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For further information, contact:

Mr. Nasar Hayat
Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)
Tel: 92 51 9255452, 92 51 9255491-3, Ext. 202
Fax: 92 51 9255454
Email: Nasar.Hayat@fao.org
Web: <http://www.fao.org/pakistan/>

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FAO, GOP VACCINATED 270,000 LIVESTOCK

By the end of December 2014, FAO, in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, has vaccinated more than 270,000 livestock in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. The livestock belongs to the persons temporarily displaced from their homes (TDPs) due to the military operations in North Waziristan. Additionally, 4,700 TDP families received animal feed, vegetable seeds and supplies for milking and feeding the animals, while 1,000 families received materials for temporary animal shelter.

A total of 348,000 small and large ruminants belonging to 58,000 families in the districts of Bannu, Lakki Marwat and Karak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federal Region Bannu in FATA will benefit from this campaign by March 2015.

The campaign is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Belgian Aid and the United Nations' Central



Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Animals are being vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), two highly contagious diseases with high rates of mortality and morbidity among livestock. Animals also receive deworming medicine. FAO provides supplies for the campaign, while the

Livestock and Dairy Development Directorates for KP and FATA administer the vaccines. "Livestock is an important source of livelihoods for poor households. Preserving the lives and health of IDP livestock is a high priority for FAO," says Patrick T. Evans, FAO Representative to Pakistan.

FAO COMPLETES ITS SUPPORT PROJECT FOR KURRAM TDPS

In December 2014, FAO successfully completed its project titled *Emergency Support to the Restoration of Agricultural-Based Livelihoods of Returned Families in Kurram Agency of FATA*. Between April and December 2014, the project provided support to approximately 24,000 farmer families (168,000 individuals) who have returned to Kurram Agency after a series of conflicts in recent years.

Among the 24,000 beneficiary families, 22,400 families received vaccination for their livestock, 18,000 families received seed and fertilizer (maize, red bean, mung bean and wheat seed along with fertilizer and vegetable kits for

kitchen gardening). Additionally, 3,200 families received animal feed and 700 women-headed families received poultry packages and livestock. Farmers also received training on animal and crop husbandry.

"FAO support has given me a great foundation to resume living on my land," said 45-year old Ghani ur-Rahman, beneficiary from the village of Muzaffar Kot, Lower Kurram.



The project was funded by Belgian Aid and implemented by FAO in collaboration with an NGO BEST and the FATA Directorate of Livestock and Dairy Development.

WORLD FOOD DAY AND RURAL WOMEN'S DAY MARKED IN OCTOBER

More than 500 students as well as representatives from the diplomatic corps, government, media, civil society and academia attended the World Food Day celebration organized by FAO and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research at the National Agricultural Research Centre in Islamabad on 16 October. The event highlighted the role that family farms play in ensuring sustained food supply to world's population.

“Feeding the world is very much relevant to our circumstances,” said Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan at the opening of the event, which was covered extensively by the print and electronic media. Pakistan has 8.3 million farm households, and almost 60% of the country's



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population lives in the rural areas and are directly or indirectly engaged in agricultural activities.

FAO also partnered with an NGO PODA in organizing World Rural Women Day on 15 October. The event highlighted the role of

women in the agriculture sector and family farms.

In both events, FAO exhibited information about its work and achievements alongside various government institutions, civil society organizations and donors.



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A BOY FROM PAKISTAN AMONG WINNERS OF FAO INTERNATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

