



FACTSHEET

PK

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Livelihood Support

Integrated Approach to Skill Development and Provision of Sustainable Livelihoods in Chotiari, Sanghar



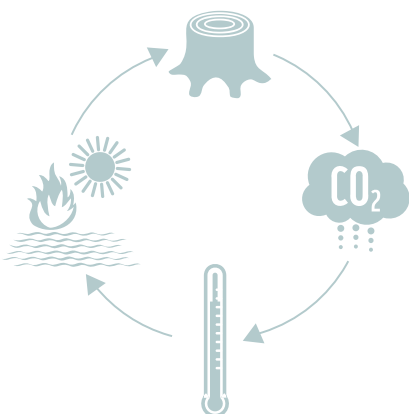
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Donor: Community Development Program (CDP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh

Duration: 18 months
March 2013 – September 2014

Poverty and environment are closely interrelated with adverse reciprocal effects on each other. It is observed that less privileged communities rely heavily on the environment and natural resources for their sustenance and income, and are often forced to live on marginal and biodiversity rich lands as opposed to prime city property. Natural ecosystems provide multiple services including fuel, fibre, water, food etc. High dependency of such communities on natural resources is considered one of the main causes of environmental degradation. This is also noticed in Sindh, particularly the Chotiari Wetlands Complex, one of 15 ecologically important sites in the Indus Ecoregion. The area is a complex of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of deep water, shallow marshes, riverine forests, agricultural land and sandy dunes. In addition, it is home to the march crocodile, smooth coated otter, hog deer, chinkara, the desert cat, the fishing cat, wild boar, desert hare and other significant species. The area also provides a habitat to thousands of resident and migratory birds. Moreover, 120 bird species have been recorded at the site.

In order to build capacity of the local communities in sustainable management of natural resources and to provide them with alternative livelihood opportunities, WWF-Pakistan has implemented an 18 month project, Integrated Approach to Skill Development and Provision of Sustainable Livelihoods in Chotiari, Sanghar, which is financially supported by the Community Development Program, Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh. This project aims to conserve and reduce pressure on natural resources of the area (rangeland and freshwater ecosystems). It focuses on three major livelihood sectors, namely: livestock, agriculture and fisheries with better management practices (BMP) that are increasing the income generation capacity of the local people. In addition, the project is



developing skills of unemployed youth in productive and potential areas so that they can serve their communities in a better way and earn their livelihood respectfully. Beneficiaries of the project include 700 households (14,000 direct beneficiaries) from 10 villages of the Chotiari Wetlands Complex.

Project Objectives

- Provide alternate livelihood means to local communities to reduce pressure on natural resources;
- Equip target communities with requisite skills and knowledge to manage sustainable livelihood with an indigenous resource base;
- Introduce better management practices (BMPs) in the livestock, agriculture and fisheries sectors to achieve maximum output.

Project Updates

Under this project 325 heifers and 130 cold storage tanks were provided to less privileged women and low-income fishermen respectively. In addition to this, four fish nurseries and eight floriculture demonstration plots were established on four acres. Two trainings on cultivation of floriculture and one on animal husbandry were also delivered. Moreover, other project interventions included; cultivation of fodder on two plots, provision of 12 livestock vaccination kits to 12 extension workers, establishment of 16 livestock model farms and installation of 96 fish farming cages.

Monitoring results show that return on income was more than 100 per cent on fish nurseries, 30 per cent on floriculture, 25 per cent on iceboxes and 20 per cent on grass cultivation. However, impacts of fish farming cages are under observation and remain to be compiled. The project helped improve livelihoods, reduce poverty, develop skills and ensure protection of ecosystems that support livelihoods of local communities.

Recommendations

Based on the outcomes of the project, the following interventions should be up-scaled to achieve the larger objective of sustainable livelihood:

- Heifers distribution can be extended in other districts in Sindh to empower less privileged women;
- Ice boxes distribution and establishment of fish nurseries can be replicated in other fishing communities to boost up the local economy of fishermen;
- Livestock model farms can be replicated in other districts of Sindh for better management of livestock and training of livestock extension workers may also be up-scaled so that local people have easy access to treatment of livestock diseases.



Sustainable Livelihood Goal

Promote sustainable livelihood through skill development and provision of alternative livelihood.