



Research and Development Foundation

Newsletter

January - June 2015



Editorial

Harnessing Spate water for wellbeing in arid areas of Sindh

Though spate is an ancient system of irrigation, but it is not developed as a resource and tool to deal with flood risks and drought, particularly in Sindh. It is being managed informally by the communities. The Government in Sindh has not formulated any policy nor put in place a regulatory system to manage spate water. It is the sole source of irrigation in hilly areas of Sindh, where water gushing down from mountain ranges irrigate lands and through earthen diversion weirs constructed across the hill torrents water for diverted for various uses including agriculture and groundwater recharging through field channels. Communities are using this source for their livelihoods since centuries. Estimated land of 200,000 acres is irrigated in Sindh on spate.

Due to impacts of climate change and other factors such as population increase, Pakistan is rapidly becoming a water scarce country and effective management of the water resources is need of the day. Besides water scarcity, the intensity and frequency of climate induced hydro-meteorological disasters have also been increased, while the Spate Irrigation management can play a vital role in flood risk management and drought mitigation. It can significantly contribute to food security if managed well.

Considering its enormous importance for the agriculture and pasture lands, environment, ground water recharge, disaster management, this is need of the time that Government should take concrete measures to channelize floodwater from swollen rivers and hill torrents to fields through a network of channels and conserve it through appropriate storage mechanisms to deal with drought situations when the annual monsoon rains are below the required level. We should take advantage of the natural resources, which otherwise go wasted.

Sindhi Translation of the National Climate Change Policy Launched

RDF with the support of Oxfam Novib, translated National Climate Change Policy of Pakistan in Sindhi language in order to increase outreach of the policy to wider audiences and make people understand and take policy measures forward. Secretary Climate Change, Government of Pakistan Mr. Arif Ahmed Khan launched policy along with Secretary Forest & Environment Mr. Sajjad Ahmed Abbasi, Secretary Development Ms Rehana Ghulam Ali Memon, DG EPA Sindh Mr. Naeem Mughal, Chief Economist, P&D Department Dr. Fateh Marri, & Mr. Asim Saqlain of Oxfam Novib, IUCN and WWF representatives. On 16 June 2015 in Karachi. Mr. Arif Ahmed Khan appreciated contribution of the Oxfam Novib and RDF for the translation of this policy in Sindhi language, which has shown ownership of the province as a whole on this very important document.



Workshop on Spate Irrigation Potential and Challenges



A workshop on 'Spate Irrigation Technology: Potential and Challenges in Pakistan' was jointly organized by Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam and RDF in collaboration with Oxfam Novib at SAU Tandojam on 25th April, 2015; wherein Prof. Dr Mujeebuddin Memon Sehrai, Vice Chancellor Sindh Agriculture University was the chief guest, who appreciated the support of RDF and Oxfam Novib for training of the students and

teachers of SAU on this very important subject. Dr. Memon said that students should practically themselves engaged in the field work to learn how communities are managing water resources and what challenges are ahead of them, which should be addressed to increase agriculture productivity. The resource person Dr Shahid Ahmed while delivering lecture on spate irrigation said that Per capita water availability is decreasing and water bodies are not adequate to meet needs of the population in Pakistan. Spate is a water resource in our country which is not fully utilized to alleviate poverty and enhance agriculture productivity in the country. Mr. Ashfaq Soomro, Head of Programs RDF, Prof. Ismail Kumbhar also talked on the occasion

Training of women on Fuel Efficient Stoves and Replication

Using fuel efficient stove is becoming very popular in the areas where RDF is working. A number of women are using this new designed stoves. During January-June 2015 total 770 fuel efficient stoves were installed by the women in various villages of Tharparkar, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar and Dadu districts. As of June 2015, total 2286 are prepared, installed and used in these villages. These stoves conserve fuel wood and leave good impacts on the health of women and reduce carbon emissions thereby.



Promoting Adaptation through Evidence and support to the duty bearers in Pakistan

Research and Development Foundation (RDF) with the support of Oxfam Novib has completed a project 'Promoting adaptation through Provision of evidence & Support to the duty Bearers in Pakistan' during the period from 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2015, which successfully demonstrate climate resilient interventions in the agriculture and built capacities of youth, community leaders and students around climate change and developed climate information for stakeholders in local language. The project has significantly achieved its intended results. The project worked in close coordination with the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and has supported them to promote local evidence and Pakistan's stand on climate at various international forums.



Productive Assets Distribution to Ultra Poor Beneficiaries

The project has distributed productive assets to 51 beneficiaries (09 men and 42 women) to increase their income so that they can address sudden climate impacts, such as floods or droughts, because poverty further aggravate the climate vulnerability.

