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SINDH AGRICULTURE RECOVERY PROJECT

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NO. 391-A-00-11-01213-00

MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE – April



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Introduction

After the July-August 2010 floods in Pakistan, the people of America through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) began providing massive support to meet the emergency and early recovery needs of the flood victims. One significant project being funded and supported by USAID is the Sindh Agriculture Recovery Project (SARP), which was launched in 7 districts of Sindh from December 2010 in partnership with the Rural Support Programs Network (RSPN), Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB). The total value of this USAID SARP project is \$ 15 million. The launching ceremony was held in Jacobabad on December 13th, 2010 which was attended by representatives from the Sindh Government, USAID, RSPN, SRSO, SAB, and other stakeholders. Similar but smaller launching ceremonies were held in January 2011 in all 7 SARP districts. With USAID support, SARP is providing agricultural inputs to flood affected small farmers to grow sunflowers. Under SARP, the target beneficiaries are 50,575 small farmers (owners, tenants, and share croppers) and 101,150 acres, i.e. 2 acres per beneficiary. The package of support to the small farmers includes: certified sunflower seeds, fertilizers (DAP and Urea), trainings on sunflowers cultivation and cash packages for land preparation, cash for on-farm (water courses repair) and for threshers and harvesting.

First Check Distribution

Given scale of the project and the large number of beneficiaries, there have been some delays in the preparation and distribution of the first checks for land preparation. The process involved the district-wise maintaining names and Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) numbers of all project beneficiaries, then sending the list of those verified for sowing to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) team at the head office (HO). The MER team then checks the list against the distribution list and passes on the names that are cleared to Finance Section at the HO which prints the checks with the beneficiaries names and CNIC and sends them on to the district for onward distribution to project beneficiaries. The process was to ensure that only the project beneficiaries would receive the cash grant checks. It also means that the beneficiary has to show his CNIC to the bank at the time of encashment which ensures that no one but the original beneficiary can receive funds.

While implementing the process, some delays have been encountered. Districts were not able to get the data entered in timely fashion and when they finally did get the data entered and sent to HO, some data errors were identified. In some cases CNICs and names contained errors which would make cashing checks impossible while in others CNICs were missing completely or the lists contained duplicates. This was cleaned out, errors highlighted by MER and sent back to the district which worked on the data correction and sent it back. However, this process of cleaning data continues . The latest data check distribution is show below:

| Districts | Cleaned Data | Cheques Issued to Districts | Cheques distributed to farmers | # of 2nd Trainings Held | Farmers trained in 2nd training |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kashmore | 5,376 | 3,200 | 2,726 | 79 | 2,726 |
| Shikarpur | 5,022 | 5,000 | 1,723 | 19 | 1,723 |
| Jacobabad | 6,830 | 6,830 | 4,827 | 146 | 4,827 |
| Larkana | 1,740 | 1,740 | 4,717 | 98 | 4,717 |
| Shahdaskot | 7,390 | 7,390 | 1,891 | 28 | 1,891 |
| Dadu | 9,215 | 2,700 | 350 | 357 | 4,740 |
| Thatta | 7,507 | 484 | 2,478 | 71 | 2,478 |
| Total | 43,080 | 27,344 | 18,712 | 798 | 23,102 |

The management team for SARP feels that given the sensitive nature of cash grants and potential for errors, a separate task team based out of Sukkur will work to clean, recheck and finalize the data before sending further checks to the districts. The team will comprise of one SMO, one Finance person, one MER person plus support team. All the necessary assessment, tokens information and documentation from the districts will be called in to cross verify information. The team will complete the task between May 2nd and May 8th at the end of which all checks should be at the districts.

2nd and 3rd Checks

This process has created delays in project and has thrown off the timing for the distribution of the 2nd check for Cash for Work for water course rehabilitation and 3rd Check for Harvesting. In the last monthly report it was expected that the 2nd disbursement of checks would be complete by end of April. However, with the data issues it is imperative that the first disbursement happens with a clean and correct list of names and CNICs. Once this is complete the checks for the 2nd and 3rd disbursements will happen off the same list and if need be will happen together to cut down the time to complete the project.

Training

The second training on crop management is happening currently with this check disbursement. As soon as the data stands clear and remaining checks are issued an element regarding harvest and threshing will be added to the training. The third training will begin as soon as the current disbursement is complete and will also cover harvesting and threshing. All teams however, have been advised to communicate and facilitate threshing and communicate harvesting and threshing methodology to the beneficiaries as of now.

