Graduation Survey Report

Livelihood Enhancement & Protection Project Phase I
District Ghotki

Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)

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1. Executive Summary:

The LEP-I Project successfully completed in three union council of taluka Ghotki and achieved the set targets qualitatively. Since the project ended SRSO have planned survey regarding to extract the impact and graduation of beneficiaries respectively. Graduation Survey was scaled up to cover the 100% beneficiaries through the quantitative and qualitative approaches and methods in all three union councils.

Primarily the survey highlighted that all the 553 covered beneficiaries of livestock or other than the livestock have received the assets properly as per process from the SRSO under LEP-I and those assets are being managed efficiently at household level. The new birth has further enhanced the asset creation in these union councils and added 173 new kids in the inventory and increased the population of LEP-I Livestock/animals as well.

As far as the mortality is concerned, it has occurred at 6% which remained below the average or even standard rate prevails in the country. It is just because of the proper and effective management by the beneficiaries and regular as well as productive follow-ups by the SRSO teams.

During the survey the field teams have focused the production of milk, in this regard the findings have revealed that production of milk is 284 Litrs from all LEP-I animals who have given birth. The production of milk has enabled the respective beneficiaries to use that milk for domestic and sale purposes in order to boost up the income and save the expenses pertaining to the purchasing of milk. Milk production enriched the nutrition at household level, particularly for children to drink at night.

The previous and current worth of livestock was also taken into the account during the survey. The current worth of LEP-I livestock has increased by double as compared to the previous worth when it was transferred to the beneficiary. The estimation has been based on the responses received from the beneficiaries and the current market rate.

While sale of the LEP-I livestock was also focused in field work. It has revealed that 39 animals had sold by the beneficiaries, but due to certain reasons which made them to sale those animals. Yet it is better that the some beneficiaries have purchased the other animals from that amount.

The current inventory of LEP-I livestock has been reported as increased by 106 animals in three union councils. This has further enhanced the practices of livestock management at household level and inspiring the beneficiaries to enhance their incomes and to protect their livelihoods respectively.

2. Introduction:

The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) is striving to reduce the poverty through the empowerment of women in the rural areas of Sindh Province, particularly in nine Northern Districts. In connection with the poverty reduction SRSO entered into an agreement with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) in March-2011 to execute the project namely Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) project in District Ghotki.

The Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) project aims at to improve the living standards of the targeted households in order to the vulnerability to shocks reduced. It also emphasis on poor communities/people in order to gain the increased access to the quality based infrastructure services within the areas or adjoining areas where there has been consistent deprived exited.

The objective of the Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) project is to develop the capacity, opportunities, assets and productivity of community members to reduce their vulnerability to shocks, improve their livelihoods initiatives and strengthen their business operations. LEP also supports community members to build up their savings capacity and proficiency in funds management through internal lending, while complementing these efforts with grants and technical support to increase assets, productivity and incomes. Under this component, mechanisms has developed and implemented to identify and supported to innovative micro enterprises and value chain development that resulted as improved livelihood.

3. Objective of the Graduation Survey:

The graduation survey of LEP-I project has been aimed at to assess the final impact of the interventions made under LEP-I. It also outlines whether the recipients/beneficiaries of this project has graduated to the next level and their living standards are influenced by the project interventions which should have resulted the improved economical and social status within the villages. The survey also aimed to highlight the existing means of livelihood their protection and sustainability at the gross root levels.

It also reveals the overall status of assets or the intervention made with those poor and destitute villagers. Survey potentially identifies the exiting practices of masses in terms of livelihood and livestock management practices and the impact of LEP-I interventions in both perspectives.

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4. Methodology:

Before the formal execution of graduation survey activity in field, it was taken into the account that the LEP-I was implemented in three union councils i.e. Ali Bagh, Bago Daho and Berriri of taluka Ghotki. Based on that the beneficiary list of such households was obtained who had received any asset from SRSO under ELP-I.

Initially the graduation survey was planned for all 669 beneficiaries across all three union council in the district Ghotki. A questionnaire was designed to perform the graduation survey in targeted UCs, the questionnaire containing the questions about the proper information of assets like the condition of assets, current inventory, the worth of asset and the production of milk and the effectiveness of asset transfer intervention.

