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SINDH AGRICULTURE RECOVERY PROJECT

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

MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE – June



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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.

Project Extension

The project has met with some delays due to slow verification and cleaning of beneficiary data. This in turn has delayed distribution of cheques. Coupled with the fact that harvesting and threshing is not expected to be complete by end June, and this is data the project wants to capture, it was proposed that a no cost extension be given to the project for 1 month. This extension has been approved and the completion date is now July 31st.

First Check Distribution

The data was finally cleaned out and approved by both the HO and the districts. However, in some of the places it has been difficult to locate the beneficiaries and in some cases the tokens have been confiscated by landlords. This is especially the case in Dadu where the SARP team is not expecting to distribute too many more of the 1st round cheques than they already have. For the remaining districts, all cheques have been given out or are expected to be complete as soon as the beneficiary comes forward.

District	Initial Target	Valid Beneficiaries	Cheques Distributed	Cheques Remaining	% Complete
Shahdadkot	8,053	7,390	7,210	180	98%
Larkana	2,795	2,776	2,768	8	100%
Jacobabad	9,757	9,211	9,211	0	100%
Shikarpur	7,128	6,890	6,890	0	100%
Dadu	9,215	8,747	7,696	1,051	88%
Thatta	8,079	7,668	7,478	190	98%
Kashmore	5,549	5,375	5,375	0	100%
Total	50,576	48,057	46,628	1,429	97%

2nd and 3rd Cheques

The 2nd and 3rd cheques have now been combined into a single grant which is the last round of distribution for this project. This grant was started in June and is executed through a bank authorization token. The position of the cheques is as follows:

District	Initial Target	Valid Beneficiaries	Cheques Distributed	Cheques Remaining	% Complete
Shahdadkot	8,053	7,390	561	6,829	8%
Larkana	2,795	2,776	2,675	101	96%
Jacobabad	9,757	9,211	2,282	6,929	25%
Shikarpur	7,128	6,890	6,576	314	95%
Dadu	9,215	8,747	2,089	6,658	24%
Thatta	8,079	7,668	6,810	858	89%
Kashmore	5,549	5,375	5,361	14	100%
Total	50,576	48,057	26,354	21,703	55%

There are 3 districts lagging behind in distribution. In Shadatkot and Dadu there has been movement of staff with the result that several people familiar with the SARP project are no longer available. This has meant rehiring at the last minute and getting the new people in the field. These district are expected to complete all distribution by July 15th. In Jacobabad, there have been issues around locating and validating some of the beneficiaries who received the agriculture input and first round cheques. Some of these beneficiaries appear to have moved away while others do not have their proper project documentation on them anymore (lost or taken by landlords). It is expected that for the 2nd round in Jacobabad the target will further move down from 9211 to close to 8500. The team in Jacobabad has also seen turnover and they are also expected to complete by July 15th.

Marketing & Data Output

Farmers from all the target districts are nearly done with selling their seeds to either brokers or to plants directly. This data is being recorded with the distribution of the last cheques. Unfortunately, the data exists right now in hard copies at the district level and needs to be entered into computer so that the HO team can report on it. Expected output per region would remain 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	38,344	30,675

The following information will be collected for those who have sold their output:

1. Output in Maunds and the total revenue generated
2. Name the type of buyer (Plant or Broker)
3. Irrigation methodology used (Irrigation or ground moisture)

Marking and Branding

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

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/20/harvests-from-a-mid-season-crop.html>

<http://www.agenceglobal.com/Article.asp?Id=2591>

http://www.thenation.com/article/161733/pakistan-one-year-after-floods?page=0,1&comment_sort=ASC

Field Visits & Meetings

CEO of RSPN visited the office and field in Thatta along with the CoP on June 4th. She met with the team for a progress report and then visited village Muhammad Umer Pussio. At the village she met beneficiaries, distributed cheques for the final phase and saw threshing of sunflowers.

On June 10th SRSO team also met with SAB in their Hyderabad office. SAB explained the discrepancies they had observed in the field. In order to make the process more transparent for SAB, SRSO agreed to share bank scrolls for the first cheques so that the SAB team could look into the discrepancies more deeply.

Team from Dawn TV continued the work on their documentary and made follow up visits to farmers in Shikarpur and Kashmore and in addition Dawn also filmed threshing in Thatta. This was the last visit by Dawn TV, and work on video footage is in its final stages, the video documentary when is ready, will be aired on Dawn TV, with video copies for each SARP partner.

OIG

Through the USAID/OIG hotline several complaints were received these were fully investigated, appropriate actions were taken to readdress them and a detailed report was submitted to OIG.

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Appendix

Pictures from the RSPN CEO Field visit



Sale of Sunflower in Larkana Anaaj Mandi



Drying and Threshing in Dadu

