

Compiled by RDF Quality and Research Unit

Quarterly Highlights

MOU Signing between RDF and TPL Insurance Company

Participation in NGO Roundtable with the German Embassy on Climate-Energy Initiative

RDF extended support to Students for scholarships

Launching Workshop of Youth Skill Development for Resilience Building Project

Pitch session of 0.5M & 2.5M Matching grant shortlisted SMEs

PPAF Orientation on Procurement Systems

Field appraisal and Due Diligence of Matching Grant for shortlisted SMEs

Meeting with MPA of district Sujawal

RDF Participation in International MSMEs Day

Training for Govt Officials & Business Leaders on Gender Mainstreaming in Horticulture and Livestock Sectors

Heat Wave Awareness Raising Among the Growers

Exposure Visits for women livestock SMEs

Celebration of World Vaccination and Immunization Week

Livestock Vaccination Campaigns

Visit of Delegations to GRASP project

5 days training on E-commerce for Women SMEs

5 Days Training on Value Addition including grading, sorting and processing of GRASP focused Value Chains

TOT on Business Plan Development

Participation in National Livestock Forum and Farm Advisor Day

Celebration of Earth Day

Construction of Solar Powered Water Supply Scheme

Community Theatre on Good Hygiene practices

MOU Signing between RDF and TPL Insurance Company



RDF inked Memorandum of Understanding with TPL insurance company to mutually and effectively promote business opportunities for rural women livestock farmers and traders by connecting them to urban markets through Digital platforms. Mr. Ashfaq Soomro-Executive Director RDF and Mr. Syed Kazim Hasan- Deputy MD TPL signed MOU in presence of German Consulate General Karachi.

Participation in NGO Roundtable with the German Embassy on Climate-Energy Initiative

RDF participated in an NGO roundtable by the German Embassy in Islamabad to discuss the PAK German Climate-Energy Initiative (CEI) with civil society representatives, on 30th May 2022 in Islamabad. The objective of the roundtable was to discuss the current state of CEI relevant development cooperation in Pakistan and to ponder over the important policy developments for the climate and energy sectors.



RDF extended support to Students for scholarships

RDF extended support to 31 students for admission test of Sukkur Institute of Business Administration (SIBA) public school Hyderabad under "Children's Hope" project in District Sanghar. Out of 31, 15 students of district Sanghar got scholarship to the SIBA's Public School Hyderabad. RDF will bear all expenses of students for three years to continue their school education.



RDF also facilitated students for various government scholarships. Total

4 students have received scholarship and have been admitted NJV Government Higher Secondary School Karachi and Dr. A.Q Khan School System & College, Islamabad. Total 43 students appeared in these scholarship programs. In addition, 10 students also participated in the scholarship test at Cadet College, Sanghar. The project team also extended its support in filling an online application form to 45 fifth grade students for sixth to twelfth grade scholarship test at the IBA Public School Hyderabad under the Sindh School Education Scholarship Program.

Launching Workshop of Youth Skill Development for Resilience Building Project

Launching workshop of Youth Skill Development for Resilience Building project was conducted at Makli, Thatta to share project objectives, targets and strategies with the stakeholders. Project is being implemented in Badin, Thatta and Sujawal districts of Sindh with the assistance of Welthungerhilfe (WHH). Dr Rashid Channa- ADC Thatta, Mr. Sarwan Baloch-Program Manager WHH, Mr. Niaz Memon-Additional Director Social Welfare Thatta, Mr. KB Bahrani-Deputy Director Social Welfare Thatta, Ms. Mahreen Soomro-Assistant Director Social Welfare, Mr. Ashfaque Soomro-Executive Director RDF talked on the occasion. It was well attended by the local civil society representatives, media, youth and Government officers from various departments.



Pitch session with shortlisted SMEs for matching grant

25 shortlisted SMEs of 0.5 and 2.5 million matching grants from districts Thatta, Sujawal and Tando Muhammad Khan participated in the pitch sessions conducted by PPAF in Karachi where they presented their business development plans and defended their business ideas. Out of 25 shortlisted SMEs, 4 SMEs with 2.5 million matching grants and a few other SMEs with 0.5 million matching grants were selected for the due diligence and further process.



Our SMEs won Matching Grant

2 women & 4 men entrepreneurs from district Sujawal, Tando Muhammad Khan & Matiari have qualified for matching grants of 2.5 & 0.5 million under GRASP'S component of matching grants by PPAF.