Table: 01 showing the data of planned, covered and not covered beneficiaries during survey

Sr. No	Name of UC	No of Beneficiaries planned to be covered	No of Beneficiaries Covered during the survey	No of Beneficiaries not yet covered due to certain reasons
1	Ali Bagh	295	257	38
2	Bago Daho	221	170	51
3	Berriri	153	126	27
	Total	669	553	116

It is worth to mention that 117 beneficiaries which could not be covered/surveyed due to reasons like 38 beneficiaries have reported as permanently migrated whereas 43 beneficiaries reported as temporarily migrated to other districts of Sindh and Punjab and their returned is expected, while 2 beneficiaries found as died and 34 beneficiaries unfortunately not covered due to the stagnant water of the Indus river in those villages where beneficiaries located.

During the course of implementation of survey a team of six motivated and experienced females have been appointed as the enumerators. The purpose of appointing only female was to ensure the accuracy and authenticity of data to be collected from female beneficiaries.

After the appointment of required team SRSO have arranged three days orientation training workshop in order to train the team on the understanding and the scope of the assignment. During the three days workshop the SRSO MER teams have frequently visited and delivered the meaningful sessions and making clear understanding of LEP-I asset transfer intervention.

Subsequent to the successful completion of orientation training workshop, the trained team members were further moved into the designated UCs for the execution of the assigned task. Initially the field teams were distributed in three groups, each group comprised of two team

members. It was the prime responsibility of field teams to conduct the survey under the defined parameters and with available resources. During the ordinary course of the survey each team member was assigned the responsibility to fill out the minimum ten survey forms on an each day. During the data/information collection the MER persons have closely monitored the field teams in the villages while getting information from respective beneficiaries by using the designed questionnaire through interview pattern.

Besides this activity a team of three members i.e. Mr. Mannan Chachar, Mr. Shahanshah and Mr. Zahid Shaikh conducted detailed individual and group discussions by using the open-ended method with randomly selected beneficiaries to get the additional information on other counterparts. The field teams have successfully collected the data/information in scheduled time. The collected data were entered into the excel sheet for data punching and PSC was entered into the standard MS. Access database.

5. Finding of the Survey:

The findings of the survey are generally connected with the current life standard and the sources of income of the masses, who received any asset under LEP-I from SRSO. The livestock management practices are also very important to be focused on ground level. The report also reveals the overall change in the life standard of those beneficiaries.

a.   Comparison of Poverty Score Card before and after Asset Transfer:

Poverty Scorecard is an effective world bank and nationwide approved tool for targeting poor and to measure change in poverty status at beneficiary Household level. There is no other tool that can measure impact at such grass root level. SRSO went through baseline survey of the project UCs through poverty score card for targeting poor and after intervention of PPAF funded Livelihood Project specially asset transfer, same was repeated with beneficiary households to measure change at certain maturity period of time.   Below tables reflects comparison of Poverty Score Card of Assets beneficiaries:

Table: 02 Comparison of PSC results before and after Asset Transfer

PSC Bands	PSC before Asset Transfer	PSC after Asset Transfer
0-11	353	231
12-18	199	249
19-23	0	58
24-100	0	14

Total N=553

The above table shows that status of Poverty Score Card before and after project intervention. Here before refers baseline data. It is necessary to mention that eligibility criteria for LEP project intervention was 0-18 PSC band. After graduation survey, it is shown in the table that out of 354, 231 beneficiaries remained in (0-11) band after intervention while 122 (34.4%) households have graduated from their previous poverty band to next poverty band. 0-11 band is considered as "extremely Poor".

In 2nd Poverty band which is 12-18 score, number of households has increased from 199 to 249. This has increased because of graduation of population falling previously in 0-11 extremely poor band and then those who graduated from 1st band to this next level of poverty.

19-23 and 24-100 are bands that are called transitory poor and non poor respectively. Households falling in these bands were not covered in LEP project therefore none of the beneficiaries were falling in these bands previously (marked zero). Increase in these bands reflects that 72 households are those who have come up from the extreme poverty and are now having better livelihood.

Table: 03 Band wise Status of PSC Graduation

Before Status in Bands (No)			Before Status in Bands (%)	
Total	0-11	12-18`	0-11	12-18`
552	354	199	64%	36%
PSC Results After Graduation Survey				
After graduation survey status in (No)			After graduation survey status in (%)	
0-11	219	13	62%	7%
12-18	128	121	36%	61%
19-23	6	52	2%	26%
24-100	1	13	0%	7%