Tree Plantation in Chachro Tharparkar

RDF and Taluka Municipal Administration Chachro jointly organized a rally to raise awareness on tree plantation on 25thFeb-2015 in Chachro Town, wherein around 350 local people actively participated. The rally was started from entrance gate of Chachro and ended at Press Club. Around 5000 saplings of local species were planted in the event. Various Government Officials and NGO representatives talked on the occasion.



Drought Early Warning Information Dissemination

Through a local FM Radio, key messages and information on drought is being broadcasted to the communities to make them apprised of the precautions they should take during drought. The information rain predictions, livestock diseases and vaccination schedule, nutritious food intake, water borne diseases and cleaning of water tanks and Tarais is being broadcasted which is further disseminated to wider communities by the focal person of the Community Organizations, who is given a Solar Radio & Megaphone.



Vaccination & De worming Campaign in Rural Areas

RDF project teams conducted animal vaccination and de-worming campaigns in Tharparkar, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas and Sanghar districts through engaging Community Livestock Extension Workers. Around 29,695 animals were vaccinated and de-wormed.

Rehabilitation of Agriculture Schemes

Agriculture infrastructure schemes at the village level were identified through the village adaptation planning process and those were rehabilitated through community participation. The target was five schemes, but as per community needs and demands total 8 schemes were rehabilitated in Mirpurkhas districts, while 5 water courses were aligned, de-silted in district Dadu.



Demonstration of Hurri Plots

RDF is taking efforts to promote Hurri plantation in rural areas on the slightly saline lands and water scarce areas as adaptation strategy and to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases in atmosphere too. Total 25 acres of Hurri are



cultivated in district Sanghar and Mirpurkhas with plantation of *Acacia nilotica* species. Additionally 2500 fruit and non-fruit trees were grown on the lands, schools.

Eco Trips for Children of Tharparkar

Children of Taluka Chachro are continuously given exposure visits to nature sites, where they could learn and get enthusiasms about nature and importance of education, institutions around them. The KNH-BMZ funded project has organized five Eco-Trips for the children at various locations in Hyderabad, Mithi Tharparkar, Indus River, Umerkot Fort, Sindh Museum Hyderabad and library. 33 boys and 5 girls participated in these trips.



Training workshops on Fodder Preservation Methods

85 community members, particularly livestock owners, farmers were trained on fodder preservation techniques, which they can use to adapt to harsh climate or during drought days. Hay making and preservation of grain grasses/husk and maize was demonstrated before the community and they were trained on preservation techniques.



Celebrated World Environment day

World Environment Day was celebrated on 13 June 2015, wherein more than 300 community members from 27 target villages participated. Livestock department, forest, social welfare Department, Government of Sindh and representatives of local media also participated and interacted with communities. They exchanged their views about the drought, Government services and how better communities can get the facilities of Government and NGOs. Appreciation awards were also distributed by the project team among farmers, teachers, students and active person of line departments.

School Development Plans are prepared of 50 Government Primary Schools

Under 'Child Friendly Education Project' RDF project Team facilitates teachers, SMCs to review and renew the 'School Development Plans'. This year school development plans are reviewed and revised of all the 50 schools. has maintained an effective coordination with the education department and the communities to improve these 50 schools. Total of 482 committee members took part in revision of the school plans for increasing enrollment, reduce drop out, proper utilization of SMC funds, better infrastructure and ensuring child friendly learning environment.

Enhancing Content Knowledge of Teachers

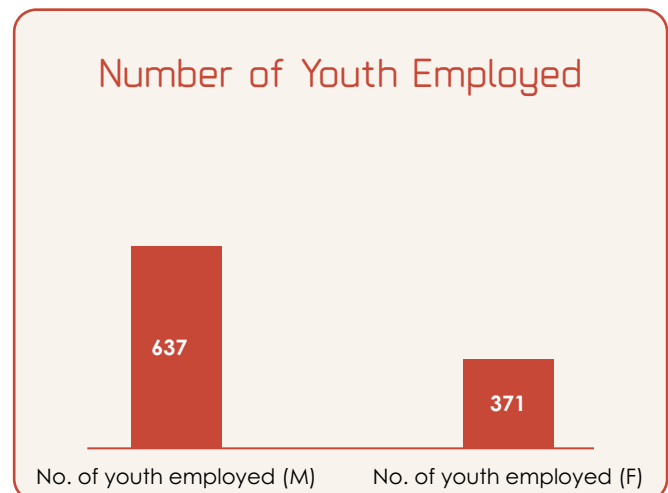
Two training events were organized for teachers at Indus valley School Systems, Hyderabad on 31st Jan to 1st Feb-2015 and second on 09th May to 10th May-2015 with the purpose to enhance science and mathematics teaching skills of teachers. 75 teachers of the 50 targeted schools participated. RDF team also organized two professional Development Courses for the teachers which were held on 19th-20th April, and 21st-22nd April, 2015 at UC Jam Nawaz Ali. Wherein 75 teachers of the 50 targeted schools participated. These courses helped teachers in improving language skills and teaching management skills which they planned implement when returned to schools.