State of Crops

The sunflower crop is now starting to come close to maturity and ready for harvest with some fields expected to mature within the first week of May while the bulk is expected to be closer to end of May and finally tapering off by mid-June. Chief of Party (CoP) has held technical discussions with Mr. Gada Hussain Mahesar of the Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) who talked about adjusting rice threshers for sunflower threshing. Mr. Mahesar will be working with SRSO to train operators in the private sector in each district by 2nd week of May so that they can work with farmers. Feedback from SAB and the Pakistan Oilseeds Development Board (PODB) is that more than enough threshers are available in each district to meet processing requirements.



Sunflower Crop under the SARP project in District Shikarpur

Marketing

In order to facilitate marketing of the sunflower seed produce, SRSO has held meeting with several mill owners and middlemen who have expressed interest in buying the output. The expected output by district and region is as follows:

| District | Verified Acres Planted | Output Est. at 10 maund (tons) | Output Est. at 8 maund (tons) | North/South Breakdown at 10md | North/South Breakdown at 8md |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Kashmore | 10,686 | 4,274 | 3,420 | 25,216 | 20,173 |
| Shikarpur | 13,530 | 5,412 | 4,330 | | |
| Jacobabad | 18,464 | 7,386 | 5,908 | | |
| Larkana | 5,552 | 2,221 | 1,777 | | |
| Shahdadkot | 14,809 | 5,924 | 4,739 | | |
| Dadu | 17,372 | 6,949 | 5,559 | 13,127 | 10,502 |
| Thatta | 15,446 | 6,178 | 4,943 | | |
| Total | 95,859 | 38,344 | 30,675 | | |

As can be seen it is expected that in the North the output would be between 20,000 tons to 25,000 tons while in the South it would be between 10,000 tons and 13,000 tons. The main solvent plant in North belongs to Mr. Hafiz Pirzada and is located in Sukkur. SARP team along with USAID acting AOTR visited the plant and met with the owner who expressed an interest in purchasing 10,000 tons to 15,000 tons of output. The owner indicated that they would like to deal directly with the farmers and as has been done traditionally advertise the location and willingness of the plant to the farmers who will then bring their output to the plant and sell to them directly.

SRSO has also spoken to several middlemen and plant owners from the South who have expressed interest in sending representatives to the Northern districts or providing SRSO with lists of retail shopkeeper who normally function as their broker. Mr. Adeel Siddiqui of Premier Oil Mill is coordinating with solvent factory owners and has promised a list of his representatives in each district. Mr. Jai Ram, the owner of Lal Shahbaz Oil and Solvent Plant, also promised to nominate their representatives in each

district to purchase sunflower. All combined solvent factories have promised to purchase, approximately 50,000 tons of sunflower.

The list of plants SRSO is contacting is as below along with their processing capacity:

| | Name of Solvent | Owner | Contact | Tons/day | Status |
|----|--|------------------------------------|---|----------|----------|
| 1 | Sharif Solvent Plan Main Road Kunri. | Haji Nisar Ahmed. | 0238-558210.557060. 0300-3302012. | 400 | V.Active |
| 2 | Al Noor Extraction Plant. site area Hyd. | Saman Mal. | 0223881858. 0300-8372533. | 200 | V.Active |
| 3 | Lal Shahbaz Solvent Plan. Jatti Road Sujawal. | Chattan Mal. | 0298-510451.0301-8258707. | 100 | Active |
| 4 | Indus Valley Solvent Plant Sukkur. | Haseeb Pirzada. Manager. Akram. | 071-5630141. 021-5866757. 0301-8245146. | 400 | Active |
| 5 | Pak Agro Oil Mill Port Qasim.52-57, Aiwan-e-Tijarat Building, Aiwan-e-Tijarat Road, Karachi | Mr. Shahid Ahmed | 021-2401995-7, 2417966. 0300-8226697. | 100 | Active |
| 6 | M.Ali Solvent Plant Mirpur Khas. | Mohammad Ali. | 0333-2968877. | 100 | Active |
| 7 | OK Solvent Plant Main road Dhabajee. | Mohammed Saeed. | 021-4420222. | 100 | |
| 8 | OK Oil Mills, Room # 208-209, 2nd Floor, Technocity Plaza, Plot No. 7, Hasrat Mohani Road, Karachi | Mushahid Shah | 021-2270723-5, 2270726, 0300-8231111 | 300 | Active |
| 9 | Paracha Textile Mills Limited A-822, S.I.T.E, Maripur Road, Karachi | Sh. Nisar Ahmad | 021-2564594, 2562727, 2561101-5, 2561873, 0300-8237472 | 150 | Active |
| 10 | Shujabad Agro Industries (Pvt) Limited 9-KM Yasin Mansion, Bagh-e-Zahra Street, Khardar, Karachi | Mian Shakeel Ashfaq | 021-4531214, 4540242, 4380389, 0300-8230916 | 350 | Active |
| 11 | Premier Solvent Unit. Industrial area . Kotri | Adil Sidique | 0300-3011799 | 100 | V.Active |
| 12 | Lucky Solvent Plan. Kotri | Kelash | 0223-870262, 03008370202 | 100 | V.Active |
| 13 | Taj Oil Industries (Pvt) Ltd, Akhund-e-Rehman Street, Sharif Manzil Jodia Bazar Karachi | Wahid Majeed | 021-2413216, 2414782, 2411487, 2416853 | 150 | Active |