Total N= 553

The above table describes status of graduation in detail. It helps in seeing change at each band more clearly which is as under:
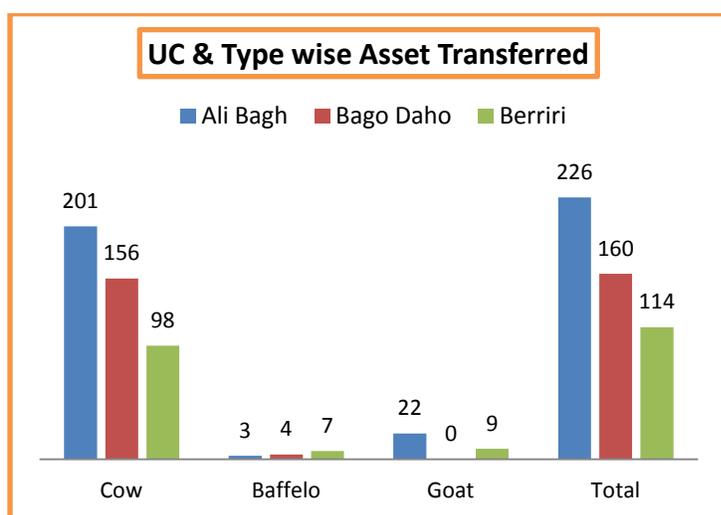
0-11 PSC Band: After survey it was observed that earlier, PSC HHs in 0-11 band were 64% while after project intervention, it has decreased to 42%. According to the survey results, **36% households from (0-11) band have graduated to the next band (12-18) and 2% households graduated to the (19-23) 3rd band, whereas 62% of (0-11) band have remained the same with change in scores only.**

12-18 PSC Band: **26% households have graduated from (12-18) band to the (19-23) and 7% households have been graduated from (19-23) band to (24-100) band respectively.**

However, 61% households remained with the same score yet 7% households have declined from (12-18) band to (0-11) bands due to the reasons of rainfall 2012 and the mortality of their livestock.

b) UC and Breed wise distribution of Surveyed Livestock Assets

Following is the UC and type wise bifurcation of Assets:

In above chart it is well defined that 201 cows, 03 buffaloes and 22 Goats were transferred in UC Ali Bagh, while in UC Bago Daho 156 cows, 04 buffaloes were transferred. Similarly, in UC Berriri 98 cows, 07 buffaloes and 09 Goats were transferred under LEP-I project.

c)   UC wise bifurcation of Assets transferred other than Livestock:

In LEP project besides transferring the livestock assets to poor and destitute women, the other assets were also transferred based on the need of the households which came through their LIPs. Below table shows detail of assets other than livestock.
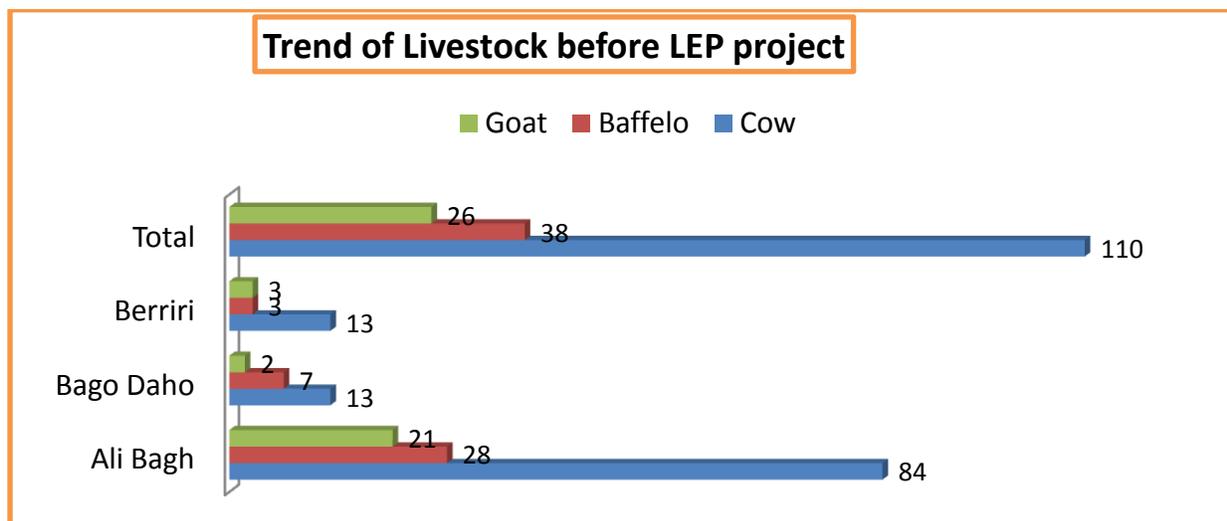
Table: 04 showing the data of assets transferred other than the livestock

