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SINDH AGRICULTURE RECOVERY PROJECT

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE (January 28, 2011)



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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.

Assessments, Trainings & Distribution

In the month of January 2011, the district teams continued with the beneficiary assessment process. The assessment process consisted of the SARP District Teams visiting flood affected communities/villages and raising awareness about the USAID funded SARP project. Those farmers who met the beneficiary selection criteria then asked to gather at one point the following day at a designated time. At this point the gathered beneficiaries meet the SARP District Team and formal assessment forms are filled out and distribution tokens handed out.

Once the beneficiary list is verified, the assessed beneficiaries are contacted and asked to arrive at a designated gathering point (usually accessible from several surrounding villages). The SARP District Team then sets up a orientation/training session at this point. Trainings are held before distribution and cover the following aspects:

1. Introduction to the USAID SARP project
2. Package details including timing, amounts and criteria (e.g. empty but coded fertilizer bags need to be seen before Land Preparation cash will be handed out)
3. Sunflower cultivation practices/agronomic practices

The sessions are conducted by at least one SARP District Team Agriculture professional at the site of distribution. The SARP District Team also uses a 4 page training module on sunflower agronomy as a training aid. Brochures developed by ICI are also handed out which cover sunflower agronomy. Both the training module and brochure provided are in the Sindhi language.

After the training session is complete the beneficiaries line up to receive the agriculture inputs. Each small farmer is given 2 acres worth of input in the form of sunflower seed, Urea and DAP. The beneficiaries present their tokens, which are checked against his/her CNIC card and checked off on the assessment list. After getting their tokens approved and either signing or making thumbprint, the beneficiaries move to the trucks to get their inputs. At this point, the token number of the beneficiary is noted against the coding on the fertilizer bag for future reference.

The assessment and distribution numbers are given below (Table 1 and 2).

Table 1: Assessments undertaken as of Jan 30, 2011

Name of district	Target HH	Assessed BHHs	% Achieved
Kashmore	5549	5,549	100
Shikarpur	7128	7,128	100
Jacobabad	9757	9,757	100
Larkana	2795	2,795	100
Shahdad Kot	8053	8,053	100
Dadu	9215	9,215	100
Thatta	8079	7,180	89
Total	50576	49,677	98

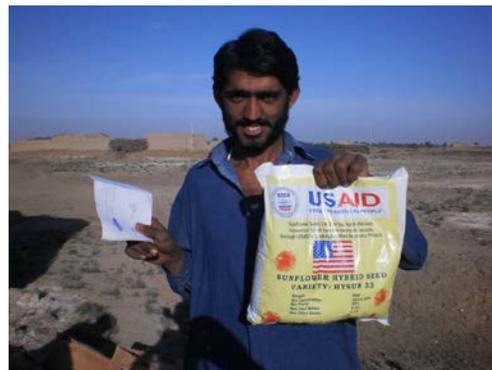
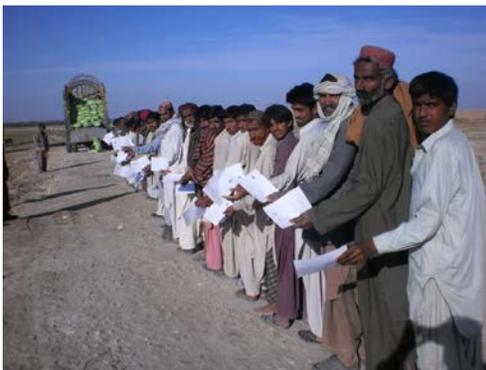
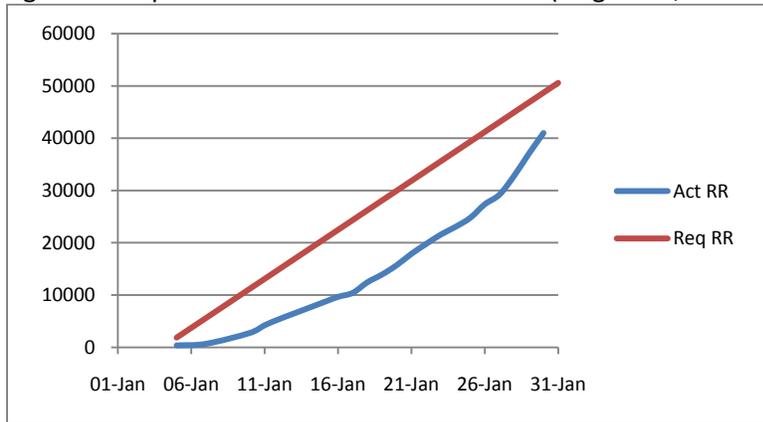
Table2: Distributions completed as of Jan 30, 2011

