

Compiled by RDF Quality and Research Unit

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Pakistan's First Women-led Livestock Market



Pakistan's first women-led livestock market at Tando Allahyar on 15th January 2022, by RDF under GRASP project to encourage and facilitate women led livestock farmers to expand and uplift their business in livestock sector. The females attracted sales of PKR 5,07,900.



Dr. Fateh Mari VC SAU Tandojam, Ms. Shabnam Balouch - Provincial Lead GRASP ITC, Dr. Sahar- Gender Advisor Sindh ITC, Assistant Commissioner Tando Allahyar and Mr. Ashfaq Soomro-Executive Director of RDF inaugurated the first female livestock market. Women also set up outlets of livestock related products such as Desi Ghee, Butter, Green Fodder and accessories. More than 800 sellers, buyers, NGO and Government representatives visited market.

"For the first time I felt free, I could make the decision of buying and selling myself."

Shared Rozina Ghulam Mustafa, a livestock farmer from District Mirpurkhas

Screening Test for RDF Poverty Cum Merit Scholarship

Pre admission screening test of students was held on 27th March 2022 at GPS Dr. Ziauddin Tando Adam, Sanghar for 'RDF Poverty Cum Merit Scholarship Program'. The test was organized for students of taluka Jam Nawaz Ali and Tando Adam Government Secondary Schools. Successful students will be offered scholarship on merit cum poverty basis for study in good quality boarding schools in Sindh. Total 135 students of district Sanghar appeared in screening test.



International Women's Day

International Women's Day 2022 was celebrated by promoting rural women entrepreneurs and artisans in a Craft Mela which was organized by Research and Development Foundation (RDF) in collaboration with Mohatta Palace Museum and Sindh Indigenous and Traditional Crafts Company (SITCO) under GRASP project.

Ms. Shehnaz Wazir Ali- Chairperson SZABIST inaugurated the event. Ms. Nazish, Ms. Nasreen Askari, Ms. Waheeda Mahesar- Director ZABTEC SZABIST, Ms. Shabnam Baloch, Dr. Sahar Gul, Mr. Shakeel Abro, Director SITCO and Mr. Ashfaq Soomro spoke at the event.

Different groups of Women Entrepreneurs & artisans hailing from district Thatta, Khairpur, Matari, Mirpurkhas and Tando Allahyar participated and set their stalls of traditional handicrafts and value added products of tomato, onion, banana, mangoes, dates and dairy products.

International Women's Day was also celebrated in Tando Allayar by the Self-help women groups. In village Shah Muhammad Jamali, a rally and event was organized, wherein more than 90 women participated.



Public Private Dialogue on Sindh Women Agricultural Workers Act 2019

Public Private Dialogue on Sindh Women Agricultural Workers Act, 2019 was held on 9th March 2022 at Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, by RDF in collaboration with ITC, Mohatta Palace Museum and SITCO under GRASP project.

Mr. Robert Skidmore Chief of the Sector and Enterprise at ITC, Dr. Shireen Narejo, Technical Advisor at Sindh Rural Support Organization, Mr. Nabi Bux Sathio, Vice President Sindh Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. Mahmood Nawaz Shah, Vice Chairman Sindh Abadgar Board, Mr. Mehboob ul Haq, Managing director of Sindh Enterprise development Fund (SEDF), Mr. Aijaz Ahmed Mahesar, Secretary Livestock and Fisheries Sindh and Dr. Sahar Gul, Gender Advisor ITC Sindh discussed the prospects for the enactment of the Sindh Women Agricultural Workers Act, 2019 and highlighted the challenges hindering the implementation in a public private dialogue.



Awareness Sessions on Lumpy Skin Disease

Considering the current outbreak of the Lumpy Skin Disease virus in cattle, RDF team conducted 25 awareness sessions on lumpy skin disease in different villages of District Sanghar and Khairpur. Community people were capacitated about the precautionary measures for the prevention of the disease.



