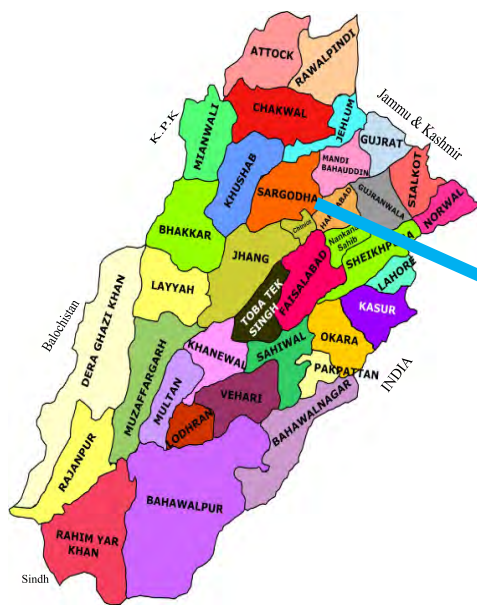


Empowering Women through Biogas Facility-Sargodha



District Wise Map of Punjab (Pakistan)

Beneficiary's Profile

General Info*	
Beneficiary	Shahnaz iftikhar
Ages	25 years
Occupation	Housewife
Village	151-NB
Tehsil	Silanwali
District	Sargodha
Province	Punjab, Pakistan



Biogas Plant Info*				
Sr.	Type	Size	Date of Construction	Plant I.D
1	GGC	10m ³	30-07-2011	SGD-P000300

Shahnaz Iftikhar was one of the unlucky women from Chak 151-NB, Sargodha, who had been facing the same problems since her childhood. She led her childhood and youth years in the tough and tiring rural domestic life. She wasted the golden time of her life in accomplishing all her housekeeping and kitchen responsibilities instead of getting education and developing holistically. She had to collect firewood or make dung cakes for cooking food. Her entire childhood and youth went in serving her parents and siblings. As a result she got no time to go to school or take care of her own self. She was very disappointed and felt frustrated reflecting upon herself that she left uneducated. After that the poor girl got married at the age of 19. Her responsibilities got double after her marriage. As she gave birth to two girls during the first three years of her marriage life, she became under more the responsibilities as a mother, wife, a daughter-in-law and many other joint family relations, at the same time. The most frustrating thing according to her was, working most of the day in the kitchen. She had to cook food for the family and make meals for her young kids as well. She used to burn woods and dung cakes for cooking. For several times she got sick due to soot of the firewood and dung cakes. She often got severe burns while handling the burning woods and used to spend her day in the untidy, smoky and unhygienic kitchen. She got very short times out of the kitchen to spend with her kids. She thought that she would never get a happy and relaxed time in her life.



The place where Shahnaz used to go for cutting firewood before biogas plant

But at last her prayers were heard. Her father-in-law; Mr. Khan observed the situation that Shahnaz was could not give proper time to her kids due to her busyness in the kitchen. Being head of the family he was concerned about Shahnaz's health who was suffering with smoke-induced diseases, and for his grandchildren who were mostly unattended by their mother. So he started searching the solution to provide relief to her daughter-in-law and for a better motherhood for her grandchildren's' brought up.



Biogas Plant constructed outside Shahnaz's home



Shahnaz and her father-in-law feeding dung and water in biogas plant

Shahnaz's father-in-law was a farmer and had good relations with the Government Agriculture Officer in his area. He shared the issue with the officer. The officer knew about the Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme (PDBP) that provides technical and financial support in constructing biogas plants for providing fueling facility and alternate energy solution at the domestic level. The officer told him about the benefits of biogas and shared address of the PDBP office. Mr. Khan approached PDBP and constructed a 10m³ biogas plant in the outer area of his house.

This biogas plant brought a turning point in Shahnaz's life. Her life is totally changed now. Instead of hard efforts of cutting and collecting firewood and making dung cakes, she comfortably helps her father-in-law in feeding the plant with animal dung and water that decomposes and produces a fueling gas for kitchen use. Shahnaz says that now she has no worries of working in the kitchen as there is no soot and allergic smoke, she hasn't to put hands in the dung for making cakes or to do hard efforts for collecting firewood. She says that the pots and kitchen accessories are totally neat and clean because there is no more black smoke. The kitchen is neat, clean and hygienic and the



Neat and clean kitchen after provision of biogas in Shahnaz's house

ready-fuel has saved a lot of time. She says that that the happiest thing is that she has much time to give her children. As she saves time, she supports her girl's education and sends her school regularly. By doing this she feels that her own frustration of being uneducated has vanished away. She tells that she and her daughters are healthier than before because she gets comfortable time to take care of her daughters and for her own self as well.

Now she considers herself one of the luckiest women in the village and enjoying comforting and happy moments in her married family life.

Shahnaz thanks PDBP and wishes her neighboring women to have this privilege also. She shares the benefits of biogas with them and motivates them to construct a biogas plant in their houses.



Shahnaz working making tea on biogas