate change is likely to affect the agricultural activity in coming years, he called for modernization and further research.

During discussion, solutions to Pakistan's efficiency issues were elaborated. The participants also discussed financing and marketing of agricultural products to enhance exports. The role of private sector and government intervention in the agricultural sector was also debated.

Concluding the meeting, Dr. Talat Shabbir commended the participants for engaging in a fruitful discussion on a key area of cooperation. He emphasized the need to have follow-up exchanges and strong commitment from both sides.