UC wise Assets Transferred other than the Livestock

Union Council	Karyana shop	Motor cycle Mechanic	Sewing Machine	Fish Cart	Barbar Shop	Tailoring Shop	Donkey Cart
Ali Bagh	15	6	3	2	0	2	1
Bago Daho	8	0	1	0	2	1	1
Berriri	6	0	1	0	0	3	0
Total	29	6	5	2	2	6	2

Above table shows type of assets transferred other than Livestock. It was observed that productivity of assists other than livestock remained less as compare to livestock. During the interviews, it has been identified that out of 52 households, 60% were those who could not manage to continue their business out of provided asset. It mainly included Karyana Shops, Tailoring, Motorcycle Mechanic, and Fish carts. Reason shared during group discussion that due to extreme level of poverty in rural areas, community often purchase commodities on a short term loan basis which has affected the sale of their karyana shops. While in rest of the cases, gap in identification of trade or type was observed. Nevertheless, **40% Assets other than Livestock were found productive which included Donkey Cart, Karyana Shops (where identification of asset type was correct), and Barber Shops. Beneficiaries reported that their income is about Rs.350 per day which almost addresses their routine expenses at a meaningful scale.**

d)   The trend of livestock rearing in Project UCs before intervention:

Since majority of the demand from community was coming for livestock in LIPs in initial phase of the project, SRSO conducted informal survey in target UCs through focus group discussions to see livestock trend before intervention. Below chart highlights the status of livestock trend in all three UCs.

Trend of Livestock before LEP project

The above chart illustrates the trend that maximum households were rearing Cows while buffalos and goats were on 2nd and 3rd rank respectively. Community pointed out reasons for trend of Cow rearing as it takes bit lesser time as compared to the other animals like buffalo and goats to be managed at household level. They also shared that the mortality ratio of Cow is also less.
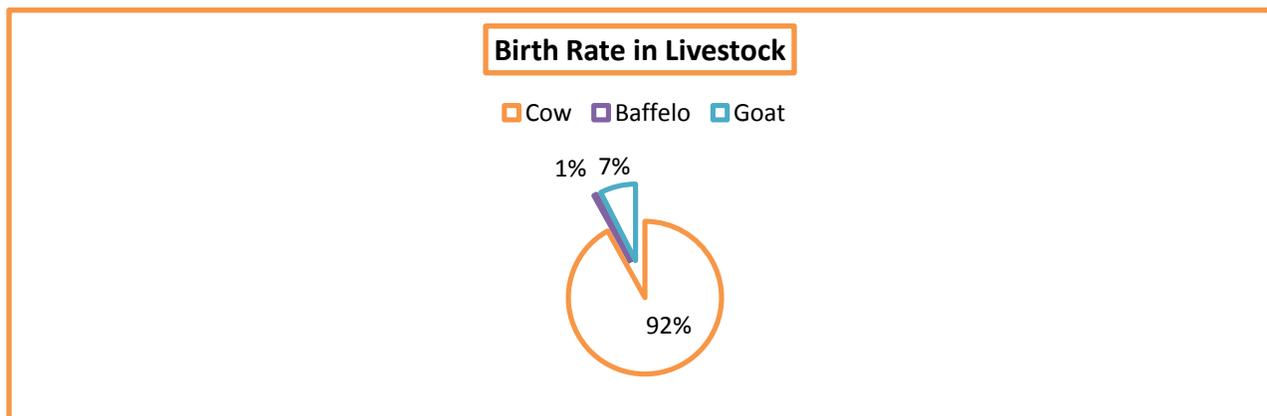
e) Growth in LEP Livestock:

The graduation survey also identified the birth rate among the animals given under LEP phase I in all three union councils. Following table shows type wise growth in LEP I livestock:

Table: 05 Growth in LEP I Livestock

Type of Animal	Animals given under LEP	Animals given Birth	Rate
Cow	455	159	35%
Buffalo	14	1	7%
Goat	31	13	42%
Overall	500	173	35%

The Growth rate in livestock provided in LEP I stand on 35%. The birth rate in livestock has found 173 in which 164 are calves, 1 is Heifer and 34 kids have been delivered by the goats in all three union council. It was observed that birth rate could have increased even more if availability of Bull or Artificial Insemination was available on scale. **However, concept of AI has been added and followed in LEP phase II.** The management of livestock found encouraging by community which is positive indicator of community ownership and project sustainability.

Additionally, the information came on surface through discussion with beneficiaries during the survey is that almost **62% animals have given birth to the female kids,** which is a positive sign for the asset creation even multiplication of the provided assets in future.

