



BAM-E-DUNYA WEBINAR SERIES | EPISODE II

Achieving food and nutrition security in the Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape

DATE: 10 December 2020
TIME (NST): 16:00–17:40 NPT (UTC+05:45)
PLATFORM: Microsoft Teams

ORGANIZER

Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape (HKPL) Initiative, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)

Background

Food and nutrition security is a top priority in the countries sharing the Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape (HKPL) – Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Tajikistan. In recent years, the governments of Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan have endorsed a number of policy initiatives and made several efforts to ensure food and nutrition security. Moreover, civil society organizations such as the AKF have been working with the governments to address these challenges. However, despite national-level commitments and efforts, mountain communities in the landscape are still lagging behind in agricultural production and in making progress towards ending all forms of hunger.

Pervasive poverty, harsh and erratic climatic conditions compounded by difficult mountain terrains, poor market connectivity, declining agrobiodiversity and agricultural productivity, limited scientific research, and socioeconomic changes are posing serious challenges to sustainable food production and consumption among mountain communities in the HKPL. The rising impacts of climate change on the landscape’s fragile ecosystems and local natural resource-based economies have further worsened



food and nutrition insecurity. Moreover, women's roles and workload in agriculture are gradually increasing (but without commensurate rewards) due to a waning interest in agriculture and the outmigration of men.

In the HKPL, agriculture and livestock are critical to food and nutrition security and livelihoods. Lack of reliable water supply in the traditional micro-irrigation systems (locally known as kuhl or gole) and water-related extreme weather events (such as floods and glacial lake outburst floods) are impacting agricultural land and productivity. Moreover, inadequate supply of clean energy and related technologies are among the key factors resulting in lower income of farmers and increasing burden on women.

Agenda

Time (NPT)	Programme
16:00–16:05	Participants check-in on MS Teams Moderator: Laurie Vasily , Head of Knowledge Management and Communication, ICIMOD
16:05–16:20	Opening Introduction – Abid Hussain , Food Security Economist, ICIMOD Welcome remarks – Pema Gyamtsho , Director General, ICIMOD Welcome remarks – Nicholas McKinlay , Global Director of Programmes, AKF
SESSION I	Presentations
16:20–16:35	Understanding the food systems in high-altitude mountain areas – Melad Karim , National Lead, Agriculture and Food Security, AKF Afghanistan
16:35–16:50	The challenge of malnutrition in high-altitude mountains before and during COVID-19 – Aminah Jahangir Rajput , Program Coordinator, Central Asia Stunting Initiative (CASI), AKF
16:50–17:05	Arising opportunities and role of institutions for sustainable food and nutrition security in mountains: Gender lens – Nomeena Anis , Nutritionist and Gender Focal Person, FAO Pakistan
17:05–17:20	Food–water–energy nexus: An approach to achieve sustainable food and nutrition security in the HKPL – Golam Rasul , Chief Economist, and Abid Hussain , Food Security Economist, ICIMOD
SESSION II	Discussion
17:20–17:35	Q&A
17:35–17:40	Summary and closing remarks Nakul Chettri , Programme Manager, Transboundary Landscapes, ICIMOD

Speakers

Abid Hussain

Food Security Economist,
ICIMOD

Abid Hussain is currently working as Food Security Economist at ICIMOD. He supervises a group on socioeconomics and research methods within ICIMOD's Livelihoods

Theme. His research and policy work focuses on mountain agriculture, food and nutrition security, agrobiodiversity, rural



About the webinar

To further understand the food systems, related challenges and strategies, and food–water–energy nexus in the HKPL, ICIMOD and AKF are jointly organizing a webinar, the second in the “Bam-e-Dunya webinar series: Unleashing the potential of transboundary cooperation for a healthy and resilient roof of the world”.

The webinar aims to unfold and highlight the dynamics of food systems and will suggest a way forward to ensuring food and nutrition security in the landscape. The webinar will feature experts with diverse experiences on food and nutrition security in the HKPL and similar landscapes in other regions.

Aminah Jahangir Rajput

Program Coordinator,
Central Asia Stunting
Initiative (CASI), AKF

Aminah Jahangir Rajput is a public health and policy specialist with over 12 years of work experience in policy making, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation of health and nutrition programmes. She has worked across diverse service tracers ranging from social health protection and health system strengthening to child health and nutrition and community, global, and digital health. She has successfully led the design and implementation of programmes and research projects and advocated for multi-country projects funded by donors like DFID, British Council, UNGEI, GAC, ECHO, and KFW.



Melad Karim

National Lead,
Agriculture and
Food Security, AKF
Afghanistan

Melad ul Karim works as the National Lead for Agriculture and Food Security at AKF Afghanistan. With a post-graduate degree in agriculture, he has over 20 years' experience in designing and implementing projects on agriculture, food security, natural resource management, pro-poor value chain development, climate change adaptation, and community resilience building. More specifically, his work focuses on high value agriculture, seed sector development, mountain food and nutrition security, rural livelihoods, community infrastructure development, WASH, renewable energy, and access to finance. Karim has experience leading teams and collaborating with international development organizations on projects in fragile regions often affected by natural or anthropogenic disasters.



Golam Rasul

Chief Economist, ICIMOD

Golam Rasul is the chief economist at ICIMOD. He provides intellectual leadership in the areas of economics and rural development with special attention on regional cooperation, poverty alleviation, sustainable development goals, the food–water–energy nexus and environmental management. Rasul holds a doctorate degree in regional and rural development planning from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. He has authored over 150 publications in reputed international journals. He also worked as a coordinating lead author of the chapter on High Mountain in the IPCC Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere.



Nomeena Anis

Nutritionist and Gender
Focal Person, Food and
Agriculture Organization
(FAO)

Nomeena Anis has over 14 years of experience in public health and food and nutrition. Her key areas of interest lie in devising policies, programmes, guidelines, and action plans for strengthening health and food systems, nutrition, and human capital development. Prior to joining FAO, she worked at the Ministry of Health, Government of Pakistan, from 2002 to 2011. Anis earned her doctorate degree in food and nutrition from Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan.



For further information www.icimod.org/hkpl/webinar

For registration queries hkpl@icimod.org

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