Name of district	Target HH	# of BHHs Distributed Agri Inputs	% Achieved
Kashmore	5549	5549	100%
Shikarpur	7128	7128	100%
Jacobabad	9757	7856	81%
Larkana	2795	2795	100%
Shahdad Kot	8053	5477	68%
Dadu	9215	6339	69%
Thatta	8079	5857	72%
Total	50576	41001	81%

The pace of assessment has been slower than expected especially in Dadu and Thatta. One key issue was the identification and recruitment of staff for the SARP project. There was also an issue of staff turnover as some staff found more lucrative employment with other agencies and organizations that had come up since the floods. The SARP District Teams are now complete and in place, and the pace of assessment and distribution is moving ahead fast. Figure 1 below shows that distribution of SARP project inputs began to accelerate from the mid-January onwards.

In order to review the SARP project progress, particularly the pace of beneficiary assessment and input distribution, the Chief Executive Officer of SRSO called a meeting of SARP project staff on January 25 2011, Sukkur. At the review meeting, SARP District Managers from Dadu and Thatta committed to complete the beneficiary assessments by Feb 1st. All districts have committed to complete input distribution by the end of the first week of February 2011.

Figure 1: Required versus Actual Beneficiaries (target: 50,575 small framers)



Sowing and Verification

During January 2011, SARP District Teams continued to work on beneficiary assessment and inputs distribution. Currently, SARP District Teams are also visiting beneficiaries to verify sunflower sowing. After the completion of the input distribution, all SARP District Team members will undertake follow up activities, including verification of sunflower sowing. This verification is expected to be completed by end of February 2011.

Table 3 shows the distribution of inputs in terms of acres, estimated area planted and verified area planted. The pace of verification will pick up in February 2011.

Table 3: Acres sowing verified

Name of district	Acres Distributed Agri Inputs	# Acres Planted (Verified)	# Acres Planted (Estimate)
Kashmore	8204	290	850
Shikarpur	8734	212	900
Jacobabad	7996	360	2,000
Larkana	3750	24	500
Shahdad Kot	7722	380	1,000
Dadu	9636	40	600
Thatta	8694	34	1,500
Total	54736	1,340	7,350



Trainings

SRSO's MER (Monitoring, Evaluation and Research) team is independently monitoring the distribution points. It was found that the trainings were not consistent across districts in terms of the agronomy knowledge imparted and also the set up and time given to the trainings. In mid-Jan SARP team held a meeting with HRD (Human Resource Development) to help streamline the training efforts. New training slides for agronomy were printed in Sindhi and handed out to the training teams to be used at all distribution points. In addition to this HRD has committed the following headcount to ensure trainings are held properly, on time and with proper attendance:

- 1: Larkana – 3 staff
- 2: Shadad Kot – 3 staff
- 3: Shikarpur – 3 staff
- 4: Jacobabad – 5 staff
- 5: Kashmore – 5 staff
- 6: Dadu – 5 staff
- 7: Thatta – 5 staff



Procurement

Procurement of DAP was completed 75% by mid-January 2011, while 93% seed acquisition was completed early January 2011. There was severe shortage of urea in the market and the major fertilizer companies increased the price of urea from Rs. 900 per bag to Rs. 1100 per bag. SRSO acquired urea from distributors as all manufacturer stores were depleted. Urea was acquired in small quantities as and when distribution requirements were needed. About 2 days of distribution delays were caused due to urea shortage in the month of January. Currently all inputs are 100% acquired.

Quality Control

SRSO has tried to maintain quality control through purchase of branded input material for fertilizer. The 2 brands that have been preferred are Engro and Fauji, the two most reliable brands in the market. While 40% of DAP was purchased directly from the company, all other input was bought from distributors who are regular suppliers for the two manufacturers. Even so, samples were taken post delivery from all the warehouses in the 7 districts and sent to Tando Jam Agriculture University for laboratory tests. Results are attached in the appendix and as expected off these brands there very little variation in Nitrogen and Phosphorus from the standards. The last consignment which is from 7-Star (fertilizer company) for DAP and is similarly being tested at the laboratory. Since DAP is usually imported in Pakistan, no great variation is expected. However, results will be published in the next report for this consignment also.

