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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.

Verification Process

The verification process started from the 2nd week of February and continued through all of March. Verification involved visiting each and every beneficiary and their land to verify if sowing had taken place. This was essential because the 2nd phase of cheque distribution to the beneficiaries is dependent on farmers completing their sowing to become eligible to receive cheques. The progress for verification was much slower than anticipated mainly due to 2 reasons. The first is logistics: after the field teams covered closely clustered fields they were then faced with physically verifying sowing in widely disparate areas with difficult road access and long distances. The other factor that made the process slow was that in the earlier phase of verification many farmers had not planted, which meant the teams got commitment dates for sowing from the farmers and then visited those fields again to see whether sowing had occurred. The verification process came to a close on March 28th. Below are the results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total Target</th>
<th># of Beneficiaries verified</th>
<th>Estimated Acres to be Planted of verified Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Actual # of Acres Planted of verified beneficiaries</th>
<th>No. of Acres Unplanted</th>
<th>% Planted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kashmore</td>
<td>5,549</td>
<td>5,549</td>
<td>11,098</td>
<td>10,686</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shikarpur</td>
<td>7,128</td>
<td>7,128</td>
<td>14,256</td>
<td>13,530</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobabad</td>
<td>9,757</td>
<td>9,757</td>
<td>19,514</td>
<td>18,464</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkana</td>
<td>2,795</td>
<td>2,795</td>
<td>5,590</td>
<td>5,552</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahdadkot</td>
<td>8,053</td>
<td>8,053</td>
<td>16,106</td>
<td>14,809</td>
<td>1,297</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadu</td>
<td>9,215</td>
<td>9,215</td>
<td>18,430</td>
<td>17,372</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thatta</td>
<td>8,079</td>
<td>8,079</td>
<td>16,158</td>
<td>15,446</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50,576</td>
<td>50,576</td>
<td>101,152</td>
<td>95,859</td>
<td>5,293</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen, overall sowing is 95% or 95,859 acres out of a potential 101,150 targeted acres. The main reasons from the field teams for non-sowing have been as follows:
1. Damage to water canals/waterways or expecting canal water to arrive which did not. This meant land could not be prepared or made moist enough to receive seed.
2. Water logging due to floods, exacerbated by rains (particularly Dadu) which made tractor movement and other land preparation not possible.
3. Inputs were sold by the farmers rather than going into the ground.

### Cheque Distribution

The start of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} phase is the distribution of cheques for Land Preparation. This is to be given after the field teams have verified sowing and will be given to only those farmers who have sowed their 2 acres. The verified data is checked against the distribution data at the HO, CNICs are matched and then cheques are issued from the HO with the name and CNIC number of the beneficiary on the cheques, so that only the valid recipient can cash the amount.

It was initially planned that distribution for the first cheques for Land Preparation will start in mid-March and end by March 31\textsuperscript{st}. However this was delayed due to the verification process which SRSO wanted to complete before this stage started. Additionally, data flow from the field was sporadic and contained errors, which was sent back to the field offices for corrections. The current goal is to complete this phase by April 15\textsuperscript{th} and start the 2\textsuperscript{nd} cheque distribution for Cash for Work right after that. 14,800 cheques with names and CNIC have been issued to the districts as below and are expected to be distributed by April 6\textsuperscript{th}. In the meanwhile, the remaining cheques are being processed at the HO.

1. Jacobabad – 2100
2. Shikarpur – 5000
3. Larkana – 2200
4. Shadatkot – 2800
5. Dadu – 2700

**Total – 14800**

Once this phase is complete it is expected that Cash for Work will be completed by April 30\textsuperscript{th}.

Ceremonial launches for this phase have happened in Thatta, Larkana and Shikarpur. These ceremonies were presided over by the new CoP, with members of SAB and local government officers also present.

### State of crops

Overall the crops are in healthy conditions across all districts. Crops that were planted early (January) are thriving at about 3.5 feet in height. Sunflowers planted later, such as early February are about 2 feet while those planted after February 15\textsuperscript{th} are 1 to 1.5 feet. Crops planted on furrows and given regular irrigation are in the best condition whereas the broadcast seeds with little active irrigation seem to be doing alright.

There is no major disease or pest attack reported as such from any of the districts. In one of the field visits some wilting was observed and reported to ICI which recommended leaving the crop as it is due to not enough few plants affected. Thinning has been recommended and carried out in several districts.
under the supervision of SARP Agriculture professionals. Agriculture professionals are regularly visiting the field and the frequency of visits for field monitoring will pick up now that the verification process is completed.

Hysun-33 is a 100 to 135 day crop depending on climate and soil conditions. We have seen very few flowers blooming so far but considering that most of the sowing took place mid January to mid February, we expect harvest to be between April 25th and May 25th.

**Marketing & Branding**

Hoarding signs advertising SARP and USAID were approved and printed for generating on field project visibility. 28 signs were distributed to 7 districts to be placed in high visibility sunflower fields.

