

## NARA CANAL AREA WATER PARTNERSHIP

### Poverty Reduction through IWRM and Participatory Management of Natural Resources



The Nara Canal Area Water Partnership (NCAWP) operating in the command area of the Nara Canal in the lower Indus basin of the Sindh Province in Pakistan, under the guidance of the Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP), launched its programmes of reducing poverty by the improvement of agriculture productivity through community mobilization and participatory decision making among all stakeholders, ensuring optimum resource utilization and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The specific objectives of the programme were as follows;

- To develop effective coordination between Government and non-government organizations, private sector institutions, research institutes, Community Based Organizations (CBO), media, Farmer Organizations (FO) & Water Users' Associations (WUA), for multiple uses of water resources.
- To promote IWRM and productivity enhancement through integrated farming practices.
- To develop a Women Water Network / youth groups for design and implementation of successful participatory processes in water conservation activities.

By executing the programmes keeping the above in mind, the NCAWP has been able to develop sustainable solutions to the key issues of the area such as the scarcity of drinking and irrigation water, poor drainage and sanitation, and conflicts between FOs and the Line Departments (SIDA, Irrigation Department and Public Health). These solutions have been highlighted by the following impacts observed in the community post programme implementation;

- A good working relationship developed amongst all the stakeholders.
- Resolution of conflict with regard to canal water distribution in 44 villages.
- Enhanced conservation and optimum reutilization of water.
- Increase in average household income by 20%.
- Increase in the adoption of integrated farming practices by 32% of the farming community.
- Decrease in livestock mortality by 5%.
- Income from livestock farming increased by 20%.
- Introduction of modern techniques in fish farming resulting in the increase of fish farmers by 4%.

- Capacity building of and environmental awareness creation amongst 50,000 individuals.
- Planting of 34,000 seedlings within the community.

All programmes were carried out with the maximum support of the Area Water Partnership's (AWP) partners after the identification of their potential and possible instances of synergistic action. Partner collaboration has also been instrumental in up-scaling grassroots interventions to national and international levels in the following manner;

- Realizing NCAWP has developed substantial partnership and has carried out gender mainstreaming. The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) of the Government of Pakistan adopted the NCAWP to introduce recycling of waste water, distribution of wheat seeds among flood affected farmers and sowing of crops on 25,000ha of area in Sindh, social forestry, dairy farming, dates value chain improvement, prawn farming, etc.
- In 2010, PARC entered into a MoU with the People's Republic of China. As a direct result of same, Chinese agricultural experts now work in close collaboration with the NCAWP in terms of introducing modern technologies to enhance agricultural productivity, diversification of livelihood and training local communities on water harvesting and conservation.

Special attention was paid to the issues concerning women with less access to opportunities in the area and numerous activities were carried out in order to improve their status within the community and individual capacities. Some of them are as follows;

- Gender sensitization training provided to 1,200 individuals, both male and female.
- Training on entrepreneurship skills provided to 5,000 women.
- Training on market development techniques for indigenous products provided to 2,400 individuals, both male and female.
- Political empowerment of female councilors at District and Union Council level.
- Ensuring women's participation in FOs, WCOs, NGOs, CBOs and District Committees.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NCAWP'S ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

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*Promoting IWRM in South Asia and striving for good governance, equity, access, adequacy, quality, productivity and sustainability in the water sector*

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