Workshop on Spate Irrigation

One day workshop on "Spate Irrigation: Challenges and Potential" was organized on 25 April 2015 at Hyderabad, wherein 17 NGO representatives participated. Mr. Karim Nawaz and Abdul Ghani Soomro were the facilitators.

TVET Project Updates

The EQUATE Project has entered in its last year of execution. By this period the project has trained 1033 men and 467 women youth from rural areas of Dadu and Jamshoro districts, out of them 637 men and 371 women are employed/self-employed. They are graduated in various trades such as AC & fridge technician, Motorcycle Mechanic, Motor winding, Paramedic Course, nursing, Generator Mechanic, Carpenter, Plumber, Welding, Pipe Fitter, Industrial Electrician, Building Painter, Montessori Teaching, Fashion Design, Beautician, Home Appliance, Mobile Repairing, Tailoring and in Auto Cad trades.



Business and Employment Counseling orientation was provided to 411 men and 185 women right holders.

Distribution of Tool Kits

Among successful trainees tool kits are distributed to 452 Men and 212 Women to enable them start their own work. Kits were distributed in ceremonies, where trainees were also given opportunity to interact with representatives of the micro credit institutions, trade and industry and labor department.

Showcasing the Work of Trained Women Exhibition at Expo Center Karachi

EQUATE project provided opportunity to its trained women of Dadu and Jamshoro to showcase their handmade work in a 4 Day Trade Fair, which was held at Expo Center Karachi from 26 February to 1 March 2015, where women artisans showcased various products such as handmade jewelry, purses and Applique work cushions. They also participated in another exhibition held from 27th May to 29th May 2015 at Hotel Royal Taj Hyderabad. Women put their stall there, which generated a sale of PKR. 15000. This was the first direct sell in the market. They also got orders from shopkeepers and small entrepreneurs for making of various products for their shops.



Formation of Crafts Women Association

The EQUATE Trained Women have formed their Crafts Associations in Dadu and Jamshoro to promote the craft they are trained in to fetch into the market needs. Women of 18 villages of Jamshoro and 30 villages of Dadu are the members of these organizations.

Craft Training for Rural Women

937 crafts women completed their 12 weeks training course which was organized by the Butterfly Works under EQUATE Project. The course was imparted through different training sessions on products market value, actualization of wages, color combinations according to consumer market analysis. As an outcome these crafts women are now selling the same products at better prices, their sense of designing has also improved.

Establishment of Indus Art Learning Center

EQUATE project has established Indus Art Learning Center at Kotri Town. It would serve as hub for the crafts women and their products, additionally a platform for the trained right holders and skilled persons to come and join various learning activities and get refresher courses too. This will be bridge between the skilled human resource and the market. Various courses in the computer as well as stitching, designing will be offered to youth.

Training of Youth on Climate Change

23 youth of district Sanghar and Mirpurkhas were trained in basics of the climate change and adaptation through a two days training course held at Training Resource Center, Hyderabad on 13-14 February, 2015. The main contents of this training included: concepts of the climate change, eco system, NRM, biodiversity conservation and a green village. Participants were informed and sensitized on what role youth can play in promoting adaptation at their community level. As part of the training, trainees visited the Chotiarioun Reservoir in district Sanghar, where they observed natural environment and facilities. They also visited Tando Soomro to look at modern agricultural technologies and crop management.



Demonstration of Compost Manure

Cow dung is usually not adequately utilized by the farmers for the soil fertility and as organic manure. RDF through the support of Trocaire is trying to demonstrate right process of the compost manure and educate farmers about its benefits. During this period, 10 compost manure plots were prepared by the communities in union council Khudabad and Muradabad, in Dadu district.



Disaster Risk Reduction in District Dadu

DRR project being implemented in two Union councils of district Dadu Chini and khudabad has been extended till December, 2015. It is funded by the Trocaire. From January to June 2015 the project has facilitated training of 175 beneficiaries to learn basics of the DRR, early warning systems, first aid and and

Search and Rescue. The project has also demonstrated 42 agricultural plots for multi cropping, raised bed and drought resistant seed plots that were cultivated in Union Council Chinni. 200 seed grain storage bins were also constructed and distributed to the beneficiaries in UCS Chinni and Khudabad respectively. 33 medium and small mitigation schemes such as Evacuation routes,



Box culverts and pipe culverts had also been constructed in targeted villages. Other than that RDF team organized five days' registration campaigns with NADRA wherein 256 people from 6 villages had been registered. 9500 tree saplings were distributed and planted in thirty villages of both Ucs Khudabad and Chinni. Livestock Vaccination campaign was organized in villages of UC Khudabad in collaboration with Livestock Department District Dadu.