SMEs training on Tomato Value Addition

Nine trainings on Tomato Value Addition Including Grading, Sorting and Processing have been conducted with men and women SMEs working in horticulture and livestock sector of district Tando Muhammad Khan, Khairpur, Matiari, Sujwal, Thatta, Mirpurkhas and Tando Allahyar, to capacitate SMEs in terms of practicing better techniques to ensure increased and quality production of livestock and horticulture products. It also aimed to aware and train SMEs on adding value to their products in order to enhance their market competitiveness and generate comparatively good income.



Training for Women-led Livestock SMEs on Milk Quality, Production and Value Addition

Three days training for women livestock SMEs on milk quality, production and value addition was organized under ITC's GRASP project in district Thatta, Sujawal, and Khairpur. The training aimed to capacitate women livestock farmers with quality value-added milk products to meet the market demand and increase their profitability.



Livestock Vaccination Campaigns

To enhance livestock productivity in GRASP focused districts, RDF in collaboration with Government of Sindh's livestock department and active participation of farmers, organized vaccination campaigns in Matiari, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Thatta, Sujawal, Khairpur and Shaheed Benazirabad districts. Through the campaigns, total 7,103 (Large 1,925 and Small 5,178) animals were vaccinated to prevent diseases, benefiting total 320 women and 210 men beneficiaries.

Awareness sessions were also provided to communities about the importance of livestock vaccination. Details of number and type of vaccinations are given below:

Vaccine	Small Animals	Large Animals
FMD	1,560	490
HSV		1,435
CCPP	1,695	
ETV	1,923	
Total	5,178	1,925



Country Director- NCA Pakistan inaugurated Solar Powered Water Scheme at Sanghar

Country Director-NCA Pakistan, Ms. Anne Masterson and Program Coordinator Mr. Zohaib Hassan conducted monitoring visit to Climate Resilience WASH project Sanghar from 20th to 25th February 2022. During the visit, they looked in on Taluka Hospital Sinjhero and met with Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Dr. Imran Ul Hassan. They also met the District line Department representatives including Social Welfare, District Health, Education department and community of the village. Moreover, CD NCA Pakistan inaugurated the solar powered water supply scheme at Village Habib Bhambhro, near Sanghar.



Head of Development Cooperation BMZ, Ms Marion Pfenning Visited Lighting up Lives project

Ms Marion Pfenning Head of Development Cooperation at German Embassy in Pakistan visited BMZ co-financed development interventions of Kindernothilfe; a German child focused organization and RDF in desert areas of Khipro in district Sanghar on 23rd February 2022. She visited solar powered mini flour mills and sewing center operated by a women entrepreneur in village Ishaque Faqeer Rajar, solar power facilities installed at BHU Kamil Hingoro, solar powered pumping system and solar electrification of houses at village Kooch Gapni in desert area of Khipro, district Sanghar. Ms Marion discussed with women entrepreneurs, community members, staff of Basic Health Unit Kamil Hingoro and RDF management on the BMZ interventions in Sindh.



Later, Ms. Marion has a consultative meeting with the selected representatives from civil society, academia and Government organizations in Hyderabad, in evening. She discussed BMZ's assistance to the people of Pakistan through supporting Govt. of Pakistan and NGOs. She discussed general development situation in Sindh, with the participants. She aspired that the Government of Germany would continue its assistance to Pakistan, as both enjoy good bilateral relationship

Session on Ground Water at the 6th International Conference

RDF and U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) of Mehran University jointly organized a session on State of ground water in Sindh: Issues and Solutions at the 6th International conference on Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development at MUET Jamshoro. The session was chaired by Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Ujjan, GM SIDA, whereas the renowned journalist Ms. Zofeen T. Ebrahim, Prof. Dr RB Mahar, Prof. khalida Memon-Dean LUMHS, Mr. Qamar Chandio-Cheif Engineer of Public Health Sindh, Engr. and RDF's Senior Engr. Liaqat Panhwer were the panelists.



Training of Trainers

RDF Project officers Tando Muhammad Khan and Sujwal attended 05 Days TOT on Horticulture facilitated by STAR FARM Pakistan Private Limited at Karachi where the representative of GRASP Project PPAF's partners, Government departments (Agriculture and extension department and Livestock and animal husbandry department) SAMEDA, Karachi women Chamber of commerce, Sindh Food Control Authority, and SMEs working in Sindh participated.

