

Notes from the field

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE NUTRITION-SENSITIVE SIDE OF PINS

Exposure Visit in Umerkot Conducted to Explore Models of Rainwater Harvesting

Over the course of the Programme, rainwater harvesting ponds have been constructed or rehabilitated to improve access to water in communities where groundwater is inaccessible or unsafe. PINS ER-3 conducted an exposure visit to Umerkot on August 24th to explore indigenous models and practices of rain harvesting to assess their viability in the PINS' target areas.



97 Rainwater ponds/tanks constructed/rehabilitated so far



2,500 Neighbouring households benefit from the ponds/tanks

Field Engineers from PINS observed rain water harvesting schemes in Umerkot for use with drip irrigation systems for fruit tree plantations. Three different models (underground excavation, *Chonra* and *Tanka*) were observed to determine their feasibility for Dadu, Jamshoro and Kambar Shahdaddkot where these schemes are concentrated. Observations from the visit will be used by the PINS teams' to develop rain harvesting schemes for our communities to use for livestock and to maintain farmer field schools and kitchen gardens.

The People of PINS



Yaseen grew up stuck to his father, Muhammad Ramzan's hip and going to the fields with him whenever he could. They live in VO Ghulam Nabi Shah, Tando muhammad Khan where Muhammad Ramzan commands respect for the work he has done for the community.

'My father has always worked for his people and encouraged us to do the same. He is also a vocal advocate for education, especially girls and has followed through by putting my sisters through college – a first for our community.'

After being the first in his community to experiment with zincole, a zinc-fortified variety of wheat in his community, Muhammad Ramzan is trying out his hand at a new venture. He has put up his land to develop Tando Muhammad Khan's second community-managed fish pond.

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I had been interested in fish farming, and started off with a small pond in my backyard. When I participated in a dialogue with PINS on developing a fish pond, I jumped at the opportunity, since I knew that I would have the support to make it a success.

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To Muhammad Ramzan, the pond is not just a pet project. He sees it as a way to do something for his people – just like the fruit trees that he planted in his fields so that there is a continued supply of jubebe for the children that play nearby. Through the pond, he hopes that his community eats more fish and that it makes buying fish cheaper and easier than it is purchasing from the market.



Yaseen is in his first semester at the Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro and aims to major in Electrical Engineering. But he spends his weekends taking stock and making sure the fish are coming along well to be harvested at a good weight in November. He understands the challenges that his community faces and is inspired by his father to give back wherever and however he can. He hopes to incorporate his academic training once he graduates in strengthening food security in his community so that other children like him are able to thrive and live to their fullest.

Refresher Trainings Held for WASH Officers and CNOs on Key Programme Concepts



As the Programme starts its no-cost extension (NCE) period, we assessed the training needs across the target district through meetings with the community, regular monitoring of Programme Affiliates on ground and subsequent sharing of findings with our partners. To ensure seamless implementation during the NCE period, we designed and held refresher trainings to enhance the capacity of our Programme Affiliates including our Agriculture Entrepreneurs and Community Resource Persons.

These capacity building workshops focused on implementation guidelines to achieve the various milestones leading to open defecation free status at the village level by engaging with different stakeholders and at multiple levels. They also emphasised on strengthening

social and behaviour change communication to sustainably inculcate positive dietary and hygiene practices. Lastly, concepts of kitchen gardening, nursery raising and tree plantation were also covered at household and community level for a continued supply of organic, seasonal and indigenous produce for our communities.

Department of Livestock and Animal Husbandry Engaged to Develop Re-engagement Strategy for CLEWs

PINS ER-3 led a series of consultation meetings with Deputy Directors of the Department of Livestock and Animal Husbandry, Government of Sindh across Programme districts with the following objectives:

- To promote the scope of work of community livestock extension workers (CLEWs) trained under PINS ER-3 and how it fits with the priorities of the Livestock Department
- Consult officials from the Provincial and District Livestock Departments to strengthen linkages between the Livestock Department, private veterinarians, CLEWs, and Community Institutions
- Enhance sustainability of the CLEW model by providing regular vaccines and engaging them in vaccinations camps and campaigns.
- Organise refresher training for CLEWs in each district.



The Deputy Directors agreed to hold workshops in each of their Districts, during October / November to re-engage CLEWs in order to improve their skills, their linkages with private practitioners, and to increase their outreach to across the Programme districts.



What We're Cooking Up Next

- A consultative workshop is planned in the coming month to discuss the re-engagement strategy for CLEWs in depth and strengthen linkages with the Department of Livestock and Animal Husbandry, Government of Sindh
- A series of review meetings are scheduled with our partner RSPs to review the progress against the targets set during the no-cost extension period and troubleshoot issues with implementation during the period



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