**Seminar on**

**“Importance of Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) of Pesticides in Global Markets”**

**June 22, 2021.**

The Ministry of Commerce and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with International Trade Centre (ITC), organized a seminar on “Importance of Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) of Pesticides in Global Markets” in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). The seminar is amongst a series of similar events planned on a nationwide scale to raise awareness among farmers.

With around 60 participants, the seminar was attended by several rice growers from Faisalabad and its precincts. Furthermore, representatives from Punjab Agriculture Department, Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), Rice Research Institute, Kala Shah Kaku, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) and National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) were also present.

The attendees were warmly welcomed by M. Shoaib Zafar, Advisor (Trade Policy) ITC-ReMIT. Dr Syed Tauqeer Shah, National Project Coordinator ITC-ReMIT, delivered the welcoming address in which he effectively highlighted the purpose of the event. He urged the participants to understand the complications arising from the excessive usage of proscribed pesticides. Chaudhry Talat Mehmood, Senior Vice President FCCI, also stressed upon the need to reduce pesticide levels to enhance our rice exports.

A technical presentation was delivered by Dr. Mubarak Ahmed, in which he discussed the adverse impacts of pesticide residue on human health which has prompted several countries to impose bans on import of affected crops. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. Ali Narang, a representative of REAP, who discussed at length the damage to exports if good cropping practices are not adopted. The presentation led to a question and answer session after which certificates were distributed amongst the participants.