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**Banks disburse over Rs 188 billion agricultural credit  
in first ten months of FY10**

Agricultural credit disbursement by commercial and specialized banks rose 7.58 percent year-on-year to Rs 188.025 billion in the first ten months (July-April) of the current 2009-10 fiscal year (FY10). In absolute terms, disbursement of credit to the agriculture sector increased by over Rs 13.246 billion in July-April, 2010 when compared with total disbursement of Rs 174.778 billion in the same period last year.

Overall credit disbursement by five major commercial banks including Allied Bank Limited, Habib Bank Limited, MCB Bank Limited, National Bank of Pakistan and United Bank Limited stood at Rs 95.958 billion in July-April, 2010 compared with Rs 86.552 billion in July-April 2009, depicting an increase of Rs 9.406 billion or 10.87 percent. Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited, the largest specialized bank, disbursed a total of Rs 56.194 billion in July-April, 2010, up 7.03 percent when compared with Rs 52.505 billion in the same period last year, while disbursement by Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Limited stood at Rs 3.608 billion in July-April, 2010 compared with Rs 3.610 billion in the same period last year. Besides, 14 domestic private banks also loaned a combined Rs 32.265 billion in July-April, 2010 compared with Rs 32.111 billion disbursed in July-April, 2009.

It may be recalled that the State Bank of Pakistan has set an indicative agricultural credit disbursement target of Rs 260 billion for FY10. Banks disbursed a total of Rs 233.01 billion to the agricultural sector in FY09.

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