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Contents

- FAO Response to Soaring Food Prices
- Role of Community Extension Workers
- Strengthening Cross Border Animal Disease and Surveillance
- Working as Partners
- Check Dam Construction – A Community Driven Initiative



Kitchen garden in Gulmera Batora Watershed NWFP December 2008

FAO distributes emergency seed and fertilizer to small farmers and women headed poor households to counter soaring food prices

Fazal, one of the marginalised farmers from Usmanabad village in Buner district NWFP, received wheat seeds and fertilizer to overcome the rise in food prices. Appreciating the assistance provided by FAO, he said, "The seeds and fertilizer helped in timely sowing the rabi crop. The use of quality seeds together with the urea and DAP will hopefully increase wheat production by 20 to 25%". On average, wheat crop from one acre of land is about 45 mounds; however, an increase of 15 mounds per acre is expected. His neighbouring farmers have already requested for the seeds after harvesting. He has also cultivated lentils and is expecting 200 kg lentils from half acre of land.



Fazal, a beneficiary farmer, who received agriculture input in response to the soaring food prices, Buner district in NWFP 2009

He is a share cropper who manages five acres of land and takes 50 % share of the total crop produced. Crops such as wheat, tobacco, maize and others are cultivated in that area. He is expecting to save an extra RS 25,000 after harvesting the crop. He observed that if quality seeds and fertilizer are made available in the market, then the wheat production can increase and farmers can fetch better profits for their crops.

FAO is assisting 18,000 households by distributing agriculture inputs to bolster crop production in the northwest of Pakistan in response to the recent escalation in food prices.

66 % of the population in Pakistan depends on agriculture for its livelihoods



FAO hosted a farewell lunch for Ahmed Raza Sarwar, the outgoing Director General (DG) of Livelihoods sector in ERRA and welcomed Syed Mujteba Hussain, the new DG for Livelihoods, Islamabad January 2009

The Role of Community Extension Workers

Afzal, a Community Extension Worker (CEW) for Chhattri Community Organization (CO) followed a traditional cropping method and grew wheat and vegetables for home consumption only and earned his livelihood by selling different kinds of pickles. After being trained as a CEW he applied improved production practices like the use of certified seeds and balanced fertilizer; control of diseases/insects/pests; growing multiple vegetable crops (i.e. cauliflower, turnips and garlic) on the same land within one season; and directly marketing farm produce. He grew vegetables on half an acre of land for commercial purposes and earned a profit of RS 190,000 from selling tomatoes, chillies, capsicums and egg plants in last summer season. In current winter season, he has so far earned RS 30,000 from selling radish and turnips.

As a pioneer community extension worker, he assists other farmers in the CO and adjacent villages with pruning orchards; grafting and budding fruit plants; applying insecticides on vegetable crops and fruit orchards with the implements provided in the 'training kit'. Mortality of mature trees of walnut, apple and almond due to stem borer attack is common in the area and Afzal effectively applies the 'Direct Injection Method' technique - learned during the training - to fruit plants and also provides services to other farmers in adjacent villages. He has also trained a fellow farmer, Zulfiqar in orchard management, and together they have grafted 100 fruit plants comprising local species of peaches, apricots and plums.

FAO supported the two weeks training in improved agricultural production practices under the AJK Community Development Programme sponsored by IFAD. Fifteen farmers were trained in establishment of fruit plant nursery, orchard management, vegetable and potato cultivation, direct injection method for control of stem borer of fruit plants, fertilizer requirements of crops, and spray techniques of herbicides/insecticides/ pesticides.



Afzal teaching grafting and budding of fruit plants to Zulfiqar.



Walnut tree dead due to stem borer attack. Now the 'Direct Injection Method' technique is effectively being applied against the disease.



Afzal discussing the winter season vegetables with Ghulam Muhammad, Assistant Director Agriculture at his farm.

***Empowerment and capacity building are cornerstones of
FAO's work in Pakistan***

Strengthening Cross Border Animal Disease Surveillance and Control Between Afghanistan and Pakistan

Animal diseases particularly Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) limit livestock productivity and negatively impacts poverty alleviation in Pakistan as in other countries of the region. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been detected in the recent past, both in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Afghanistan the outbreaks were limited and were detected within a span of two months. While in Pakistan outbreaks in the last two years (2006-8) have been occurring without a clear pattern and it is likely that the disease is under-reported in the country. It was observed that the outbreaks in Afghanistan preceded the outbreaks detected in Pakistan, but there



Veterinary surveillance of sheep

was only anecdotal information that the virus was introduced into Afghanistan from Pakistan. Therefore, there is a need to develop joint activities to strengthen the veterinary collaboration between the two countries and to formulate common approaches and strategies.