The Dawn group has started filming the project documentary on the 22nd of March. The filming team interviewed a female beneficiary in Shikarpur and a male beneficiary in Kashmore. The beneficiaries shared brief background information they were shown receiving inputs and trainings, and the progress of their crop was also filmed. Dr. Sono Khangharani, CEO SRSO, was also interviewed regarding the objectives and progress of the project on March 23rd and 25th.

**Marketing**

Marketing for sunflower remains a challenge and SRSO is working with SAB to finalize a methodology for getting seeds from the farmers to the processors. A meeting was held with SAB on March 15th to discuss the project progress and was attended by CoP, DCoP and SMO. SAB said that in its meeting with solvents, the owners have indicated that while they are willing and able to absorb all output but they are unwilling to set up collection centers from before (this is relevant more so for upper Sindh as lower Sindh has pre-existing collection centers due to history of sunflower).

SRSO and SAB are trying to schedule a meeting with some of the larger solvents in the northern Sindh region to discuss the possibility of setting up collection points. Another option on the table would be to route the output through an SRSO run collection point. The advantage of such a setup would be to allow SRSO to measure the output from each farmer and pay them their last installment when the farmers come in to weigh their output and hand it over to SRSO for delivery to the Solvent. The downside however is that SRSO then becomes directly involved as the middleman and runs the risk of being responsible should anything go wrong (e.g. buyer or seller not happy with rate or quality etc.).

SRSO expects the first harvest to start coming in end of April and needs to have the operational mechanics of delivery to Solvents finalized as soon as possible.
HR

SARP project hired Mr. Hashim Leghari as the new CoP and he joined on March 8th. After his orientation with RSPN and SRSO, he has spent time visiting fields and meeting with various stakeholders in the project.

1. On 11th March, 2011, visited UC Rahim Abad, along with DCOP and distributed cheques to the farmers. In this event the crop was also inspected and the farmers addressed advising them to undertake proper agronomic measure including thinning for better yield of crop.
2. Meeting held with SAB at Hyderabad on 15th March, 2011.
3. Meeting with Sarah Parvez on 14th March, 2011, for her briefing by the COP (SARP) and SMO.
4. Meeting with DM Thatta, SAB team and field visit on March 21st. Visit with Dadu team March 22nd.
5. On March 16th: Seminar attended at Sukkur for cultivation, threshing and marketing sponsored by ICI, FAO, SRSO and SARP. The details were shared with you.
6. Visited district Thatta and Dadu on 28th and 29th March respectively, where progress of the project, status of verification of plantation, threshing and marketing were reviewed.

RSPN monitoring team conducted field visits to various projects locations, the main purpose of the trip was to visit beneficiaries who had not planted the sunflower seeds and gauge the reason for this.

Monitoring officer and Senior Monitoring Officer visited

1. On 17th March visited Larkana office as well as Larkana project field sites
2. On 18th March visited Dadu office as well as Dadu project field sites.
3. On 21st and 22nd March visited Thatta office as well as Thatta project field sites
Appendix

Picture Gallery – ceremonies

Ceremony in Shikarpur

Provincial Advisor – Nisar Panhwar

Ceremony in Larkana
Picture Gallery – field visits

Field meetings in Thatta

UC Golo Jat

UC Keenjar, Bhatti Village

Field visit Shikarpur
Agr Professional Visit - Jacobabad

Thinning the fields in Shikarpur
RSPN monitoring team Dadu/Thatta

CoP field visit – Dadu (UC Gozo, Village Gul Hasan Gadahe)
Picture Gallery - Hoardings

Shadatkot

Larkana

Jacobabad
Beneficiary Data Breakdown

Below is a breakdown of the beneficiary household and land holding data.

Land Ownership and Irrigation

<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>99.60%</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>0.00%</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>100.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</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>52.50%</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
<td>40.50%</td>
<td>6.20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thatta</td>
<td>98.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></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>

Average Family Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>% Women</th>
<th>Avg. HH Size</th>
<th>Avg. Acres cultivated</th>
<th>Child:Adult Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kashmore</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shikarpur</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobabad</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkana</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadatkot</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadu</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thatta</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Early estimates from the field

Some feedback from select districts on the condition of the crops and expected results is shared below:

Shikarpur
Out of 13530 acres planted
- 10,000 acres 100% germinated – expected yield: 20 maunds and above
- 3000 acres are 50% germinated – 14 to 19 maunds
- 530 acres are 25% germinated – 0 to 9 maunds

Thatta
- Germination overall upwards of 90%.
- Average expected yield: 15 to 19 maunds
- Where sowing is late (post Feb 15th) yield drops 5 to 7 maunds.

Dadu
Out of 17372 acres planted
- 12,000 acres 100% germinated – expected yield: 15-20 maunds
- 4000 acres are 70% germinated – 10 to 14 maunds
- 1372 acres are 40% germinated – 0 to 9 maunds

Kashmore
Out of 10732 acres planted
Germination:
a) 100% (6036 Acres)
b) 50% (2683 Acres)
c) 25% (2013 Acres)

Expected Yield:
a) 4508 Acares 20 or above Maunds
b) 2576 Acres 15-19 Maunds
c) 2360 Acres 10-14 Maunds
b) 1288 Acres 9 or less Maunds

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