Field appraisal and Due Diligence of Matching Grant for shortlisted SMEs

Due diligence visit of four shortlisted SMEs for 2.5 million matching grants (2 from TMK and 2 from Sujawal) has been carried out by the PPAF-GRASP Sindh provincial team to validate the business registration document including the Implementation plan, audit report for the last three years, bank account maintenance certificate.



PPAF Orientation on Procurement Systems

PPAF organized one day orientation on procurement systems for RDF staff at RDF head office. Mr. Tarique Ashraf (Senior Community Procurement Specialist) from Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) conducted the session with RDF procurement staff and project leads to understand the process of procurement under PPAF for GARSP-PPAF funded Project. A detailed presentation on the fundamentals of procurement, managing procurement process effectively and develop strong relationship with groups and stakeholders such as (SMEs, Donors and Auditors) were discussed.



Meeting with MPA of district Sujawal

Meeting with Mr. Muhammad Ali Malkani MPA Sujawal was convened by Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Soomro-Executive Director, RDF and Mr. Niaz Hussain Siyal- Community Specialist, RDF at his office in Chohar Jamali, and briefed him about the RDF Interventions in District Sujawal. Mr. Malkani appreciated RDF's work in district Sujawal and suggested some measures for enhancing entrepreneurial abilities of the youth in livestock and agriculture sector.



RDF Participation in International MSMEs Day

RDF participated in International MSMEs Day celebrated in Karachi by PPAF and its partners under the GRASP project, which was attended by GRASP partners, representatives of NGOs, RDF, SEDF, and Women Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Nadir Gul- CEO PPAF, Mr. Nabi Bux Sathio-Vice President Sindh Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. Umer Arifi-Provincial Lead GRASP and other panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities available in the market with respect to micro, medium and small entrepreneurs working in horticulture and livestock sector.



Training for Govt Officials & Business Leaders on Gender Mainstreaming in Horticulture and Livestock Sectors

One day training workshop on Gender Mainstreaming for Inclusive Services have been conducted for Government Officials and Business Leader in Hyderabad under GRASP project. Government officials from Horticulture & livestock departments of district Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, Tando M. Khan, Khairpur, Thatta, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Sujawal, Matiari and Tharparker participated. Representatives of women focused Business Support Organizations (BSO) from district Thatta, Khairpur, Hyderabad and Sanghar district also attended the workshop.



Heat Wave Awareness Raising Among the Growers

Awareness sessions were conducted with the growers in district Thatta, Sujawal and Tando Muhammad Khan about the alarming situation of heat wave that hit the Sindh province in the month of May and necessary measures required to cope with the heat wave were also discussed. Awareness raising IEC material was also developed and disbursed in different local social media groups to raise the awareness among the masses.



Exposure Visits for women livestock SMEs

Market Exposure Visit were organized for Women livestock SMEs of District Matiari, Sanghar, Tharparker, Mirpurkhas, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan and Thatta under GRASP project. Women entrepreneurs visited cattle and goat farms, khoya market, veterinary laboratory, livestock department of their respective districts and observed the best practices.

Self Help Group (SHG) members of district Tando Allahyar visited Hari Melo and National Conference on "Farmers Access to Agriculture finance and Mango Production Issues and Challenges" organized by Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam. Through this visit, SHG members built their linkages with different microfinance banks and acquired information regarding the registration process.



Celebration of World Vaccination and Immunization Week

RDF joined hands in the global celebration of World vaccination and Immunization week to create awareness among communities regarding vaccination and its importance under 'Women Empowerment Through Self Help Groups' project in district Tando Allahyar. Awareness walks and sessions along with BHU staff, Midwives, dispenser, vaccinators and patients were conducted in different villages to sensitize community people to take preventive measures through vaccination and immunization for a healthy life.



Livestock Vaccination Campaigns

RDF in collaboration with Government of Sindh's livestock department and active participation of farmers, organized vaccination campaigns in district Tando Allahyar, Matiari, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Thatta, Sujawal, Khairpur and Shaheed Benazirabad districts. Through the campaigns, total 6687 (Large 4532 and small 2155) were vaccinated with ETV, HSV and LSD vaccines to prevent diseases, benefiting total 619 women and 342 men beneficiaries. Awareness sessions were also provided to communities about the importance of livestock vaccination.



Visit of Delegations to GRASP project

Mr. Muhammad Umer Arfi-Provincial Lead GRASP, Mr. Shah Nasir Khan-Head of UNRC's Office & Strategic Planner, Mr. Shah Muhammad Azhar - Economist UNRC's Office Islamabad visited Village Izzat Khan Lashari District Thatta and interacted with Women SMEs.