Coordination meeting with PPAF Partner organizations and FAO

First monthly coordination meeting was held at RDF head office led by Ms. Shazia Aslam Business Development Manager at PPAF, Sindh office where representatives of FAO and PPAF POs from SAFWCO, TRDP, GSF and RDF participated in the meeting, to share each partners' progress and challenges that the GRASP field teams were facing.



Matching Grant for SMEs

13th February 2022, RDF published the Matching Grant Announcement in the Daily Sindh Express and established a help desk at field offices in Tando Muhammad Khan, Sujawal, and Thatta where SMEs can obtain a printed grant application form as well as guidance for submitting grant applications by field teams. RDF has ensured that the grant advertisement is distributed among MSMEs in the project UCs/ Districts. So far, 106 MSMEs have collected grant application forms from Tando Muhammad Khan, Sujawal, and Thatta districts.

Stakeholders Consultation Workshops on UC Mapping on Horticulture and Livestock

A Stakeholders Consultation Workshops on UC Mapping were organized at district Tando Muhammad Khan, Thatta and Sujawal under the project of Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP). Officials from agriculture department, livestock department and farmers from selected union councils participated in the workshops and discussed the findings of the UC Mapping conducted by RDF and PPAF under GRASP.

District Support Group meeting with Women Federation

District Support Group (DSG) meeting with Women Federation was held in Tando Allahyar under 'Sustainable Empowerment of Women' project. The purpose of the meeting was to develop linkages of Women Federation with different government institutions. Mr. Sheeraz Laghari-Assistant Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Mr. Zohaib Khanzada-Assistant Director Social welfare department, Mr. Waheed Hakro-Social Welfare officer, Dr. Mazhar Ali Rind Deputy Director Livestock Department, Mr. George Siraj-TEO Education Department, MS. Kulsoom-NCHD, Mr. Niaz Sial Community Development Specialist-RDF, office bearers and members of the Women federation participated in the meeting.



Women Federation members participated Training on Advocacy and Networking

RDF under S.H.A Programme with the collaboration of KNH organized a two days training on "Advocacy and Networking" for CLA and federation members where 31 members participated. The training equipped the federation members with the basic concepts of human rights and right based approach required in the advocacy process.

World Water Day Celebration

World Water Day 2022 was celebrated in collaboration with Government Boys Degree College Sanghar under the CR-WASH project. Representative of Social Welfare Department, Child Protection Unit Sanghar, Agriculture extension department Sanghar, Information department Sanghar and Educationalist attended the event. Moreover, representatives of local NGOs also participated in the event and discussed water issues in the district. The event was attended by 185 students, teachers and other stakeholders.



Two days Teachers Refresher Training on Climate Change in District Tharparker

2 Day refresher training on Climate Change was conducted with teachers at Government Boys High School (GBHS) Kheensar, Tharparker under 'Food Security and Drought Mitigation Project'

A total of 20 teachers participated in the training. The Trainee-Centered and Active Learning methodology was used to cascade the learning on Climate Change. The participants learned to developed their Action Plans in order to implement their understanding and learning in the field.



Communal Garden of Guava in Tharparkar

RDF have taken an initiative to establish a communal garden of Guava crop in District Tharparkar. RDF intends to introduce olive farming to strengthen livelihoods and nutrition of drought prone population of desert areas of Tharparkar. Local farmers have developed gardens, which are growing well.



Exposure visit of women SHGs to Urban Market

An exposure visit of 33 SHG member women from different villages of District Tando Allahyar was organized to urban markets in Hyderabad, to link these women with the market, so that they can get the first-hand information of market trends and establish their linkages with the traders in the market. Most of these rural women visited such market for the first time and they were pleased to have this kind of visit.





Exposure visit of Women SHGs to cross breeding of Goats and Sheep center

An exposure visit of SHG women members of District Sanghar was organized to the Government Livestock Breeding Department (GLBD) Tando Adam, to raise their awareness and knowledge about the cross breeding in goat and sheep, so that, they could be able to gain maximum benefits and raise income through new methods and technologies.




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