MINUTES OF THE 92ND MEETING OF THE PAKISTAN CENTRAL COTTON COMMITTEE (PCCC) APRIL 22, 2025

The 92nd meeting of the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) was held virtually under the chairmanship of Mr. Tanveer Hussain, President, PCCC / Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research on April 22, 2025.

2. Mr. Naeem Javed, Deputy Secretary (Admn-II) MNFS&R presented the Resolution "The administrative & financial power may be conferred on any one of the Committee members for smooth functioning of PCCC till its merger" Further, the PCCC member, Mr. Khadim Hussain Cotton Commissioner at MNFSR (on additional Charge basis), was proposed by MNFSR for the position of acting CEO as a stopgap arrangement. He also presented the Rule position that in terms of provision 4(2) of Cotton Cess Act, 1923 which is reproduced as "The Committee shall consist of such members as the Central Government may be notification in the Official Gazette, appoint to the members, and the Central Government shall appoint from among them one to be the President and another to be the Vice President".

3. Syed Bilal Haider, JS (Admn) opined that earlier the resolution for conferment of administrative and financial powers of the CEO of PCCC was circulated for approval through circulation form the Committee members on 18-04-25. In response many of the Committee members endorsed the resolution. Out of 20 members, 04 favoured the Summary, 08 opposed and 08 members did not record their comments. Therefore an urgent meeting of the PCCC on Zoom was called in on 21-04-2025, to seek the response of the remaining members of Committee, after approval of the President PCCC. Hence the meeting was convened on 22-04-2025 at 1230 HRS in the committee room of MNFSR. All Committee members were invited to the meeting.

Rana Tanveer Hussain, President PCCC/Federal Minister, NFS&R welcomed the honorable Members and informed that Dr. Yusuf Zafar, Vice President PCCC has submitted his resignation on March 25, 2025 which was accepted by the Minister and summary is moved for obtaining formal concurrence of Cabinet. He further added that in order to run the administrative & financial matters of PCCC, it is obligatory to assign additional charge of CEO to any of its Committee Member (Cotton Commissioner, MNFS&R) on temporary basis till the merger of PCCC with the PARC. He also requested the honorable members to present their views on the Resolution.

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06 May, 2025, 03:56:52 PM

4. The following members recorded opinion on the subject:

i) Mr. Khalid Khokhar, cotton grower from Punjab stated that cotton is main problem. Temporary appointment for running financial & administrative matter is OK. However, CEO be appointed on the pattern of VC of universities after advertisement and on merit.

ii) Mr. Khurrum Jahanzeb, CFO endorsed the resolution and stated that for intervening period, interim charge can be given till the time of merger.

iii) Syed Nadeem Shah Jamote, grower member, Sindh: Stopgap arrangement is ok. Move according to law and senior most person to be given charge. Farmers should also be allowed to import or export own developed products. We could import seed of crops and vegetables. Seed companies whose licences were being cancelled due to certain reasons. The cases of the genuine companies be rechecked and they may be allowed to work.

iv) Rana Salman Mahmood, Chairman SAP: stated that to run the system, temporary charge be allowed.

v) Dr. Syed Ali Shah: Agri Deptt Quetta: stated that merger of PCCC with PARC should be prioritized. He further stated that Balochistan is the future of cotton and special package be given for the province. The chair concurred with his observations.

vi) Dr. Javed Hassan, APTMA stated that PCCC should be functional. APTMA supports restructuring. FAO also conducted studies for restructuring. However, recommendations were not being followed. He further stated that temporary charge could be given.

vii) Dr. Mehboob Ur Rehman, NIBGE inquired whether VP resignation was accepted or not? The Federal Minister replied that he had accepted resignation, and concurrence of the Cabinet is under process.

viii) Khawaja Zubair, KCA stated that PCCC without any head should not be left. KCA supports the resolution. CEO would have full powers of financial & administrative matters. Notification should clearly indicate appointment till merger.

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ix) Mr. Iqbal Khar, Grower Member, KPK (WhatsApp message): Physical meeting should be held, since the process of appointment of CEO was not clear.

x) Mr. Abdul Hameed, Grower Member, Balochistan (WhatsApp message): Ministry must focus on merger process rather than on allotting administrative charge to the CEO/ VP

5. The Federal Minister, NFSR assured the honorable members that assigning the additional charge of CEO to the Cotton Commissioner MNFS&R was only for stopgap arrangement till the merger of PCCC with PARC on or before 31.05.2025. Moreover, permanent appointment on this post will be made through advertisement and on merit with the permission from the Committee.

6. The quorum of 60% of members was required to pass the Resolution and out of the available 13 members, 11 members endorsed the Resolution. And MNFSR was allowed to notify the decision of conferring the acting charge of CEO to CC of MNFSR, who is an ex-officio Committee member, considered as the most relevant and suitable for this assignment as stopgap arrangement.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Participants

1. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister, NFS&R
2. Mr. Khurram Jahanzeb, CF&AO
3. Syed Nadeem Shah, farmer member Sindh
4. Mr. Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, farmer member Punjab
5. Mr. Salman Mahmood, Chairman, Seed Association of Pakistan
6. Khawja Zubair, Chairman, Karachi Cotton Association
7. Dr. Javed Hassan, Cotton Consultant, All Pakistan Textile Mills Association
8. Dr. Yusuf Zafar, T.I., Vice President, PCCC
9. Dr. Mehboob ur Rehman, NIBGE
10. Dr. Habib Ullah Shah, Agriculture Extension, Balochsitan
11. Agriculture Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
12. Mr. Iqbal Khar, grower member, KPK (WhatsApp message).
13. Mr. Abdul Hameed, grower member, Balochistan (WhatsApp message)

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