



**NO. 364/PA/DG/EPA/2025**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**NATIONAL HOCKEY STADIUM FERROZEPUR ROAD, LAHORE**  
**Dated: 07 /10 /2025**



To

The Director General,  
Agriculture (Extension),  
Punjab, Lahore.

**Subject: PLAN OF ACTION FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF STUBBLE BURNING**

In pursuance of the proactive strategy for the control of stubble burning in hotspot areas along motorways and in the region surrounding Lahore, a comprehensive *Action Plan* has been formulated to ensure effective surveillance, vigilant monitoring, and timely fire extinguishing operations. The primary objective is to minimize environmental degradation and protect public health.

2. The identified priority zones, encompassing motorway stretches within the designated areas, comprise approximately 538 villages with an estimated 2.11 lakh acres of rice cultivation. These zones will receive focused attention through coordinated field deployment, establishment of Quick Response Centers (QRCs), and efficient reporting and response mechanisms as outlined below.

**i) Deployment of EPA Surveillance Squads:**

EPA Surveillance Squads have been deployed across ten (10) beats covering the motorway and surrounding areas of Lahore within the priority zone. The beats are strategically designated as follows:

- Beat 1 Ravi Toll to Khanqah Dogran Toll (M-2);
- Beat 2 Khanqah Dogran Toll to Makhdom Toll (M-2);
- Beat 3 Makhdom Toll to Bhera Toll (M-2);
- Beat 4 Pindi Bhattian Toll to Faisalabad (M-4);
- Beat 5 Ravi Toll to Jaranwala Toll (M-3);
- Beat 6 Kala Shah Kaku Toll to Sialkot (M-11);
- Beat 7 Eastern Bypass to Kot Pindi Das (area around Lahore);
- Beat 8 Raiwind to Phoolnagar and Kot Radha Kishan (area around Lahore)
- Beat 9 Lahore to Kasur and Raiwind (area around Lahore).
- Beat 10 Lahore to Sheikhpura (GT Road)

Each of these 10 beats will be patrolled by a dedicated surveillance squad, which will consist of an Inspector, a field assistant, and a vehicle with a driver. To ensure continuous vigilance and prompt action, the surveillance teams will operate in three shifts, providing 24/7 monitoring to respond to stubble burning incidents.

**ii) Activation of Quick Response Centers (QRCs):**

A total of 67 Quick Response Centers (QRCs) will be activated in the priority areas along the motorways and in the region surrounding Lahore (List of QRCs is attached as **Annex-A**). Each QRC is strategically located in a UC Office of the Agriculture Department, identified in coordination with the Agriculture Department. Each QRC will be staffed by a Field Assistant from

the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who will serve as the focal person. The QRC squads will be equipped with motorcycles (125cc) for quick field response, and tractors with water bowzers will be used along with firefighting staff to extinguish any fires. The QRCs will operate in two shifts (day/night) to ensure continuous availability and rapid response to stubble burning incidents. Additionally, the Agriculture Department will identify nearby tube wells for water refilling to support the QRCs' operations.

**iii) Incident Reporting and Response Mechanism:**

When an incident of stubble burning is identified or reported—whether by the EPA Surveillance Squad, through the EPD Helpline (1373), Robo Calls, District Administration, or any other credible source—the information shall be immediately conveyed to the nearest Quick Response Center (QRC) along with the precise location coordinates. The EPA Surveillance Squad will serve as the *focal point of communication*, ensuring that all reports are verified, documented, and promptly transmitted to the concerned QRC. Upon receipt of the report, the QRC team shall immediately mobilize, deploying the water bowser and firefighting staff to extinguish the fire and prevent its spread. This coordinated mechanism will ensure timely response and effective mitigation of stubble burning incidents.

**iv) Role of the Agriculture Department:**

The Agriculture Department will play a key role in facilitating the establishment of Quick Response Centers (QRCs) at suitable locations, ensuring their strategic placement for effective response. Additionally, the department will identify nearby tube wells to support the QRCs with water refilling.

**3.** The above *Plan of Action* shall be implemented in close coordination between EPA and the Agriculture Department to ensure timely detection, reporting, and control of stubble burning incidents in the identified hotspot areas. The Agriculture Department is requested to extend full facilitation in the establishment and operationalization of the Quick Response Centers (QRCs), identification of suitable locations for water sources, and coordination with EPA field teams to ensure effective on-ground execution of this plan.



(DR. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH) PAS  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**  
**EPA, Punjab**

**CC.**

- i) Secretary, Environment Protection & Climate Change Department, Punjab
- ii) Secretary, Agriculture Department, Punjab
- iii) Secretary Judicial Water & Environment Commission (JWEC), Punjab
- iv) Additional Secretary (Staff), Chief Secretary's Office, Lahore
- v) Additional Secretary (Coordination), Chief Minister's Office, Lahore
- vi) Director General, Agriculture (Extension), Punjab, Lahore
- vii) Chief Environment & Climate Change P&D Board, Lahore
- viii) PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D
- ix) Additional Director General (Ops. & Imp.), EPA Punjab
- x) Mr. Usman Zafar, AD/Member EPA Punjab for stubble burning.
- xi) PA to Director General, EPA Punjab