SINDH AGRICULTURE RECOVERY PROJECT
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NO. 391-A-00-11-01213-00

MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE - February
Contents
Introduction .................................................................................................................................................. 3
Distribution & Trainings ................................................................................................................................ 3
Verification – process and progress .............................................................................................................. 4
  Quality Control for Verification.................................................................................................................. 4
Cash for land preparation & cash for work ................................................................................................... 4
Human Resources ......................................................................................................................................... 5
Completion of 1st phase – Ceremony in Thatta ........................................................................................... 5
Meetings and Visits ....................................................................................................................................... 5
Current Challenges ........................................................................................................................................ 6
Marking and Branding ................................................................................................................................... 6
Appendix 1: Picture Gallery .......................................................................................................................... 7
Appendix 2: Media Coverage ........................................................................................................................ 8
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.

Distribution & Trainings

The month saw the completion of the 1st phase of the project which involved the distribution of inputs to 50,575 farmers and the completion of their 1st training. The process was completed for all districts on Feb 4th 2011. SRSO held a small ceremony in Larkana to mark the completion of the 1st phase and award were given to the top district (Shikarpur) for completing distribution before their deadline.

At the end of the process SRSO also started the compilation of data, the results of which are presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>% Land owners</th>
<th>% Share croppers</th>
<th>% Tenants</th>
<th>% irrigated with TW</th>
<th>% irrigated with Canal</th>
<th>% irrigated with Bosi</th>
<th>% Canal &amp; TW</th>
<th>% Canal &amp; Bosi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kashmore</td>
<td>10.60%</td>
<td>89.40%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shikarpur</td>
<td>20.40%</td>
<td>79.50%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>77.80%</td>
<td>13.00%</td>
<td>3.80%</td>
<td>5.40%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobabad</td>
<td>42.20%</td>
<td>57.70%</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
<td>99.80%</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkana</td>
<td>86.90%</td>
<td>12.20%</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
<td>75.90%</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>24.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahdad Kot</td>
<td>20.70%</td>
<td>79.30%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadu</td>
<td>3.20%</td>
<td>96.80%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>52.50%</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
<td>40.50%</td>
<td>6.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thatta</td>
<td>98.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37.10%</td>
<td>62.50%</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>26.70%</td>
<td>62.60%</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
<td>9.00%</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen about 1/3 of the beneficiaries are small farmer who own their land and the remaining are mostly sharecroppers. District Kashmore, Shikarpur and Larkana are mostly irrigated with tube well, which would imply that farmers in these districts will have access to water where these tube wells are still functional after the floods. This would indicate higher expected yields since water shortage issues will be mitigated. While other districts show canal as water sources, canals were severely damaged in the floods and these districts will mostly rely on ground moisture.
Verification – process and progress

The verification process started in all districts from Feb 7th and SRSO is facing challenges in meeting targets. The initial target to complete verification was Feb 20th which was pushed out to Feb 28th but this has not been met. Verification is more time consuming than the distribution process which involved gathering several 100 farmers and processing them at one point. Verification means that SRSO teams are moving site to site covering 50,575 beneficiaries. Even with clustering in some places as large as 250 acres, the touch points for the team are in several tens of thousands and some areas are extremely remote. Additionally teams have to visit farmers who have not planted initially more than once to make sure that the fields are planted. As of Feb 25th 2011 the verification status is as follows:

From Feb 23rd onwards each district has pulled staff from other project and reassigned them to SARP to speed up the verification process. The new target date for completion has been set on March 4th.

Quality Control for Verification

In order to maintain integrity of data and to ensure transparency, SRSO has rotated its teams in each district so that the teams which did distribution in a certain UC are doing verification in different UCs. MER department which is deployed out of the Head Office is screening all data and guiding the district teams to follow similar processes and data formats for verification. In addition, SAB has been provided beneficiary lists for each district and are running their own verification exercise. RSPN Monitoring officers have also been conducting spot checks of the verification process.

Cash for land preparation & cash for work

Initially it was planned that the Cash for Land Preparation would get distributed to the beneficiaries right after verification. However, this proved to be impractical considering the slow pace of the verification. It was decided that Cash for Land Preparation and Cash for Work will be combined and distributed together with the 2nd training which are to start from March 7th. In order to maintain control over cash distribution, cheques books were requested and received from all districts at the Head Office. MER then provides a centralized list of verified beneficiaries to the finance department which then prints the cheques for cash bearing the CNIC number of the beneficiary. The beneficiary will be able to take this
cheque to the bank along with their CNIC card and receive cash. The process ensures that only beneficiaries with planted land and genuine CNIC can withdraw their funds for this phase. The process for cheque printing is ongoing along with the verification process. Training and cheque distribution are expected to complete by March 31st.

Human Resources

- The search for a new CoP continues as RSPN is interviewing prospects. The project has been functioning without a CoP since the end of January.
- SRSO held a refresher course on sunflower agronomy and project processes for all field staff in the week of Feb 19th.

Completion of 1st phase – Ceremony in Thatta

February saw completion of the 1st phase of the project and a small ceremony was held in Thatta to mark the occasion. Ceremony was held in the village of Muhammad Khan Palipota. The event was attended by Dr. Marilyn Wyatt, wife of the US Ambassador, Secretary of Agriculture Sindh, Consulate General, EDO Revenue Thatta, COO of RSPN and representative from SAB. Dr. Wyatt and the Secretary Agriculture distributed Cash for Land Preparation to 20 farmers at the ceremony. The event was covered extensively by print media while a few clips were played on Pakistan Television later that evening.