Marking and Branding

The main branding is around the agriculture inputs. ICI has already branded the seed bags (please see the photo on the cover page). For the fertilizer bags, SRSO has developed stencils for the USAID logo and this will go on all the bags before they move out of the warehouse. Some issues were encountered with the previous stencils as the logo was not printing clearly. Larger stencils were developed and distributed to the warehouses in all districts. Photographs below shows a stenciled logo on a fertilizer bag.

RSPN has entered into an agreement with the Dawn group to produce the Project Documentary, RSPN has also developed designs and layouts for other marketing material including notepads, folders and posters.

Fertilizer Bag logo



Human Resources

Staffing was a bit of an issue in some of the districts such as Dadu and Thatta where the SARP District Team composition was completed a bit late. In Kashmore and Jacobabad, some of the Agriculture Professionals had left the job and SRSO hired and trained new ones in their place. As of now the team is complete as follows:

Designation	Head Office	Kashmore-Kandhkot	Jacobabad	Shikarpur	Larkana	Qamber/Shahdadkot	Dadu	Thatta
Deputy Chief of Party	Nisar Ahmed Pathan							
Senior Monitoring Officer	Saqib Khan							
Monitoring Officer	Nazia Shah							
Monitoring Officer	Feroze							
Finance Officer	Shoaib-ud-din Shaikh							
Logistic Officer	Hari Lal							
Procurement Officer	Ameeta Raja							
District Project Officers		Rafique Khushk	Javed Shaikh	Zahid Hussain	Zulfiqar Chajro	Muhammad Khan Memon	Dr. Was Deve	Khalid Noor Jarwar
Social Organizer		Naveed Fatah	Asghar Malik	Ahmed Samejo	Majid Memon	Mansoor Sawand	Imdad Ali	Manzoor Ali Soomro
		Miss: Shagufta	Miss: Rukhsar	Miss Saima Bhutto	Lutaf ullah	Abdul Ghafoor Bhati	Mohd Qasim	Muhammad Hanif Mughal
Agriculture Professional		Mumtaz Balouch	Muzefer Memon	Shafique Ahmed Kalwer	Mushtaq	Muhammad Khan Kalhoro	Imtaiz Kalhoro	Abdul Rehman
		Farman Illahi	Iqbal Ahmed Maheser	Bandah Ali	Moula Bux Hullio	Hyder Nonari	Ghulam Mustafa	Maqsood Ali
		Asadullah Jamro	Altaf Ali Khero	Pahlaj Rai	Miss.Benazir Kumbhar	Sher Mohd Abbassi	Muhammad Hussain	Mohsin Ali Keerio
		Barkat Ali Nandwani	Muzefer Bhutto	Muhammad Umer Soomro.	Zameer Ali Rahoojo	Sanallah Mugheri	Zaheer Chandio	Imran Siddie Memon
		Mohd Ashraf Mako	Inayatullah Mirani	Bakhat Ali Tunio	Ghulam Hussain Burdi	Ali Murad	Farooque Ahmed	Abdul Aleem Khalihio
Warehouse Assistant		Waqar Ali	Riaz Bhayo	Abid Khokhar	Jahangir	Shahid Memon	Mehendro	Abdul Khaliq Chandio
Finance Assistant		Sikandar Ali	Mazhar Kango	Saima Memon	Ahmed Bux Mangi	Saleem Bozdar	Parkash	Sayed Jehanzeb Ali

In addition to this the following people from HRD are also involved in management of training:

District Larkana and Shadatkot	District Shikarpur	District Jacobabd	District Kashmore
1. Muhammad Irfan	1. Zuber Ahmed kalhoro	1. Abdul Raoof Shaikh	1. Muhammad Faisal Daud Pota
2. Mushib Ahmed Soomro	2. Majid Hussain	2. Liaqat Ali Bhatti	2. Atta Hussain Abro
3. Siraj Ahmed Lohar	3. Naveed Ahmed Kalwar	3. Faiq Ali Mirani	3. Najumudin Malik
		4. Sanallah Pirzada	4. Tareef hussain Domki
		5. Niaz Muhammad	5. Paveez Shah

Meetings

Representatives from RSPN, SRSO and SAB met with Dr. Andrew B. Sisson, Mission Director USAID Pakistan. Dr. Sission was briefed on the SARP project, its goals and current status as well as the problems encountered. CEO SRSO also updated the Mission Director regarding the general condition in Sindh.

CoP and Project coordinator have also met in Karachi mid-month to discuss progress where the AOTR raised concern over the pace of distributions being slow. CoP has also been in regular touch with the AOTR via phone and email.

