

CLOSING SESSION
(06 APRIL 2018)

SAC-DONOR COORDINATION MEETING ON SAARC REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL
PROJECTS,
KATHMANDU, 5-6 APRIL 2018

CLOSING REMARKS BY H. E. MR. AMJAD HUSSAIN B. SIAL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SAARC

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to address this important meeting once again as you wrap up your two-day deliberations.

As I said in my opening remarks, this meeting is very important for enhancing project-based collaboration in SAARC to ensure food and nutritional security in the region.

We are, therefore, particularly inspired by the coming together of the representatives of our Development Partners for this meeting. Their participation in this meeting amply signifies their willingness to support SAARC in its endeavours.

I wish to thank the Chairperson for guiding this meeting to a successful conclusion. I also wish to thank the delegates for their insightful and constructive contribution. The meeting benefitted immensely from the expertise and experience of the representatives of the Member States and our Development Partners.

The meeting provided a wonderful opportunity to the distinguished delegates to discuss elaborately the identified priority areas for project-based collaboration in agriculture. I am very happy to know that the seven project proposals presented by the SAARC Agriculture Centre have been positively considered by our Development Partners. I am sure that the recommendations made by the delegates will be duly incorporated by the Centre in finalizing the project documents.

It is very heartening to know that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has agreed to develop a three-million-dollar regional grant project on “Consortium for Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia”. It is also very encouraging to note that IFPRI, CGIAR-CCAFS have agreed to co-finance this project.

I am very happy to learn that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has expressed its willingness to collaborate in the project on “Promotion of Pulses in Achieving Nutrition Security in South Asia”.

I also appreciate the willingness of CG Centres like IRRI, ICRISAT and ICRAF to collaborate in a few other projects.

It is equally encouraging to note that some of our Development Partners like Winrock International, World Bank and IFC have expressed their willingness to participate in some of the projects presented in this meeting. I am confident that other Development Partners,

attending this meeting, will also duly consider the proposals and will participate in some of them.

We appreciate willingness of the SAARC Development Fund to join hands with our Development Partners in implementing agriculture-related regional cross-border projects.

I wish to once again express our appreciation to the SAARC Agriculture Centre and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for co-organizing this momentous event.

You have had two days of deliberations in this hall. Job very well done! Now you fully deserve to have a few glimpses of this beautiful historical city.

I wish you all safe journey back home.

I thank you.
