



FACTSHEET

PK

2014



Skill Development and Provision of Alternative Livelihood

Promoting Alternative Livelihood through Fisheries



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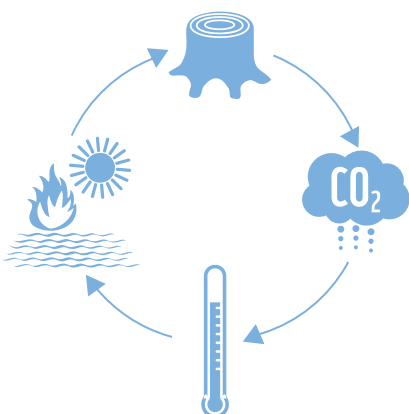
Donor: Community Development Program (CDP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh

Duration: March 2013 – September 2014

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

Pakistan's fishing industry is dwindling, despite the fact that 400,000 people are directly engaged in this sector. There are multiple factors responsible for this issue; however, overfishing is considered to be one of the main causes. Overexploitation of inland along with marine fisheries has compelled many fishing communities to switch to agriculture or other sectors offering more secure livelihoods. In order to address this issue, WWF-Pakistan with financial support of the Community Development Program (CDP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh implemented an 18-month project in Chotiari, Sanghar. The project focused on three major livelihood sectors namely fisheries, livestock and agriculture by introducing better management practices (BMP), which increased the income generation capacity of the local people. In addition to this, the project developed the skills of unemployed youth in new or underserved market segments that hold promise for employment growth and income generation.

To decrease pressure on freshwater fish stocks in the Chotiari Wetlands Complex and provide alternate livelihood opportunities to local communities surrounding it, three key interventions in the fisheries sector have been conducted under the project. Completed between 2013 and 2014, these interventions include: installation of 96 cages, establishment of four fish nurseries and provision of cold storage boxes to needy fishermen of target villages.



Main Objectives:

1. Decrease pressure on fish resources in the Chotiari Wetlands Complex.
2. Provide alternate livelihood opportunities to poor fishermen.
3. Build capacity and develop skills of fishermen through trainings and field activities.

Updates and Achievements:

Before implementation of the project, a poverty assessment survey was conducted in the area. Based on results, a total of 96 households were selected for cage culture, 130 beneficiaries for cold storage boxes and four beneficiaries for fish nurseries.

a. Cage Culture:

Cage culture is rapidly becoming a recognized means of improving livelihoods of fisher communities and reducing the burden on natural fish stocks. After establishment of 96 cages, fish seed of Gift tilapia (genetically improved and farmed) was released in them. Each cage was supplied with 500 fish seed with a size of 3 inches each. After two months, the seed reached about 8-9 inches in size. It is expected that within six months it will gain 800-900 grams in weight with a market rate of PKR 150 rupees per fish. It is estimated that one family can earn up to PKR 50,000 per season from a cage. Hence, this intervention is helping to reduce poverty levels and generate income.

b. Fish Nurseries:

To establish four nurseries, a consultant was hired to provide technical input and guidance. Two ponds were built in each nursery. After completion, nurseries were supplied with 2 million native fish species of Murakho and Kuriro. After reaching a length of 2.5 inches the fish seed is ready for sale. It is expected that each beneficiary can earn up to PKR 200,000 – 300,000 in one harvest.

c. Cold Storage Boxes:

Under this project, WWF-Pakistan provided 130 cold storage boxes to fishermen. Provision of boxes has not only increased the quality of fish but has also had a positive impact on the income generating capacity of fishermen who are now able to take cold storage boxes when out at sea and keep fish fresh for longer periods. The quality of fish is maintained in the boxes and is sold in the market at higher rates than earlier.

Considering the importance of the fisheries sector in increasing income generation opportunities for local fishermen, WWF-Pakistan under this project provided training to 100 beneficiaries (96 beneficiaries of cage culture and four of fish nurseries). The training focused on the better management practices (BMPs) in fisheries.

Recommendations:

1. Conduct poverty assessment surveys in other fishing areas of Pakistan and provide similar facilities.
2. Up/out-scale intervention at the government level by engaging fisheries department.
3. Replicate adaptation effort by developing capacity of coastal communities through partnership with other organizations.
4. Mobilize other communities to replicate similar intervention in their villages.



Sustainable Livelihoods Goal

Promote sustainable livelihood through skill development and provision of alternative livelihood