



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Pakistan and FAO

*Partnering to eliminate hunger and malnutrition through
agricultural development*

Pakistan joined FAO on 7 September 1947 (three weeks after independence) and has been an active member since then. Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives through sustainable management and utilization of land, water, air, climate and genetic resources.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN PAKISTAN

Established in 1978, the FAO Representation in Pakistan is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

FAO's commitment to supporting the country's food security and agriculture sector continues as the representation celebrates its 40th anniversary, and the partnership between FAO and Pakistan is stronger than ever. As opportunities evolve, support from FAO will help Pakistan to further strengthen its contribution to sustainable development, global food security and resilience, while boosting its efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Improving food, nutrition and rural livelihoods in Sindh

FAO has contributed to the restoration and protection of livelihoods and has empowered poor and vulnerable rural households (men, women, boys and girls) dependent on traditional landholding and farming systems. Support has also been provided to farming communities affected by droughts, floods and insecurity.

Matching FAO's expertise to Pakistan's development priorities

FAO assistance in Pakistan is shaped by the Country Programming Framework (CPF). A new CPF currently under development for the period 2018-2021 is centred on the following priority areas:

- **Zero Hunger:** Healthy, safe and nutritious food for all
- **Climate-smart resilient agriculture and sustainable ecosystems,** including forests, fisheries, livestock and water management
- **Inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems**

The CPF is being jointly developed with the Government and other partners, and reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies. The new proposed programme is also fully aligned with the UN Strategic Development Framework for Pakistan.

A project funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) has enabled flood-affected farmers to produce and have access to more nutritious food, while also improving their income.

"Thanks to FAO, our family now has a source of food and income," says Bhoori Shanker, a young mother of six living in Imran Khatiyan Village, Mirpurkhas District of Sindh Province. Bhoori, her husband Shanker and their children were among the 500 farmer families in Mirpurkhas District who received support from the intervention after floods hit their area.

Project: Livelihood Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Empowerment of Vulnerable Peasant Communities in Sindh Province.

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Reducing poverty in Gilgit Baltistan

In the early 1980s people in Hussein village in the Upper Hunza Valley of rural Gilgit Baltistan led a life of self-subsistence, with most of their other needs met by the more developed south. At that time, almost 80 percent of the local population lived below the poverty line.

FAO then piloted the introduction of a particular potato seed, established storage facilities and helped create market linkages for farmers to be able to sell their excess produce.

Muzaffar Ud Din was a school boy then, and today he holds the position of Chief Executive Officer at Agha Khan Rural Support Programme. Muzaffar's Uncle had at that time earned 30 000 rupees by selling his potatoes at the market. "Look, I have 30 000 rupees!" His uncle had showed him the notes with joy. "Cash was a rare find in our village and my Uncle didn't know what to do with it" recalls Muzaffar. With his Uncle's earnings Muzaffar was able to buy new books and stationery for school. "We were all so excited" smiles Muzaffar.

The introduction of the quality seed potato variety literally changed the lives of the people in the village. Farmers were able to bring home cash because the seed potato produced higher and quality yields, and a better market price.

Transforming the wool industry in Balochistan

The wool industry is an important source for income and jobs in rural Balochistan, which has an estimated 12 million sheep and earns US\$5 million in annual revenues from wool clip. Yet outdated practices and lack of exposure to markets have left the huge potential of this industry untapped.

To increase incomes and employment opportunities, FAO – with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – has been helping Balochistan farmers to adopt modern wool-related practices. These include washing wool before shearing, classifying colour-graded wool, grading fleeces and producing even-length fibre through mechanical shearing. To help women earn more income, the project is providing training for activities that women are able to carry out from their homes, such as washing and sorting of fleeces.

"I am so happy that new, much faster technologies are finally reaching my community, and that the next generation of shearers will be able to complete the job much faster," says 56-year old Gulam Jan Khan. He takes home more income and is able to provide a better life for his family.

FAO also developed a business model to support adoption of new techniques, and scaling up is being considered for funding by the Government of Balochistan.

Rebuilding farming livelihoods

Conflict in Bara, Khyber Agency of Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) left Gul Baro Bibi and her family with no other choice than to flee their home. Many others have suffered the same fate.

In 2015, when many families were able to return to Bara, they faced the daunting prospects of restarting their livelihoods. Agriculture has always been a popular activity among women in Bara, and it presented a good opportunity for Gul Baro Bibi and her family to bounce back from their hardship.

"There is a need for continued collaboration for the development of agriculture in Pakistan to ensure food security and the achievement of zero hunger."

**Minà Dowlatchahi,
FAO Representative
in Pakistan**

The home vegetable garden now produces a healthy harvest because, along with other women, Gul Baro Bibi was able to learn the skills and knowledge required for growing vegetables. Training provided under the Japanese-supported FAO project to assist the "Recovery and Development of the Agricultural Economy in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan". The training also taught women about the benefits of improving nutrition through vegetable production and consumption.

Gul Baro Bibi now feels empowered: "With the help of FAO, I am now able to grow and sell vegetables more efficiently. Throughout the season, my family and I consume fresh, chemical-free vegetables."

The project, which targeted temporarily displaced persons (TDPs) who had returned home, made a significant contribution to the stabilization of the area, enhancing food security through sustainable agricultural development. FAO directly implemented the project in collaboration with government departments and community organizations. Overall, approximately 77 000 beneficiaries were assisted.