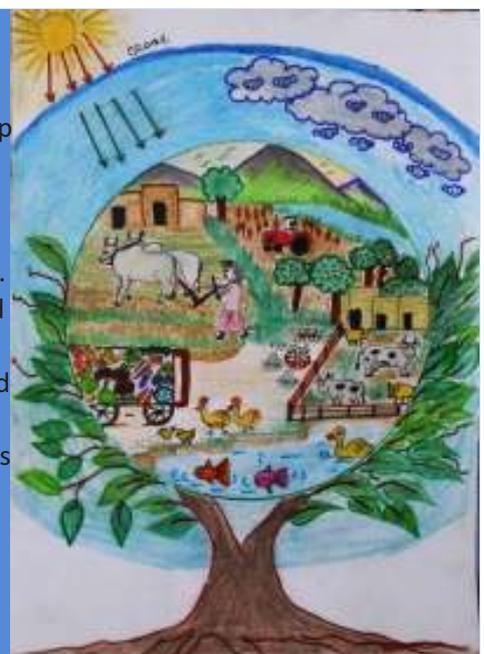


In late 2014, eight year old Zohaib Saqib from Lahore became one of the winners at the international poster contest

which FAO holds each year for children ages 5-27 to mark World Food Day. The theme of the 2014 contest was “Family Farming: Feeding the world, caring for the earth”. Saqib shared his prize with

four other children from India, Bhutan and Mongolia who had submitted their posters in the group from age 5 to 8.

Sohaib studies in grade 3 at Samanabad Allied School in Lahore. “He loves drawing and painting and has been participating in similar contests for several years now,” said Saqib's mother during her phone interview with FAO. While Saqib has won several prizes nationally, the FAO award is his first international recognition.



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) DAY CELEBRATED ON 19 NOVEMBER



On 19 November, FAO took part in the celebrations of GIS Day held at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and the University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi. FAO stalls at both institutions showcased FAO

products created using GIS and Remote Sensing technologies, while FAO Information Manager Alam Fakhre gave a presentation on the use of GIS technologies for sustainable agriculture. University students and other visitors showed

keen interest in the Agricultural Atlases of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces as well as other FAO mapping products and publications.

FAO REPRESENTATIVE VISITS FMD PROJECT BENEFICIARIES IN CHOLISTAN DESERT

In late November, FAO Representative to Pakistan, Patrick T. Evans visited Ranhal and Bijnot townships in Bahawalpur District, two of the sites for the FAO Progressive Control of the Foot and Mouth Disease in Pakistan Project funded by the US Department of Agriculture in Cholistan Desert. The Project Director, Dr. Muhammad Afzal Imam and Dr. M. Asghar Rame Director General (Ext), Punjab Livestock and Dairy Development Department (L&DDD) also accompanied the visit.

Under this project, FAO works to improve diagnosis, protection, surveillance and outbreak response for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which is one of the most deadly animal diseases. As part of the project, FAO collaborates with the Cholistan Development Authority (CDA) and L&DDD to ear-tag and vaccinate 7,500 animals against FMD in 69 oases (locally called



'Tobas') of the Lesser and Greater Cholistan. To determine the spread of FMD virus and the level of immunity that vaccination creates, the project team collects blood samples from 3-5% of animals.

The farmers appreciated the project and noted that despite repeated FMD outbreaks in the area, none of their 1,100 vaccinated animals were affected.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, FAO PRESENT VOLUNTARY GUIDLINES FOR TENURE GOVERNANCE

FAO and the Government of Pakistan initiated a discussion on the introduction of the international Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure in Pakistan at a workshop held at the National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD) in Islamabad on 25-27 November 2014. The workshop was attended by representatives of the federal, provincial and regional government, civil society and academia.

The Voluntary Guidelines represent an international agreement on the governance of tenure, which places secure access to land, fisheries and

forests firmly in the context of food security. The implementation of the guidelines has been encouraged by the UN General Assembly, Rio+20 Declaration, G8, G20, l'Assemblée Parlemantaire de la Francophonie and the Berlin Summits of Agricultural Ministers. "FAO believes that the Voluntary Guidelines will play an important role in assuring food security for the people of Pakistan," said FAO Representative to Pakistan, Patrick T. Evans.

Workshop participants discussed how the Voluntary Guidelines could be implemented in Pakistan to

ensure a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way to manage the land, fisheries and forests of the country. "The Government of Pakistan is firmly committed to improve the standing of the small farmers, pastoralist communities, fisher folks and communities whose livelihoods are based on forest resources, and will consider the recommendations from this workshop in future activities related to land tenure in the country," said Federal Minister for Food Security and Research, Sikandar Hayat Bosan during the closing session of the workshop.



