

PM approves launching of ‘Green Pakistan Programme’ to add 100 million plants over next five years

KHAWAR GHUMMAN — UPDATED MAR 05, 2016 01:55PM

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has approved launching of the ‘Green Pakistan Programme’ whereby over 100 million trees will be planted in the country.

The idea, according to a press statement released by the PM Office on Friday, is based on the ‘Great Green Wall Programme’ of China.

Whether it’s the ongoing one billion tree Tsunami campaign of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or the ‘Green Pakistan Programme’ of the PML-N’s federal government, people across the board are of the view that the initiatives are a good omen for the country.

They said political ownership of such efforts would help check fast depleting flora and fauna of the country.

“Even if somebody thinks in this case we are following the PTI the end result should benefit the people of Pakistan. All across environmentalists are recommending the country needs emergency measures to check wastage of fresh water resources and such measures will be helpful in preservation of water,” commented a senior government official involved in the preparation of the programme.

The programme targets to add 100 million plants over the next five years all over the country. This includes one thousand avenue miles of Canal Side & Roadside Plantations in Punjab, KP and Sindh, plantations in Changa Manga, Darphar, Bahawalpur and Chichawatni. Mangroves forests in Karachi and Badin along with hill forests of Khirthar Range in Sindh, Juniper forests of Ziarat and Chilghoza forest in Suleiman Ranges of Balochistan and areas in GB, AJK, Muree, Hazara, Kotli Sattian, Malakand, Fata (Orakzai, North Waziristan, etc) are some of the locations for plantations.

The prime minister has approved the launch of ‘Green Pakistan Programme’ to improve forestry and wildlife sectors. Protection and management of wildlife and reclaiming and developing forest areas are the main aspects of the programme, the statement said.

Preservation and management of forest and wildlife resources of the country need to be adequately developed in line with the best international practices.

All relevant federal and provincial ministries and agencies will be facilitated to fulfil the task so that the desired objectives of forests preservation and wildlife protection is achieved, the statement quoted the prime minister as saying.

The Ministry of Climate Change has already consulted the federating units, including provinces, GB, AJK and Fata, prior to development of the roadmap. The initiative will ensure far-reaching reform in forestry and wildlife sectors of the country. Assessment of forest resource depletion, use of modern technology, and development of immediate and long-term forest resource expansion plans are some of the salient features of the programme.

The prime minister has asked the climate ministry to develop a proposal for strengthening Zoological Survey of Pakistan to immediately undertake inventory of endangered wildlife species and habitats across Pakistan. He issued directions for the revival and management of internationally recognised wildlife habitats, including Khunjab National Park (GB), Khirthar National Park (Sindh), Hingol National Park (Balochistan), Chitral Gol National Park (KP), Lal Suhanara National Park and Salt Range area (Punjab), Machiara National Park (AJK) and Margalla Hills National Park (Islamabad). The institutional and administrative steps for protection of habitat and inventory for endangered wildlife species will help a great deal to achieve the desired goals.

The ministries of climate change and science & technology will lead the regular stock-taking of deforestation and forest degradation on periodic basis for producing “Report on State of Forestry in Pakistan”. The GIS laboratory in Punjab and the Forest Inventory in KP Environment will help in maintaining the report while Suparco (Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission) will extend technical support in the form of provision of images.

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OLDEST **NEWEST** BEST

MALEEHA ~ Mar 05, 2016 07:12am
we have to think about basic necessities of lives too....Environment protection is also fundamental but we have to focus on health ,sanitation ,education too....After getting a chance to visit our government colleges I have come to conclusion that lot more has to be done because seriously they are lacking basic necessities of life

RECOMMEND 0

SCEPTIC ~ Mar 05, 2016 07:53am
The federal governments programme is more realistic and viable than the slogan of one billion trees by PTI, which requires the planting of a half million to one million trees daily.

RECOMMEND 9

S HASSAN NAQVI ~ Mar 05, 2016 08:07am
Look, I am not a fan of Nawaz Shareef, but this man is doing a few very good things and this forestation plan is just a very good initiative and a timely one too.

