

Summary of Discussion with Mr. Qaisrani at His Home on 7 August 2003 in Tibbi Qaisrani Village

1. The ADB Mission and one GRSC member visited the house of Mr. Muhammad Shafi Qaisrani, one of the six Inspection Requesters, in Tibbi Qaisrani village and listened to his complaints in detail on 7 August 2003.¹ His complaints are mostly identical to those raised in the Request for Inspection: (i) compensation of land acquisition should be based on the current market price; (ii) outlets of the irrigation canals and watercourses are not properly designed; (iii) the need for some FCCs are doubtful; (iv) some distributary canals were extended to favor large landholders; (v) traditional Rod Kohi system was disrupted; (vi) the Indus Highway blocks some FCCs and causes flooding; (vii) some villages located in the west of the main canal were vacated by the resettlement promoted under the Project, although they have never seen floods there; (viii) villagers of Kathera are not satisfied with the narrowly circled protection bund;² (ix) there were flood incidents in Sokkar village in 2001;³ and (x) the Masswah inundation canal was destroyed by the Project.

2. The GRSC member explained to Mr. Qaisrani that the issues were being reviewed by GRSC. However, some of Mr. Qasrani's complaints did not seem to be relevant because: (i) the Project-induced floods are due to water inundation being trapped at the embankment of the main canal, not to flushing floods from the hills that would hit the villages regardless of the existence of the Project. Claiming that FCCs are unnecessary based on the past memory of flushing floods is not appropriate as water entrapment at the embankment is a new phenomenon caused by the Project; (ii) almost all of the people in the area are convinced that the permanent canal irrigation is far better than unreliable Rod Kohi flood farming;⁴ (iii) some of the 22 villages in the west of the main canal are normally empty as villagers stay there only during the rainy season, and this is not a result of resettlement under the Project; (iv) the Indus Highway was constructed by the National Highway Authority, not under the Project, and in any event, crossing structures are being constructed; and (v) the Masswah inundation canal was already out of use prior to the commencement of the Project.⁵

3. The Mission thanked Mr. Qaisrani for coming to the GRSC meeting on 4 August 2003, and suggested that constructive dialogue with the Government agencies, ADB, and GRSC is essential to solve the outstanding issues. The Mission expressed the view that an antagonistic approach will only lead to unproductive frustration on both sides, leaving the problems unsolved, with the ultimate losers being the people who are actually suffering.

¹ The meeting was held in Urdu and, therefore, the contents of this note rely on the interpretation and supplemental explanation after the meeting provided by the attending GRSC member.

² See para. 86 of Management's Response to the Inspection Request, February 2003.

³ See para. 87 of Management's Response to the Inspection Request, February 2003.

⁴ During the meeting, Mr. Qaisrani's relatives who happened to be in the room also commented that it is nonsense to compare Rod Kohi with the canal irrigation.

⁵ See para. 91 of Management's Response to the Inspection Request, February 2003.