SRSO has placed advertisements in the local newspaper (see appendix), which gives the farmers in the North contact information for the district offices so that they can be guided to the buyers. As the lists of brokers start to come in they will also be shared with farmers during the training sessions.

Marking and Branding

Some online coverage this month for the project is as below:

<http://finance.kalpoint.com/agriculture/articles/usaid-backed-agriculture-project-meets-astounding-success.html>

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=42477&Cat=2&dt=4/19/2011>

Field Visits

During April 2011, acting AOTR (Mr. Arif Pervez) visit project sites and met with farmers in Shikarpur and Jacobabad districts. After this visit, another USAID Karachi Officer, Ms. Julie Koenen visited Jacobabad district and met farmers and saw sunflower fields in village of Hafizabad Khoso. She spoke with the project beneficiaries and distributed checks.

The project was also visited by Ms. Touqeer Fatima Bhutto (Minister Women Welfare, Government of Sindh) and by Dr. Qaiser Bengali (Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh). They also visited several sunflower fields in Kashmore district ,and Dr. Bengali stated that the project was innovative in introducing sunflower to a new region and is important in terms of import substitution for edible oil.

Other visitor to the field included Mr. Khaleel Tetlay, the Chief Operating Officer RSPN, who visited the sunflower fields in Shikarpur district, and held a day long meeting with the SRSO SARP team (DPOs from

all district plus HO team) to get feedback on the project. Members from SAB visited the project and distributed checks at various ceremonies at different times during the month.



COO RSPN's Meeting with SARP Staff

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Media Clipping of Ms. Julie Koenen's visit to Jacobabad

USAID-backed agriculture project meets astounding success

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Agriculture - Articles

KARACHI : The USAID-supported Sindh Agriculture Recovery Project has met with astounding success in rehabilitating flood ravaged farmers in the province. USAID officials, including in-charge for Sindh province, Julie Koenen, and Information Officer, US Consulate General, Karachi, Andie De Arment, visited Jacobabad district to have a look at the progress of the agriculture project designed to get high-value crops as quickly as possible for farmers devastated by floods.

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They met with the farmers and enquired from them about the project. Although most of the farmers had never grown sunflower before in the districts of upper Sindh, including Jacobabad, they were happy with the success of the project. It ensured supply of seeds, tools, and money to assist them in growing sunflower crops. The next phase of the project aims at getting local farmers the highest value for their crops. Information Officer Andie (in ajrak) handed out cheques to the farmers to help them in their efforts, while Julie posed with the farmers in their sprawling fast growing sunflower fields.

For USAID officials, it was an educative occasion to the extent that the interaction on the ground with the farmers provided them with an opportunity to understand and learn more about their sufferings and requirements to overcome

the losses they had suffered. They expressed hope that the program would continue successfully throughout the province of Sindh. Farmers from Thatta and other districts were also beneficiaries of the Sunflower Agriculture Project which was launched immediately after the floods to enable the farmers get back to their lands and start getting income and become self-sufficient.

USAID team visit to Jacobabad

Visit and cheque distribution at village Hafizabad Khoso



Visit of Ms. Touqir Fatima Bhutto and Dr. Qaiser Bengali



Dadu – Training and cheques distribution



Sukkur – Meeting with Mr Hafeez Peerzada CEO of Indus Solvents