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE DISCUSSES AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY IN PAKISTAN

FAO, the International Fund for Agriculture Development, the World Food Programme and the Sustainable Development and Policy Institute (SDPI) held the 7th International Development Conference on 9-11 December in Islamabad. The conference brought together multiple stakeholders to share best practices and present workable solutions to emerging

challenges in South Asia and neighbouring regions. "Despite Pakistan being one of the major food producing countries in the world, half of its population is food insecure," said FAO Representative to Pakistan, Patrick Evans speaking at the conference.

Federal Minister for National Food Security, Sikandar Hayat Khan

Bosan, said that food security is a high priority in the country, and the government works to achieve a society free from hunger and malnutrition. He noted that despite the progress achieved to date, "much needs to be done to ensure access to food at the household level".

IPC GAINS RECOGNITION IN PAKISTAN

In 2014, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) was adopted in Pakistan by such stakeholders as the departments of Planning and Development and the Agriculture and Livestock, provincial and national-level disaster management authorities, and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. IPC is a tool designed a decade ago in response to the decision makers' call for a consensual, rigorous and

comparable food security analysis. During the last quarter of 2014, FAO brought together more than 300 food security experts from across the country to conduct IPC acute food security analysis for Kharif cropping season in 148 districts of Pakistan. This analysis has demonstrated the positive impact of IPC on periodic monitoring of the food security situation, while data and information sharing has made the IPC analysis more rigorous.

IPC global partners and UN agencies in Pakistan have increasingly used the results of IPC analysis as well as the IPC standards and procedures in resource mobilization, decisions and actions over the past year. In 2015, IPC efforts will focus on IPC chronic analysis, IPC nutrition piloting, IPC exchange visits, as well as on integration of IPC in the national food security framework/strategy, creating synergies and building policy coherence.



FAO TO SERVE AS A PROJECT MANAGER IN THE EXTENSION FOR THE SINDH WATER PROJECT

Starting February 2015, FAO will assume its duties as a project manager for the Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project (WSIP) financed by the World Bank.

WSIP works to create equitable and sustainable delivery of irrigation water in three Area Water Boards covering 1.8 million hectares (35% of the total irrigated area in Sindh). Activities include rehabilitation and improvement of irrigation infrastructure and floods and drainage systems on the left bank of the Indus River. FAO has been providing project management services to WSIP since 2008, and has been lauded by the World Bank for the transparent and efficient management of the project.

Recently, the World Bank provided additional USD 150 million for the project, which has enabled the Government to expand the scope and duration of the project. The extension will include completion of rehabilitation of the infrastructure in the original project area and improvement of three additional systems of main canals: Mithrao Canal, Fulleli Canal and Ghotki Feeder. FAO has already reviewed



design reports and bidding documents, and supervised the award of three new contracts for the implementation of the project.

DRIP IRRIGATION TO SAVE WATER, INCREASE YIELDS

FAO installed drip irrigation systems, each covering approximately 100 square meters of land, in five villages of Jacobabad District, Sindh Province to help farmers irrigate their kitchen gardens. Drip irrigation systems are expected to reduce water use by 40-50% and decrease the cost of other inputs by 30-40%, while increasing yields by 25-30%. This support was provided under the FAO Support for the recovery of agriculture based livelihoods of vulnerable farmers affected by 2012 floods of Sindh and Balochistan Provinces in Pakistan Project funded by UK Aid.

In Sindh, lands are arid, and agriculture depends on rainfall or irrigation water, both of which are scarce. Drip irrigation technology is a relatively inexpensive but highly efficient method to irrigate gardens



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in water scarce areas. Drip irrigation conserves water by reducing evaporation and ensures that every drop of water reaches the plants. Furthermore, the amount of water delivered can be tightly controlled to keep optimal levels of moisture

in the soil, which maximizes the growth of the plants and helps curb soil salinity. The method can be used throughout the year, which means that farmers in arid areas such as Sindh can grow more vegetables and earn more income.