Mr. Azhar Choudry (GRASP national project coordinator), Mr. Umer Arfi & Dr. Sahar Gul (Gender Advisor, GRASP) visited village Sahib Khan Lashari in District Thatta. They interacted with women SMEs at Lashari Dairy Farm. Women SMEs delivered presentation on their activities & Progress.

Representatives of European Union Mr. Stephen Langrel and Ms. Roshan Ara paid a visit in district Thatta, accompanied by Mr. Umer Arfi & Dr. Sahar Gul and representatives of FAO team. Women SMEs shared their best business practices with them and also highlighted the changes after GRASP intervention. They also showcased their value-added products, which were also purchased by the visitors.

5 days training on E-commerce for Women SMEs

Two 5 days hands on training on E-commerce have been conducted with 34 women SMEs of District Matiari, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Tando Allahyar, Thatta, Sujawal, Khairpur, Tando Muhammad Khan under GRASP project. The training aimed to capacitate women livestock and horticulture SMEs on Digital Business and link them to E-Market Platforms along with assisting them to establish online business and develop skills on E-Commerce Marketing.



5 Days Training on Value Addition including grading, sorting and processing of GRASP focused Value Chains

A total of twelve 5 days trainings with 149 men and 143 women SMEs have been conducted on GRASP focused value chains including tomato onion, banana, mango, goat, dates value addition including grading, sorting and processing in district Matiari, Sanghar, Benazirabad, Tharparker, Khairpur, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad, Thatta & Sujawal. These trainings aimed to enhance basic knowledge of small and medium entrepreneurs and farmers about the production technology, proper grading and sorting methods, good managemental and crop care skills and capacitate them on preparing value added products in order to increase their productivity and profitability by meeting the market demands.



TOT on Business Plan Development

RDF Project staff attended 05 Days Training for Trainers Workshop on Business Plan Development, Financial Literacy and Pitch making, organized by PPAF. GRASP partner organizations attended the workshop, which aimed to create master trainer from each of the 12 GRASP targeted districts. These master trainers will extend mentoring, technical assistance as well as training to five lacs category matching grant applicants in their respective districts.



Participation in National Livestock Forum and Farm Advisor Day

University of Veterinary and Animal Science, Lahore and the University of Melbourne, Australia organized a two day long National Livestock Forum and Farm Advisors Day in Islamabad on May 15-16, 2022 to share dairy beef project objectives with NGOs, academia, DG livestock from four provinces and private sectors. Mr. Ashfaq Soomro, Executive Director participated in the event on behalf of RDF.



Celebration of Earth Day 2022

RDF celebrated Earth Day with students of the small village of District Tharparker. The main goal of the activity was to create awareness among children about climate change and environment conservation and to connect them to the nature so that they could develop sense of responsibility towards conservation of mother earth and its resources. Students delivered speeches about pollution and various climate related topics. They also planted trees.



Construction of Solar Powered Water Supply Scheme

A solar powered disaster resilient water supply scheme has been constructed under 'Climate Resilience WASH' project in district Sanghar, which is providing easy access to 102 families and 627 individuals to basic drinking water at their doorsteps. The scheme has the capacity to store 8000 liters of water and it can be filled twice a day as per need. Further, it has three water collection points with three taps at each distribution point that reduce the queuing time during water collection. For ensuring the sustainability of the scheme, an operation and maintenance committee of community members has been formed that will collect the fixed monthly (50 PKR per family) water charges from water users in order to operate and maintain the scheme. For transparency and accountability, the committee will keep a record of fee collection and operation and maintenance.



Community Theatre on Good Hygiene practices

5 community theatres were organized on good hygiene practices attended by 114 men, 237 women and 155 children under 'Climate Resilience WASH' project in district Sanghar. The major theme of the theatre revolved around hazards of open defecation, the importance of hand washing with soap at critical times, vital role of proper hygiene for a healthy life, water-borne diseases, importance of latrines, climate change effects on WASH facilities, Importance of hygiene in religious leaders and initiatives for basic WASH Rights.



**RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION-RDF**

📍 A. 50, Sindhi Muslim Cooperative Housing Society, Qasimabad, Hyderabad.

☎ Tel: 92-22-2102702-3

📠 Fax: 92-22-2102704

🌐 www.rdfoundation.org.pk