

# Notes from the field

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE NUTRITION-SENSITIVE SIDE OF PINS

## Reviving our FAE Model

One of our areas of focus has been effectively engaging our Female Agriculture Entrepreneurs (FAEs) which over the years has been side-tracked and also been limited given the Programme's own growing experience in entrepreneurship.



To jumpstart this, we conducted focus group discussions with the Programme field team and potential beneficiaries for filling the appraisal forms. By the end of the month, we filled out appraisal forms for shortlisting potential FAEs that had showed interest. To ensure wider participation by all those interested, we are phasing the activity out, starting out with existing FAEs but also to include other promising entrepreneurs who have had prior experience and are committed to working on a nutrition-sensitive venture. To ensure that the selection stage starts off strong to avoid problems later on, Community Nutrition Officers have been engaged to validate data provided by entrepreneurs as part of selection.

We are also collaborating with Sindh Union Council And Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) in this with the objective to create more livelihood & employment opportunities within the locality. Within the nutrition-sensitive enterprises, the focus can be on fisheries, agriculture, CLEWs, poultry, and livestock, where the entrepreneur's PSC criteria is between 0 - 23 and that they should be a member of the local Community Intuitions. In the appraisal form, the teams were told to highlight areas where the FAEs need more support in terms of capacity building. After shortlisting the FAEs, the list will be shared with SUCCESS to provide capacity-building opportunities to the selected FAEs, as per the majority need areas.



This Rabi season, 52,979 households across 1,846 Village Organisations cultivated their kitchen gardens using seeds that they or their VO sourced. This is a step towards sustainability, given that until last season, PINS communities were provided seeds for Rabi and Khareef.

## PINS Person of the Month

Fatima, a mother to three, became the sole earner of her household when her husband lost his ability to walk after an accident. With all that she had, she extended her house to open up a small shop to sell vegetables. Today, along with the shop, she grows several vegetables in her kitchen garden and sells them in the village.

With three growing children, Fatima struggled to feed them a good diet just on the income alone from her shop. Her VO, Mehboob Goth was part of PINS in Shikarpur and Fatima was a regular feature at her local Farmer Field School where she also received seeds to grow vegetables every season. Fatima proudly shows off her 30x35 ft plot where she grows vegetables that she uses to make meals for her family, selling the surplus at her shop.

Fatima is committed to her kitchen garden; with her husband's disability, she had no support for land preparation. Instead of being despondent, she hired labour which costs her PKR 500 a day. But for her, this is a small cost to bear given the importance of her kitchen garden and the benefits that she and her family enjoy.

Despite the hardship that she goes through in maintaining her kitchen garden, Fatima expresses the joy of feeding herself and her family fresh vegetables.



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*"I feel good knowing that I have the liberty to make my own decisions instead of waiting for others to help," she says with pride.*

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Her children are young, but over time, seeing their mother working on the kitchen garden has also got them involved in helping her out. Fatima takes pride in the effort she has put in both her kitchen garden and in ensuring that her children grow healthy.



## District Shikarpur Hosts the AAP Delegation

Our Shikarpur team participated in hosting the AAP delegation comprising of representatives from the Government of Sindh Accelerated Action Plan (AAP), World Food Programme and UNICEF visiting Shikarpur to discuss the progress of both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions and assess their collective impact towards reducing stunting in the district under the platform of the AAP.

The first day was spent reviewing progress with the Deputy Commissioner of Shikarpur, Mr. Kashif Khurho. On the second day, the AAP delegation visited our communities in Shikarpur, where they first made a stop at VO Biejo to observe the seed stocking at the community managed fish pond and then met up with members of LSO Khushaal including the Agriculture Entrepreneurs and Community Resource Persons who are working with the communities residing there.



## An update on our Community-managed Fish Ponds

Based on our learnings from the last round of community-managed fish ponds, PINS 3 set out to implement the second round of fish ponds across programme districts. So far

- Ponds in Shikarpur, Jamshoro, Tando Muhammad Khan, and Tando Allahyar have been completed and stocked with fish seed. We estimate that each pond will produce up to a 1000 kilogrammes of fish over the coming year.
- The pond in Thatta and Larkana have been completed but are yet to be stocked. We expect them to be stocked by April 2021
- The ponds in Dadu and Sujawal are still under construction. Construction for both is expected to be completed by April 2021

## Community Physical Infrastructure Development So Far



177 CPI hand pump schemes have been completed, and 1,006 hand pumps (a water scheme has between 4-5 hand pumps) have been constructed/rehabilitated as a result. These schemes are now providing access to safe drinking water to 14,998 HHs



70 Alternative Water Sources (AWS) schemes have been developed - these comprise of 63 lead hand pumps, 5 solar water supply schemes, and 2 transportation schemes which are providing access to safe drinking water to 9,485 HHs.



34 rainwater harvesting ponds have been constructed. We have also identified 83 feasible rainwater harvesting sites in arid zones in Jamshoro, Dadu and Qambar Shahdadkot which are expected to be functional in time for monsoon season so there is water available for farmer field schools, kitchen gardens and livestock.



## What We're Cooking Up Next

- After the mid-line survey was delayed last year given the COVID-19 outbreak, PINS ER-3 worked with University of Mannheim's Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED) to revisit the design of the impact evaluation strategy and made necessary changes to ensure that it captures all the indicators. So far, the survey tools have been pre-tested and questionnaires to be used have been revised. The enumerators, supervisors & monitors are also being trained in Shikarpur, Larkana, Qambar Shahdadkot and Dadu while those in the remaining districts are expected to be trained next month. The mid-line survey is expected to be carried out and completed in May 2021 with its findings published in June 2021.
- As part of our research collaboration with the Lahore School of Economics, Duke University and the University of Michigan, we are exploring drivers of sustainable improvement in health, welfare and nutritional status of low-income households in Sindh under PINS ER3. The study will comprise of exploratory and experimental work that focuses on uncovering barriers to sustained behavioral change in improved nutritional diversity and reduced open defecation.
- A moringa promotion campaign is underway to push our communities to plant more moringa trees. To date we have successfully transplanted over 155,000 Moringa plants in 55,465 HHs. We are adding further Moringa trees in this campaign. Our Agriculture Entrepreneurs (AEs) will visit households to follow up with those who have planted to see how they are coming along and address any issues that they might be facing. AEs will also create awareness about the benefits of growing and consuming moringa using our digital toolkit. In areas where there are widespread issues, households will be pushed to replant trees making use of saplings at their local farmer field school. Similarly, where trees have matured, planting more trees using the propagation method (planting cuttings) will be encouraged.
- We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Green Pakistan Programme (GPP)/Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTP) supported by the Sindh Forest Department (SFD). Through this collaboration, a network of nurseries are to be established in cooperation with local communities for producing planting stock of Moringa and fruit trees. GPP/TBTP's objectives of establishing and supporting community-driven plant nurseries align closely with PINS' objectives. Through this initiative, the Programme plans to plant an additional 500,000 fruit trees at the village and household level.

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