FAO provides technical and financial assistance to the Governments of the two countries in an effort to combat these significant animal health hazards. A disease surveillance system is being set up for the prevention and control of animal diseases and is expected to forewarn so that timely preventive measures can be undertaken. FAO is also capacity building field staff and supporting in upgrading the disease surveillance and information systems for early detection and control of HPAI to avoid further spread to non-infected areas of the countries.

The Difference We Can Make Working as Partners

One-third of Pakistan's poorest - 53 million men, women and children who survive on less than USD 2/day- live in the rural areas of the country. Nearly half of the Pakistanis are currently facing food insecurity and most are smallholder farmers and their families who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Today, the climate change and the high cost of food and energy are compounding the challenges these people face every day in trying to make a living. Rural poverty can be overcome. It requires long-term solutions to the triple scourge of poverty, climate change, and rising food and energy prices. These include: the right policies at national level; creating a business enterprise of smallholder agriculture and livestock; and building the capacity of poor rural women and men and their organisations.

Government, smallholder farmers and their village organizations, and other development partners must work together to transform rural economies and create opportunities that result in lasting improvements for rural communities. In 1982, the Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) was set up to accelerate the social and economic development of the Northern Areas and Chitral. The programme used participatory approach and supported the creation of new small business enterprises as a way to generate employment and income and allow the rural communities to participate in economic and social modernization process of their villages.

A visit to AKRSP project areas in and around Gilgit was enlightening. The programme's main activities are focused on short-term training workshops for identifying vocations and business potentials among the beneficiaries. It also promotes collective enterprises for the production of various goods and services.

This is a classic model of working as partners with the local communities that can be replicated in the earthquake affected areas of NWFP and PAK for rehabilitating sustainable livelihoods. Community Livelihoods Rehabilitation Programme (CLRP) and Community Investment Funds (CIF) can incorporate the concept of small scale business enterprises in the sectors of agriculture and livestock that can act as a catalyst in developing a community-based participatory approach for overcoming the food insecurity, particularly for the poor, marginalised populations. Participation of the local people in the promotion of business enterprises results in creating economically self-sufficient and viable communities, thus reducing the dependency syndrome on external support from partner organisations.

Pioneering this concept, AKRSP in the Northern Areas encouraged rural women like Farida to find new ways to make an income. "With my dairy business, I can buy food and clothes and pay for medicine and school fees for my children", explained Farida. Listening to members of the Women Organisations at the village level in Gilgit, gave us a solid foundation from which to contribute to and help lead broader partnerships for rural poverty reduction. The CLRP

and CIF financed by Sweden - Sida can be tailored to support the specific needs and priorities of diverse rural communities, notwithstanding, that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to delivering assistance to poor rural people.



Forest tree plantation



Trout fish farming at Khalti lake



Plastic tunnel/dehydration plant for off season vegetables and drying of fruits.



Wollen processing unit



Chillar machine for milk processing

Check Dam Construction – A Community Driven Initiative

Under the overarching Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) in emergencies, FAO Pakistan has assisted Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority's (ERRA) Livelihood Rehabilitation Programme by providing technical expertise for landslip stabilisation and soil conservation through the construction of check dams. Thirty-six check dams have been built alone in Batangi Batora village in the Gulmera Batora watershed in North West Frontier Province (NWFP). Check dams are a people-based initiative and is one of the many activities being carried out under the Community Livelihoods Rehabilitation Plans funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Divisional Forest Office Kaghan Forest Division, the implementing partner, and Watershed Management Committee, the community organisation, are working jointly with FAO to assist the earthquake affected population to restart their crop and livestock production through the provision of key agricultural inputs, rehabilitation of rural infrastructure and training in improved technologies.



Check dam construction in Gulmera Batora Watershed in NWFP 2008

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts – enabling poor rural women and men to overcome poverty, achieve higher incomes and improved food security



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