SAB

The DCoP has been working in close coordination with District Coordinator of the Sindh Abadgar Baord (SAB) Mr. Irshad Channa. For much of January Mr. Channa has moved through all the districts with the SARP District Team and has monitored warehouses, assessments and distributions. In addition 3 meetings were held between SRSO and SAB in January 2011:

1. Meeting with SAB representatives on January 22, 2011, with RSPN representative and CoP in Hyderabad. SAB asked for more involvement in selecting beneficiaries and SRSO is working with them to smooth out coordination.
2. Meeting in Shikarpur on January 24, 2011, with various office bearers of SAB from Shahdad kot, Larkana, Kashmore, Jacobabad and Shikarpur plus coordinator Mr, Irshad Chana. At these meetings, SRSO shared SARP project progress. SAB raised some concerns over specific Union Councils (UCs) not selected but upon physical verification these UCs were not found to be in the flood affected areas. Other than that, the distribution work plans were shared with SAB and DCoP invited SAB monitors to visit the distribution points.
3. The 3rd meeting was on the January 25, 2011 at the SARP project Sukkur office. Mr. Irshad Channa, RSPN representative and DCoP were present and where they went over the UCs and the beneficiary lists, which was endorsed by SAB.
4. Meeting with COO and Senior Monitoring Officer RSPN, in Islamabad on the 25th of January. SAB and RSPN sorted out various issues and have thus far reported positive progress on those issues.

List of SARP District Teams were shared with SAB, who in turn shared the list of its representatives in the SARP project districts. This will facilitate improved coordination between SARP District Teams and SAB representatives.

SRSO

1. Meetings were held with each District Coordinating Officer (DCO) in all the SARP project districts. SRSO shared concern over security and the chances of fertilizer being sold in the market. DCOs promised to extend support and SRSO is seeking a formal letter of support.
2. Meetings were also held with the Executive District Officers (EDOs) of the Agriculture Extension Departments. SARP project objectives and other details were shared with them. SRSO asked them to extend their support, technologies and services to the farmers for cultivating sunflower. They were also invited to the launching ceremonies and to monitor the distribution points.
3. In Shikarpur, the EDO has introduced drillers to some farmers and are actively providing extension services.
4. SRSO is also updated on a regular basis on the progress of the project by the CEO of SRSO.

Appendix

Sample Testing Results

Below is a sample of the testing results for DAP and Urea

615-P THE SINDH GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, SEPTEMBER 29, 1999 PART-I

FORM-9
{See Rule-23}

No. AC (S.F) 491 / of 2011 Dated: 21 - 1 -2011

REPORT OF THE TEST OR ANALYSIS FOR PURCHASER

1	NAME OF PERSON FROM WHOM SAMPLE WAS RECEIVED.	SINDH RURAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (SARSO), SUKKUR	
2	DATE OF RECEIPT.	03 - 01 - 2011	
3	NAME OF FERTILIZER/ FERTILIZER MATERIAL.	DAP & Urea	
4	PERCENT OF ACTIVE INGREDIENT.	N%	P₂O₅%
	DAP Shikarpur	17.7	45.5
	Urea Shikarpur	45.2	--
	DAP Kandhkot	17.8	45.9
	Urea Kandhkot	45.7	--
	DAP Jacobabad	18.0	45.8
	Urea Jacobabad	45.6	--
5	OPINION OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST (S.F).	The samples referred above are STANDARD quality as specified.	

NOTE: The test report is valid only for the sample (s) submitted and analyzed. It is not valid for legal proceedings and sales promotions.


AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST (S.F)
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
TANDOJAM SINDH

Endorsement from SAB



Sindh Rural Support Organization

Head Office
(Licensed under section 42 of the Companies Ordinance 1984)

29th January/10

To: The Coordinator
Sindh Abadgar Board.

From: DCOP-SARP.
SRSO, Head Office.
Sukkur.

Sub: List of SARP Beneficiaries.

Dear Sir;

I am handing over the lists of SARP beneficiaries, the detail is as under:

Name of district	Target HH
Kandhkot-Kashmore	5549
Shikarpur	7128
Jacobabad	9757
Larkana	2795
Kamber-ShahdadKot	8053
Dadu	9215
Thatta	8079
Total	50576

You are requested to kindly endorse the same.

Nisar Ahmed Pathan.

29/1/10
Ismaeel Hussain Channa
Coordinator SARP

Bunglow #: 106, Street #: 03 Gate #: 02 Akkurwa Nagar, Airport Road, Sukkur. Ph#: 071-5633801,5633802
Fax #: 071-5633804

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