Congrats and it's imperative now that Pakistan sees this plan to fruition.

RECOMMEND 4

ROHIT ~ Mar 05, 2016 08:51am
Good move if properly implemented

RECOMMEND 6

SHERAZ ~ Mar 05, 2016 09:27am
The "experienced team" is copying the "inexperienced team". That is truly pathetic.

RECOMMEND 18

WELLWISHER ~ Mar 05, 2016 09:50am
great.Wish all countries in sub continent follow it.

RECOMMEND 5

SHAUKAT ALI KHAN ~ Mar 05, 2016 10:05am
@sheraz

Sorry Sir, there is big difference; KPK programme was unrealistic and politically motivated as it was launched by PTI. PM has approved programme launched by the government. However, I wish success for the both the programmes.

RECOMMEND 4

SHERAZ ~ Mar 05, 2016 10:11am
@ Shaukat Ali Khan. Whatever the mechanism for initiation who took care for our ecological environment 1st? The " PML-Ns concrete delving regime" or "KP regime led by PTI". ??

RECOMMEND 12

KPK ~ Mar 05, 2016 10:20am
All the money will end up in their bank accounts. Kpk wont tolerate corruption if they plant to trees or billion.

RECOMMEND 13

WORRIED ~ Mar 05, 2016 10:40am
good work, keep it up.

RECOMMEND 5

KHALID, UK ~ Mar 05, 2016 11:04am
Pakistan also needs an emergency birth control program for its spiralling population. People need education and family planning advice and guidance.

RECOMMEND 5

SALMAN ~ Mar 05, 2016 11:07am
Pakistanis are planting the plants, does not matter which political party they belong to.

It is a Win Win situation for PAKISTAN.

Keep Planting Feel Better

RECOMMEND 7

SYED WASIM HAIDER ~ Mar 05, 2016 11:38am
Very encouraging news.

RECOMMEND 3

PARVEZ ~ Mar 05, 2016 12:00pm
Every few years we read about such initiatives , then we read that the money allotted was eaten up and we see that Pakistan has become a little less green.....and then the cycle is repeated.

RECOMMEND 4

M. AHMED ~ Mar 05, 2016 12:40pm
Another mega corruption by corrupt ruling politicians

RECOMMEND 2

TARIQ AWAN ~ Mar 05, 2016 12:53pm
A bold decision despite knowing that they could be jeered at for imitating PTI. A decision taken in the interest country and the coming generations only. Well done sir! I hope it gets implemented though! This will certainly save Pakistan from following Middle East foot steps!

RECOMMEND 1

YAWAR ~ Mar 05, 2016 12:55pm
first they laughed then criticized the PTI for tree planting campaign ... now doing the same. i wonder why PTI is always ahead of scientifically rational and in the well being of common people instead of making bus, train and loan projects

RECOMMEND 7

IMRAN ~ Mar 05, 2016 01:13pm
Thanks for following Imran Khan

RECOMMEND 6

AK ~ Mar 05, 2016 01:47pm
Congratulations PM! We have already achieved 'Green Pakistan Programme' since PTI has already planted over 100 million trees in KPK. Now who will pocket the Federal plantation budget???

RECOMMEND 6

ABDULLAH ~ Mar 05, 2016 02:37pm
@sheraz. The problem is inexperienced team only talks and cant prove it while the experience team is proving alot.So theres alot of difference.Empty claims cant fool any one any more.KPK needs to come and show up where they planted lets say 10 million trees in kpk.Its been close to 3 years .

RECOMMEND 2

PESHAWARI ~ Mar 05, 2016 02:41pm
@AK. Either you are lying or all the KPK residents are blind.because we cant see those 100million trees you mentioned.Please guide us as well and tell where are those trees grown and if you could provide us with some statistics as to how the care of 100 million plants was taken when the provincial gov was falling short of budget.

RECOMMEND 3

SHAUKAT ALI KHAN ~ Mar 05, 2016 11:03pm
@AK

Planted in dreams and slogans; Sir.

RECOMMEND 1

OPINION

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