Meetings and Visits

- AOTR visited the field twice this past month. During the first, AOTR, along with Senior Monitoring Officers RSPN and SRSO and SAB district members, visited the field in Jacobabad, Larkana, Dadu and Shikarpur to monitor, sowing, sowed fields, training and warehouses.
- The second visits included trips to Shadatkot and Kashmore to meet with community and monitor sowing. The visit saw some fields in Shadatkot with small number of plants with disease. SRSO mobilized Akzo-Nobel and a technical person visited the field the next day. It was decided that the incidence of disease did not meet the threshold level to warrant spraying the fields with pesticides. Members of SAB were also present during these visits.
- RSPN and SRSO management held a meeting with Oil and Seed Board and Indus Valley Solvent Company based in Sukkur. Indus Valley expressed their interest in buying a large percentage of the approximately 40,000 thousand tones of sunflower seeds produce.
- SAB has also started holding meetings with solvent companies, SAB met with representatives of Siddiqui Solvent; Kunri Solvent Plant; Lucky Industry Kotri; Al-Noor Oil Extraction Plant; Marvi Sovent Plant. Some of the main points discusses at the meeting included discussions on the price of seeds willingness of the extractors to buy crop whenever is made available in whatever
quantities available. The possibility of representatives of solvent companies visiting non-traditional growing areas was also discussed.

Current Challenges
The project is entering a crucial phase as the sowing is being completed. Some of the major challenges we see are as follows:

- Ensuring that a high number of farmers have sowed their field (upwards of 90%) before end of February. The verification process is logistically time consuming as highlighted earlier.
- Farmers are genuine in that they are not selling inputs in the market. SRSO has notified DCOs in all districts and has tracked and stopped a few cases where farmers were trying to sell inputs. So far such incidences have been few.
- Data for beneficiaries is clean and compiled properly. There have been issues with data entry at the district level with regards to consistency and timing of information coming to the Head Office.
- Field team monitor and ensure disease or pest attacks are managed properly across all fields
- The output is channeled properly so that farmers get a fair price and SRSO is able to verify the output.
- Buyers are on board for picking up output.

Marking and Branding
RSPN has engaged Dawn group to produce a documentary about the SARP project to be filmed in Sindhi and Urdu with English Subtitles.

RSPN has printed banners, posters, stickers, name tags and notepads and distributed these amongst the District offices and SAB and SRSO head office.

RSPN will also be printing small signboards to be placed in fields which have high visibility.

“This report is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.”
Appendix 1: Picture Gallery
Appendix 2: Media Coverage

50,575 small farmers receive fertiliser, seed

USAID completes first phase of rehabilitation project

News Desk

"It is a privilege for the United States to play a small role in helping flood-affected farm families to get back on their feet," said US Ambassador's wife Dr Marilyn Wyatt on Sunday. At least 50,575 small farmers in seven districts of Sindh have received sunflower seed, fertiliser and farm assistance for small farmers who were affected by the floods.

The assistance, provided by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), offers agriculture inputs for sunflower sowing covering 101,350 acres across Jacobabad, Kambar-Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Kharochar, Larkana, Dadu and Thatta.

Speaking at the event, Dr Wyatt said that the floods had a devastating impact on small farmers, who not only lost their standing crops but also the opportunity to sow wheat for the Rabi season. This package aims to help farmers get back on their feet through income generated from their land. Sunflowers were chosen because their sowing time stretches further than wheat and it also takes lesser time to harvest them.

She said that this project aimed to provide solutions to farmers who were not able to cultivate wheat this winter. She also announced the start of the second phase.

"We have certified that 25 farmers here today, and thousands more like them across the province, have successfully planted their seeds and fertilised their fields. The small 2000-rupee cash grants we will hand out today will help farmers ensure that irrigation canals feeding their farms are clear of silt and in good repair," she said.

Later, the project would provide additional cash grants to help ensure the sunflowers are harvested efficiently, and it would also help link the farmers with commercial buyers who can then process the flowers into sunflower oil.

Dr Wyatt distributed cheques of Rs 2,000 among the farmers of Sujawal in Palam village. Some 7,000 families benefit from the USAID-funded project, which enables to cultivate 14,000 acres of land that had been flooded.
US-assisted Sindh Agriculture Recovery Project's first phase completed

The US government and the Sindh government have launched the US-assisted Sindh Agriculture Recovery Project (SARP) in Sindh, Pakistan. The project aims to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in the region. The project will focus on infrastructure development, technology transfer, and capacity building for farmers. The US government has committed $50 million to the project, which is expected to benefit over 100,000 farmers.

USAID official distributes cheques

USAID officials distributed over $1,000,000 in cash grants to small-scale farmers in Sindh. The grants were part of a larger initiative to support local agriculture and improve livelihoods in the region. The funds will be used to purchase inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, as well as to invest in new technologies and training programs for farmers. The initiative is expected to benefit over 50,000 farmers in the region.

USAID has launched $600 million project for rehabilitation of IDPs in Pakistan: Dr. Marilyn Wyatt

Dr. Marilyn Wyatt, USAID's Regional Director for South Asia, announced that USAID has launched a $600 million project to provide rehabilitation assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Pakistan. The project will focus on providing temporary housing, food aid, and access to healthcare for IDPs in the region. The project is expected to benefit over 1 million IDPs across Pakistan.

The project will also provide support for education and job training programs to help IDPs reintegrate into their communities. USAID's efforts in this area are part of a broader commitment to supporting Pakistan's most vulnerable populations. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.