

Case Study: The importance of Natural Resource Management in Chitral



Mohammad Ayub collecting his tree saplings

Chitral is the largest district in northern Khyber Pukhtunkhwa that borders with Afghanistan. It is known for its natural beauty, with over 70,000 hectares of forest land. Unfortunately, Chitral has become victim to ruthless deforestation in recent years, with timber mafia's cutting down over seven million trees and counting.

Local inhabitants have raised their concerns over many times and have linked it with the authorities who are actually responsible for the maintenance, management and safeguard it. Forests play a crucial role in preventing landslides and curbing the effects of global warming.

As part of a larger project with the German Embassy in Islamabad, FIDA provided 200 households in Mastuj with 50 fruit and wild tree saplings. Since this was FIDA's first project in Chitral, FIDA felt it was important to focus on natural resource management and encourage households to plant and grow more trees, to help preserve the environment and provide fruit trees to individuals that wished to sell fruits and fruit products.



Mohammad Ayoub is 55 years old and has recently retired from the Chitral Scouts. A father of two sons, who lives in village Toq in Mastuj valley. Currently, his sole source of income is his pension which is only Rs.5000 a month. Ayoub wanted to start developing his land so he would not have to rely on his sons for support. He asked his local community organization to nominate him as a beneficiary for the tree saplings as he was particularly

interested in fruit trees.

Ayoub already had three walnut trees and said there have been times where he has been able to earn 40,000 annually. FIDA provided Ayoub with apple, walnut, apricot, almond, pear and cherry fruit saplings.

During a follow up visit, FIDA's team found that Ayoub has been taking special care of his new orchard and hopes that he can make it flourish into a sustainable business.

