



EUROPEAN UNION



PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION IN SINDH

In support of the Accelerated Action Plan, Government of Sindh

THE PINS PULSE

February 2019

The European Union-funded Programme for Improved Nutrition (PINS) aims to sustainably improve the nutritional status of children under five (U5) and of Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) in Sindh through nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions while capacitating the Government of Sindh so that it may efficiently implement its multi-sectoral nutrition policy.

Five-year MoU signed between NARC and RSPN



A 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) and Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) on 4th February, 2019 in the interest of collaborating through experience-sharing and learning exchange between members and staff of the two organizations to provide support in capacity-building and improving livelihoods of rural communities in Pakistan. Mr. Muhammad Tariq, Secretary, PARC and Ms. Shandana Khan, CEO, RSPN were present at the signing along with other high ranking officials which included Dr. Yusuf Zafar, T.I. Chairman, PARC.

NARC will provide technical assistance to RSPN on programmes such as PINS in the preparation of content/material to be used for dissemination of information among communities through different activities like awareness sessions, training and extension services as well as share best international practices. It will also facilitate RSPN in organizing of different training sessions and help foster linkages of RSPN with national and international training and research institutions to seek their support for implementation of agriculture related projects/programmes. NARC will also provide technical assistance and inputs with regards to approved varieties of crops and breeds suited for climatic conditions across intervention areas through consultative meetings on different agriculture proposals & modules.

Seminar on Province - District Relations in AAP Implementation for Sectoral Programme Coordinators

To help strengthen relation with the the Province-District in AAP Implementation, PINS 1 organised a seminar on 27th February, 2019 in collaboration with the Task Force Secretariat (TFS) for Nutrition. All officials and developmental partners participated in the event chaired by Dr. Shehzad Tahir Thaheem, Programme Manager AAP.

The new AAP logo was presented, and an update was provided on the findings from PINS1 work. The importance of coordination with PINS 2 and 3 to better facilitate project implementation was also discussed.

Strengthening the Inclusion of Nutrition Security in Local Universities' Curricula

PINS 1 is focused on improving the nutrition security aspect of the curricula for undergraduate courses in agriculture and development in areas such as livestock productivity and integrated pest management. Universities and research institutions in Sindh are contributing significantly to research in agriculture and livestock management.

But PINS has observed this isn't reaching local farmers who could really benefit from it. It also realizes there is a need to foster better linkages between universities and farmers.

Training Workshops on Maximizing the Nutritional Impact of FSL & WASH Interventions Organised

In February 2019, PINS 3 organised a series of one-day training workshop for key staff members from all partners on Maximizing the Nutritional Impact of Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) & WASH Interventions'.

The training enhanced participants' understanding about how food security and livelihoods (FSL) interventions can help combat undernutrition. It also highlighted the short and long term nutritional benefits that can be achieved by implementing the right intervention at the right time. Local perspectives on FSL interventions and how they could be applied in Sindh were discussed. Case studies and role playing were used to discuss FSL intervention and behaviour change strategies.



Implementation Updates



299 Poultry Entrepreneurs received grants to build demonstration sheds



feeding utensils and feed)

2577 Community Poultry Entrepreneurs received inputs (cockerel, poultry



106 Small farmer received financial support to purchase seed and other inputs



using SBCC toolkit

2153 CO-level monthly awareness sessions conducted



201 LSOs received orientation sessions on monitoring water quality



206 Low-cost disaster resilient demonstration latrines constructed



Community Poultry Entrepreneurs Receive Inputs

Community Poultry Entrepreneurs trained under PINS received a kit comprising a fully-grown vaccinated cockerel, necessary utensils (drinkers and feeders) and feed in a bid to support them in their poultry management venture.

Entrepreneurs identified as the poorest (based on data from the Poverty Scorecard) were also given support to construct a poultry cage that will serve as a demo cage for other community members.

Along with physical inputs, these entrepreneurs will also be provided regular technical support and updates through monthly experience-sharing and learning meetings at the Village Organisation-level Farmer Field Schools.

The above is aimed at increasing access and subsequently, the intake of protein at household level. By providing inputs and support, effective poultry management and marketing skills are inculcated and these trained entrepreneurs can market their surplus to fellow community members while investing their profit back to expand their venture.

2nd Technical Working Group Meeting for Effective Implementation



The 2nd technical working group meeting, 27- 28 February, 2019, focused on setting up a road map for effective implementation of PINS 2 by building an accurate referral mechanism. Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN) members shared the models used for their projects: Sindh Union Council based Community Economic Strengthen System (SUCCESS) and Union Council based Poverty Reduction Program (UCBPRP).

This meeting afforded everyone an opportunity to provide feedback on mapping tools. A preliminary draft of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for outreach activities of PINS 2 was also shared with participants.

On the second day, participants gave their feedback on the SOP draft and shared their organizational operational plans with Action Against Hunger Pakistan.

Training on Integrated SMART Methodologies for Data Collection Team

A 4-day training on SMART assessment methodologies was organized from 8th – 11th February, 2019 for the teams who will implement the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey and the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL). PINS-2 will start the SMART Baseline Assessment from March 2019 in targeted districts. The objective is assess the prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children under five and pregnant and lactating women.

2nd Batch of Community Livestock Extension Workers Commence Training

A second two-month training for Community Livestock Extension Workers (CLEWs) kicked off on February 7th, 2019 at the Research and Training Institute in Tando Muhammed Khan. The participants will study livestock management, nutrition and breeding, and artificial insemination with a heavy focus on practical skills.

Once the training is over the CLEWs will return back to their union-councils where they will conduct regular visits, providing services such as vaccinations and drenching, setting up livestock camps carry out artificial insemination and liaising with government authorities overseeing livestock.



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