

RELEASE IN  
FULL

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2009 9:04 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: addendum to night note: Draft USDA press release re: Af-Pak

FYI – vetting sensitivities if any with Jack and Rich

**From:** Plowden, Marisa L  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2009 8:34 PM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D; Smith, Jeannemarie E; Huang, Cindy Y; Klevorick, Caitlin B; Toiv, Nora F; Laszczyc, Joanne; Lurie, Mike D; 'Mikael Lurie'  
**Subject:** addendum to night note: Draft USDA press release re: Af-Pak

Cheryl, one more item: USDA sent this for clearance and would like to release it OOB tomorrow. Please let us know if you have any concerns – see highlighted line below in particular.

Thanks,  
 Marisa

**DRAFT: AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES U.S. MEMBERS OF THREE WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE U.S.-AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN TRILATERAL**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23, 2009—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the U.S. members of three working groups under the U.S.-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral consultations launched in May as part of President Obama's comprehensive, new strategy.

“The individuals I have selected have experience in Afghanistan and Pakistan and bring creativity, commitment and dedication to the task at hand,” said Vilsack. “USDA is uniquely positioned to reach out to land-grant universities, agribusinesses and non-governmental and private organizations to call upon their expertise for this important effort.”

Burnham Philbrook, USDA's Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Deputy Under Secretary, will head the U.S. Secretariat for Agriculture, while the trilateral working groups on agricultural trade corridors, food security and water management and watershed rehabilitation will be lead by Christian Foster, Deputy Administrator for Trade Programs in USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS); Ibrahim Shaqir, Director for International Research Programs in USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS); and Melvin Westbrook, Director for International Programs in USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), respectively. Listed below are the members of each working group.

**Agricultural Trade Corridors**

- Charles Stuart Callison, Senior Development Economist, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Gleyne Edward Bledsoe, Senior Technical Advisor, Chemonics
- Marc Clayton Gilkey, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Attaché for the Indian Subcontinent/USDA
- Gary A. Kuhn, Executive Director, Roots of Peace

- Allan E. Lines, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Development Economics, Ohio State University
- Barbara Rasco, Professor in the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resources Science, Washington State University

#### **Food Security**

- Mary Katherine Walker Simmons, National Program Leader, Plant Genetics and Grain Crops, ARS/USDA
- Philip Nathan Steffen, Agricultural Recovery Advisor, USAID
- Anne Williams, Agriculture Policy Team Leader, USAID
- Penelope S. Anderson, Food Security Director, Mercy Corps
- Jonathan Cleveland Brown, Independent Consultant/Managing Director, Social and Strategic Assessment LLC
- James Edward Hill, Associate Dean for International Programs, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California

#### **Water Management and Watershed Rehabilitation**

- Sylvana Li, Branch Chief for Rural Development and Natural Resources, FAS/USDA
- Jon Fripp, Civil Engineer, NRCS/USDA
- Gary Domian, Soil Scientist, NRCS/USDA
- Kathryn Ann Carpenter, Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- John O'Dell Wilson, Deputy Director, Office of Technical Support, USAID
- Gerrit Hoogenboom, Professor and Coordinator for Research, Extension and Instruction and BAE-Griffin, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, University of Georgia
- Joanne Trotter, Director of Programs, Aga Khan Foundation, USA
- Dennis B. Warner, Senior Technical Advisor for Water Supply, Sanitation and Water Resources, Catholic Relief Services

These individuals will work with their respective Afghan and Pakistani group members to identify priorities and develop and apply appropriate programs, training and solutions. The Afghan Secretariat is lead by Saleem Kunduzi, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and the Pakistani Secretariat is lead by Malik Zahoor Ahmad, Director General of the National Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The goal of each working group is to: develop agriculture trade corridors along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan to facilitate trans-border trade; strengthen food security by collaborating on research to improve the production of fruits, nuts, livestock and other agricultural products and reduce post-harvest loss; and improve water and watershed management and irrigation methods and rehabilitate watersheds to increase crop yields and create jobs.

In May, Secretary Vilsack met with Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock Mohammad Asif Rahimi and Pakistan's Minister for Food and Agriculture Nazar Muhammad Gondal as part of an Obama Administration effort to bring a new era of stability and prosperity to the Afghan-Pakistan border.