FARMERS EARN BETTER PROFIT FROM MULBERRIES

Mastung farmers earned 43.2 million Rupees (US\$432,000) from dried mulberries in 2014 with support from the FAO and USAID Balochistan Agricultural Project – nearly double the amount for 2013, and many times more compared to 2012.

Typically, mulberries are not considered a cash crop in Balochistan. Farmers plant mulberry trees as wind breakers along field boundaries or water courses, and only collect the berries for home consumption. To help Balochistan farmers turn mulberries into a cash crop, the FAO and USAID project teamed up with a group of 12 farmers from Mastung District in early 2013 to explore sales markets for mulberries across Pakistan. With FAO and USAID support, farmers visited dried fruit markets and agricultural exhibitions across



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the country and discovered that dried mulberries are very popular. As a result, the farmers sold 240 tons of dried mulberries to dried fruit vendors in Sindh, earning 24 million Rupees in revenues that year.

In 2014, the Mastung farmers increased their sales of dried mulberries to 288 tons, improved the quality of the produce and

earned nearly twice as much as they had in 2013.

The farmers are now planning to set up a proper drying facility and to start packaging the mulberries in cardboard boxes. “By improving the cleanliness and packaging of the berries, we will be able to earn a much better price,” says Mohammad Ramazan, head of the group.

SUCCESS STORIES:

A SHELTER FOR A RAINY DAY

Under the TDPs livestock support project, FAO partners with donor agencies to help displaced farmers protect their livestock



Back at home in Sarobai, Miran Shah District of FATA, neighbors used to call him the “Malik” – head of the community. Umbar Khan prided himself for owning more livestock than anyone else in the village and was known for slaughtering a sheep for community gatherings or sharing milk with his neighbors. But today, 57 year old Umbar Khan is standing in a line for support that FAO is distributing to needy farmers.

Umbar Khan is one of 58,000 farmers to receive essential vaccination for their livestock, feed and key supplies for animal care from the FAO project which provides livestock support for persons temporarily displaced (TDPs) by the military operation in North Waziristan. The project is funded by USAID, Belgian Aid and the United Nations' Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The military operation that the Government of Pakistan launched in North Waziristan Agency in May

2014 has displaced 1.3 million people (more than 100,000 families) from their homes. Most of these families took refuge with relatives or in government buildings in Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Karak and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Like thousands of other farmers, Umbar Khan left his home, with whatever he was able to pack in a rented truck. “I walked for a

kilometer before I was able to find a truck for 50,000 Rupees (US\$500) to transport my family, animals and possessions,” says Umbar Khan. “Law enforcement authorities gave us a very short notice, and we had very little time to gather our possessions before fleeing,” says the man.

Umbar Khan's family consists of 24 people including 6 sons,





3 daughters and their families. In Sarobai, they shared a spacious house. Their 16 goats, 14 sheep, 8 cows and 25 hens provided plenty of eggs, milk and meat, while their 3.5 acres of land supplied wheat, apricots, apples and mulberries. "I was a wealthy man. We produced all the food the family needed," says Umbar Khan.

When fleeing, the family left most of their possessions behind, including 2 heifers, 4 sheep and 20 hens: they simply did not fit in a truck. Seven of the animals perished during the journey due to heat and exertion, but even the remaining ones lacked shelter,

water and feed. In fear of losing even more animals, Umbar Khan sold 6 goats, 2 sheep and a heifer. "It's not easy to be displaced from home," says Umbar Khan, his voice barely a whisper with grief. Umbar Khan settled his family on the outskirts of Bannu Town, where there was some pastureland for his animals. The family members share a tent and a small room provided by the locals. "I don't care if I am starving, but it hurts to see my family and animals suffer," says Umbar Khan. Due to the protracted starvation, his livestock has weakened and does not even produce enough milk or eggs for the family. "The sheep and goats

eat acacia leaves, but it's too rough for the cows, and I am afraid I would lose them," says Umbar Khan.

