Group II – Improving Agricultural Development and Range Management Practices to Increase Income and Food Security of the Northwest Frontier Region

- Charge from the Session Chairman was to make recommendations in the form of actions and achievable targets concerning the topic assigned to the group.

- The process employed involved going through the 25 Considerations to brainstorm a list of recommendations and actions for the project plan.

- Based on the discussion following this brief presentation, modifications will be made to the list and then prioritized according to achievable targets

- Goals and objectives will be derived from the list of recommendations and actions, providing context.

Draft Recommendations and Actions

1. Establish a demonstration farm, and install separate water facilities for household and animals. (1)

2. Apply treatment to the upper catchment draining to the demonstration area (DA) during an appropriate phase of the project, prioritized on specific resource concerns, for example, increasing vegetative cover on heavily pressured ecological sites. Treatment involving grass, forb, shrub, and tree plant material. (3)

3. Design and create a geospatial database to integrate and manage the biophysical, land use and production, and socio-economic characteristics of the DA (and surrounding areas as appropriate). (4)

4. Design and create a geospatial database to manage project-related data on day-to-day basis. (4)

5. On the demonstration farm, evaluate new cultural methods for current rod kohi system crops (as described in presentations). (5)

Draft Recommendations and Actions

6. Evaluate new crops: drought resistant cultivars of existing crops (cereals, pulses, etc), fruits (jujube, dates, olive, olivera, pomegranate, mango, pistachio). (5)

7. Conduct walk through of the DA applying a rapid rural appraisal (RRA) tool involving local communities, analyze the data, and develop a detailed agricultural, range, management, and social package. (5)

8. Establish and manage drought tolerant silvi-pastures of native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees on rangelands and fields with low probability of receiving torrent water. (5)

9. Establish village-based seed enterprise (VBSE) for the crop, grass, forb, shrub, and tree species utilized in DA project measures (actions). (5, 8)

10. Establish (or engage) agricultural and range extension specialists within the DA to provide bridge between project management and the local community, and between researchers and the local community. (9)

11. Involve local farmers and community members directly in project activity. (9)

Draft Recommendations and Actions

12. Plant Tamarix as an evergreen instead of Juniper. Evaluate native and introduced Acacia, other native tree species. (10)

13. Plant and maintain trees on the boundaries of fields. (10)

14. Plant and maintain trees as windbreaks, integrated with irrigation and water harvesting improvements. (10)

15. The Secretariat should establish a presence within the DA, camp office in DI Khan, and project/technical support office in Peshawar. (11)

16. Build on-farm crop seed and fodder storage units. (12)

17. The demonstration farm should be located away from the village; establish farm homestead as necessary. (13)

18. Develop agreements with tenants and owners as necessary to enable project activities. (14)

19. Reimburse local community participants for costs they incur through project activities. (17)

Draft Recommendations and Actions

20. Employ and pay local community participants to apply project measures. (17)

21. Pay local community participants for delivery of ecosystem services (e.g. rangeland cover and bio-diversity)

22. Acquire and provision products to local community participants to use in project activities (e.g. purchase livestock for livestock management system evaluation). (17)

23. Sub-divide DA along topography, soil, and land use, depending on size and variability. (19)

24. Establish financial management, administrative, and technical support resources. (20)

25. Establish project management and monitoring unit at DI Khan. (20)

26. Conduct impact assessment at various project phases (pre-project, post phase, and post-project). (23)

27. Define metrics for quantifying project effectiveness (land use statistics, vegetation cover/density, crop yield increase, etc) and select tools to support measurement (e.g. ground-based remote sensing). (23)

Draft Recommendations and Actions

28. In addition to a comprehensive report to program managers and sponsors/donors, transform project results into visually oriented guides, brochures, handouts for project extension specialists to use in working the local communities. (24)

29. Establish an on-line collaboration workspace (web site) for networking all contributing to the project, including capturing the input and consultation from farmer participants. (24)

30. Project activities should be sequenced with activities of the local farmers and communities, avoiding busy periods. (25)

31. Project activities not affecting local farmer schedules can begin at any time, therefore the project can start when approved and funded. (25)