International Online Training Programme on "Social Safety Nets: Challenges and Opportunities", AHK National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), Islamabad, Pakistan

09-12 September 2024

AFRICAN ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (AARDO)

Introduction

Poverty is a significant global socio-economic issue, with around 700 million people living on less than $2.15 per day, as reported by the World Bank. Extreme poverty is especially prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa, conflict-affected areas, and rural regions. The pace of global poverty reduction has been compromised due to subdued economic growth and other factors and the Sustainable Development Goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030 seems unattainable. Addressing poverty requires tackling its multiple dimensions, including equitable access to health, education, basic infrastructure, and digital services to improve overall well-being. Social welfare programme are in this context, very crucial initiatives alleviating poverty.

In Pakistan, the lower-middle-income poverty ratio was about 40% in 2023-24 and is projected to decrease to 37% in 2024-25. State-sponsored social safety nets like the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), and other initiatives play a crucial role in alleviating poverty. BISP, launched in 2008, is one of the largest federal unconditional cash transfer programmes in South Asia, with 9.4 million beneficiaries. Additionally, the Ehsaas Programme, launched in 2019, aims to reduce inequality and uplift marginalized areas through various initiatives, including interest-free loans and vocational training. Other programmes, such as the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Employees Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI), and Akhuwat Foundation, also contribute significantly to poverty reduction by providing financial assistance, pensions, and interest-free loans to the needy.

Programme Duration:
Five (04) Days from 09 - 12 September 2024

Last Date to Apply:
25 August 2024

Session's Timing:
14:00 – 16:00 Hrs
(Pakistan Standard Time)
(GMT+05:00)

Organizing Institution:
AHK-NCRD, Islamabad, Pakistan
(www.ncrd.gov.pk)

Sponsoring Organization:
AARDO,
New Delhi, India
(www.aardo.org)

Aims and Objectives of the Programme

The broad objective of the programme is to share experiences and build capacity of the participants to analyze how the role of social safety nets play in the poverty alleviation and sustainable socio-economic development. The specific objectives of programme are to:

- discuss the concept of Social Safety Net Programmes & their importance in light of the poverty profiles of African and Asian regions;

- have an overview and impact of the various Social Safety Net Programmes in Pakistan; and.
- provide a forum for sharing relevant experiences and strategies with regard to the role of Social Safety Nets in reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable development in AARDO Member Countries.

Programme Methodology

The programme will be highly participatory and interactive and will ensure maximum involvement of the participants. Important modules related to Social Safety Net & Sustainable Development will be presented by the eminent resource persons through lecture cum discussions, case presentations, and brainstorming.

Essential Qualification

i. Bachelor's degree with considerable experience in the concerned fields;
ii. Proficiency in spoken and written English, as the medium of instruction is English only; and
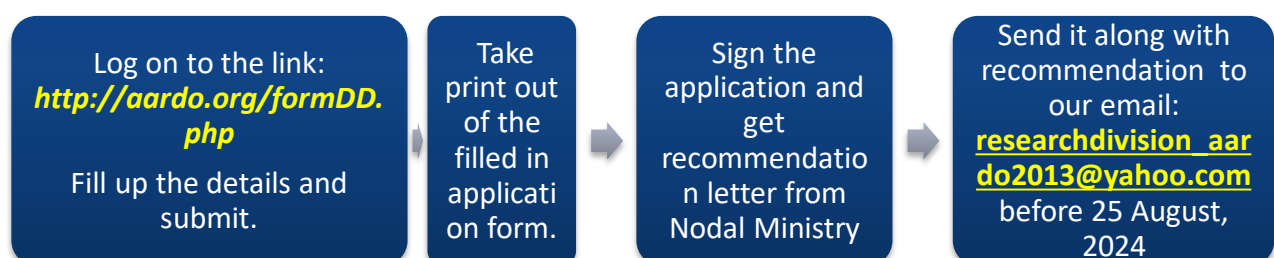iii. Must be conversant with ICT and willing to undertake online training programme.

Who Can Apply

Middle and senior level officials from government departments, ministries, development organizations and institutions engaged in formulation and implementation of policies and programmes related to the subject of the training programme. Women candidates would be highly encouraged to participate in the training programme.

Selection of Participants

The participants of the training programme will be selected by AARDO and AHKNCRD. Thereafter, selected participants will be provided with login ID and password to access the programme.

How to Apply

| Log on to the link: *http://aardo.org/formDD.php* Fill up the details and submit. | Take print out of the filled in application form. | Sign the application and get recommendation letter from Nodal Ministry | Send it along with recommendation to our email: researchdivision_aardo2013@yahoo.com before 25 August, 2024 |

Certificates

E-Certificate authenticated with the signature of H.E. Secretary-General, AARDO and the Director General, AHKNCRD will be provided after the successful completion of the training programme.

About the Host Training Institute (AHKNCRD)

Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), an Executive Department of Establishment Division (Prime Minister's Office), Government of Pakistan is responsible for promoting the cause of rural development and poverty alleviation in Pakistan. It performs the functions of capacity building of mid-level officials/functionaries of Nation Building Departments and Local Government functionaries from all over the country. NCRD also provides assistance to provincial Local Government Training Institutions in curriculum planning and training programmes. The Centre organizes seminars, workshops and training courses in which eminent resource persons/experts are invited to share the knowledge and vast experience on the given subject. As the nodal agency and link institution, NCRD also fulfils the mandate of three International Organizations namely African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific (LOGOTRI. For more information, its website (http://www.ncrd.gov.pk/) may be visited.

Important Note

i)   Application without recommendation of the AARDO is Nodal Ministry/Center of Excellence in participant's country may not be considered.
ii) Application, duly completed, must reach the AARDO Secretariat before or on the closing date, **25 August 2024.**
iii) Due to limitation of number of participants, only selected candidates would be intimated through the Nodal Ministry and AARDO's Centres of Excellence.
iv) Selected candidates will be required to actively attend all the live sessions of e-training programme to be eligible to obtain e-certificate(s).

Contact

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