Under the FAO livestock support project, Umbar Khan received animal compound feed and urea molasses, as well as milking, watering and feeding implements. Additionally, his animals received de-worming medicine and vaccination from Foot and Mouth Disease and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR).

"This support is a lifeline not only for our animals, but also for the entire family," says Umbar Khan.



PAVING THE WAY FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES, BETTER INCOME



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“My sheep have never been shorn so closely,” says Khair-Ud-Din watching one sheep after another shed their heavy fleeces of wool. Khair-ud-Din belongs to a small but steadily growing group of Balochistan farmers who have replaced the traditional manual shears with mechanical equipment to shear sheep. The new technique was introduced in the province by the FAO Balochistan Agricultural Project, funded by USAID, to improve farmer productivity and incomes.

Khair-ud-Din lives in the village of Drug, Musakhel District, which is one of the areas supported by the FAO project. Just like all other farmers in the province, Khair-ud-Din used to shear his sheep using

traditional shears. Despite his long years of experience, it used to take at least 30 minutes to remove the wool from just one animal, and two men had to hold the animal during the shearing. It took 2-3 days and a team of several men shear Khair-ud-Din's entire flock of 75 sheep. No matter how the men tried, the fleece always came out very uneven, and large chunks of it remained on the animal. The wool sold at PKR 22-25 per kilogram at best; oftentimes, Khair-ud-Din simply gave the wool away.

The mechanical shearing introduced by FAO vastly reduces the time to remove the wool. Today, men like Khair-ud-Din can shear as many as 60 sheep a day. More importantly, the length of the wool is very even.

This property is very much valued by the wool merchants. Khair-ud-Din has also started pre-washing the sheep before shearing to make the shearing easier and to protect the machinery for damage. “The shearers work much faster on the pre-washed sheep, and the fleece is much nicer too,” explains the farmer who now teaches other men to use mechanical shears on the sheep. Both the sorting and pre-washing of the wool is done by the women, which enables them to earn some income.

Khair-ud-Din's earnings are also much higher. “I had never been able to get such a high price before,” says Khair-ud-Din, who received PKR 97 per kilogram of white wool from a middleman. “Even the poorest quality wool was better than the product I used to sell before,” he adds.

FAO has already trained over 60 shearers from 8 districts to use mechanical equipment and expects that over time, this trade will earn the shearers PKR 50 per sheep. “Right now, it costs farmers approximately PKR 60 per sheep to feed the shearers; we believe that the price for mechanical shearing will be attractive to the farmers, and provide a nice source of income to the men who take up shearing,” says Grant Vinning, FAO international Marketing Consultant.

To encourage the transfer of the new skill, FAO provides mechanical hand shears to master trainers like Khair-Ud-Din to shear the sheep for his neighbors and farmers in surrounding communities. “I will never go back to traditional shearing. The new technology is much better not only for me, but also for the animals,” says the farmer.

FAO OFFICES PAKISTAN

FAO Representation

NARC Premises
Park Road, Chak Shahzad
Islamabad
Phone:92 51 9255491-3

FAO Field Offices:

Baluchistan

House 27-a, Chamman Housing Society
Airport Road
Quetta
Phone:92 81 2864068

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

55-c/2, Gul Mohar Lane
University Town
Peshawar
Phone:92 91 5852292-3

Sindh

House 43/142
Defence Officers Housing Society
Hyderabad
Phone:92 22 2108168-9

Marine Fisheries Department
Karachi Fish Harbour
West Wharf
Karachi
Phone:92 21 32314417

Bureau of Statistics Building
13,Block 8, Chaudhry Khalique- uz- Zaman Road,
Clifton, Karachi
Phone:92 21- 99205862

A-66, Sindhi Muslim Housing Society
Airport Road
Sukkur
Phone:92 71 5632980