Sustainable Wash Assistance to Flood Affected Communities in Naushero Feroz Sindh

NCA-Act Alliance and HEKS Funded Sustainable WASH Assistance project has entered in its second year of implementation with the aim to facilitate WASH access to 15000 flood affected Communities of district Naushero Feroz. During January-June 2015, the project had arranged 288 orientation sessions on DRR, Hygiene promotion in around 200 villages of target union councils. Hygiene promotion campaigns are carried out at the village level with communities. Village cleaning, tree plantation and school cleaning are the key activities of these campaigns. 104 village level training events were conducted on Basic Management and Record keeping wherein more 2500 VDC members have participated.



Rehabilitation of WASH Facilities in Schools

The project has rehabilitated 18 institutional WASH facilities at schools, benefiting around 1000 students and teachers. Approximately 77 new hand pumps are installed and other 75 are repaired. Additionally drainage systems are improved in 8 schools and hospitals.

Water and Sanitation Facilities developed in villages

Approximately 600 pour flush latrines with hand washing and bathing facilities and 24 washing pads for women were constructed in around 62 villages. One latrine is constructed for four families, whereas one hand pump facilitates 15 families and one washing pad facilitates 30 families. The project has established Community WASH O&M Fund in 143 targeted villages to ensure sustainability of the WASH facilities. Two days training on DRR was organized for the officials of local Government departments on 12-13 August 2015 at Naushehro Feroz, wherein 23 officials participated.



Bhit Rural Sustainability Project Updates

RDF is executing eni and its JV partners funded BRSP project to improve living conditions of the communities of Bhit and Badra. Quality primary education, health, safe drinking water, community physical infrastructure and NRM are major activities of the project.

Quality Primary Education

16 primary schools are being run wherein 881 boys and girls are getting quality primary education. The project staff conducted various enrollment drives at the community and household level, which resulted in enrollment of further 71 boys and 33 girls during the period from January to June 2015. SMCs are actively engaged in the enrollment drives as well as management of the schools. Total 27 out of 32 awareness sessions organized



including community meetings for new enrollment specially girls. Various national and international days such as Pakistan Day on 23 March 2015 was celebrated at Sikander Noohani School Nigawal, wherein more than 100 students and parents participated. Eid Milad-UI-Nabi was

celebrated in all schools. Coordination with district authorities and community leaders has been maintained to assure attendance of students as well as of teachers. Technical and vocational Skill Enhancement Besides, primary education, skills to unemployed poor young men and women are also being imparted through well equipped CTC at Jhangara and VTCs at Jhangara, Chinni and Sehwan. During the period 34 young students passed out their certificate courses from CTC, whereas 51 were further enrolled. A batch of 81 women completed their skill development courses from the VTCs.

Primary Health Assistance to the communities

The eni through its BRSP project has assured regular delivery of the quality primary health assistance to the communities of Bhit and Badhra. Full time medial and para-medical staff at Naig Model Hospital, MCH Center Jhanagara and community dispensaries provide free medical assistance to the communities. Births are administered at the MCHC with full time Gynecologist and lab facility. Through these facilities family planning and child nutrition awareness raising is also extended to the mothers. The project has also continued provision of the drinking water facilities to the communities through water trucking as well as hand pump installation.

Rehabilitation of the Three Government Schools in Taluka Jam Nawaz Ali

RDF with the funding from UEP and support of District Administration Sanghar, has completed rehabilitation work at Govt Girls Primary School and Girls Middle School at village Jan Mohammad Kaloi and GPS Hassan Jamil. The rehabilitation work include provision of water and sanitation facilities, children play accessories, furniture for students and teachers, play ground development, class rooms up-gradation and color work. The Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Mr. Sikandar Ali Khuskh and Senior Administrator C&EA of the UEP Mr. Naseeruddin Pirzada inaugurated the facilities and handed over to the education department in a ceremony held on at GGPS Jan Mohammad Ali



Livestock Management Improvements in Tharparkar

RDF with the support of Caritas Austria has recently concluded a project on livestock management in 20 villages of Taluka Chachro district Tharparkar. The project has been able to provide training to 2500 farmers on improved livestock management through FFS classes. Additionally 11,120 animals were vaccinated and 17522 animals de-wormed through the support of livestock department of Tharparkar. Twenty youth got a month long training on 'Community Livestock Extension Services', which was organized in collaboration with SAU Tando Jam.



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Regional Conservation Forum in Bangkok Thailand

A three days Regional Conservation Forum was held in Bangkok Thailand by the IUCN from 10 to 12 August 2015. The Forum provided a unique platform to discuss innovative conservation approaches, share regional experiences and build partnerships for future action. It highlighted how working together is vital in order to secure the health of nature and the future of people in Asia. RDF being member of the IUCN participated in the forum and learnt regional experiences in the conservation of nature.



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