Birth Rate in Livestock

☐ Cow ☐ Baffelo ☐ Goat

1% 7%

92%

The pie-chart depicts percentage of each type animals who given birth under LEP project. Ultimately pregnancy ratio and birth given ratio is high in cows compare to the other animals

like Buffalo and Goats. **Above pie-chart shows that 92% of cows given births, while 07% of Goats given the birth and only 01% buffalo had given birth to the kids.**

The low ratio in Buffalo reasoning due to unavailability of bull at the time of heat in buffaloes within the villages. It was highlighted by some beneficiaries in discussions that if the bulls could have been available at the time when those Buffaloes shown first time heating, than the ratio of birth could be more than the reported now.

f) Mortality ratio of LEP animals:

After the transferring of assets to the poor beneficiaries the main task which has been recognized at each level was the control in mortality of animals/asset transferred to the poor women because if the mortality has remained under control the asset creation would get enhanced more, but if the mortality issue might have prevailed, the set objectives could remained unachieved. Below table gives the details of animal's mortality by type wise:

Table: 06 Mortality Ratio of LEP-I Livestock

Mortality Rate in Livestock			
Type of Animal	Livestock given in LEP-I	Mortality reported During Survey	%
Cow	455	10	2%
Buffalo	14	1	7%
Goat	31	19	61%
Overall	500	30	6%

The table provides the overall figures of mortality duly reported during the survey from all the villages where the LEP-I intervention had taken place. The mortality ratio remained acceptably low fortunately at 6% only. Mortality rate in goat was reported higher due to 2012 rain floods. During the discussion with beneficiaries in 17 different villages regarding the mortality of animals and particularly of goats, the responded that there was an outbreak of disease during 2012 rain floods caused casualties in goats. They shared they were unaware about goat management in that particular outbreak and vetniery services were also not available.

The overall low mortality of livestock is reasoned for some necessary actions which were adopted even being practiced during the course of the survey in different villages. According to the 78% beneficiaries they have adopted proper management of livestock as guided by the SRSO teams through livestock management trainings during the course of project implementation, and secondly, it was also worth taken matters that the regular and effective follow up by project teams had restricted the mortality at minimum scale.

g)   Production of Milk in LEP-I animals:

The graduation survey also focused few important factors like milk production in animals who have reached to the breeding stage. Below-mentioned table provides quick view of per day milk production in animals of LEP Phase I with UC wise break up:

Table: 07 UC and Animal wise break up Milk Production

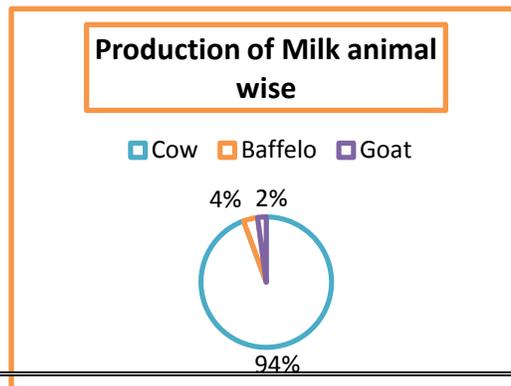| Per Day Milk Production (in Liters)			
Union Council	Cow	Buffalo	Goat
Ali Bagh	107	4	5
Bago Daho	120	1	0
Berirri	41	5	1
Total Production	268	10	6

It is clearly revealed in table that the production of milk is prominently related to the cows and this is just because of trend that has been kept on going from generations to rear the Buffalo or cow at the household level to get the milk either for domestic use or commercial purpose.

The overall production of milk is 284 liters in which 268 Liters obtained from the cows and 10 Liters from the buffaloes and only 6 Liters from goats. It is the production of 173 animals only who have given birth. If we take cows only, milk production per cow per day stands on 1.7 liters till now. Generally it seems bit low but still when we take into the local context and dynamics that prevailing in those villages, and secondly unavailability of green fodder due to hot and dry weather, it is still encouraging for the community members who actually falls in 0-18 PSC band.

61% responses tells that March to August are quite hot and dry months in which availability of green fodder and livestock management particularly in buffaloes and cows gets difficult.

The pie-chart analysis shows the total production of milk as animal wise that 94% of whole production produced by the cow animals and 4% from the Buffalo and only 2% milk production obtain from the goats. In that perspective, it is quite reasonable to mention that

Production of Milk animal wise

☐ Cow ☐ Baffelo ☐ Goat

4% 2%

94%

the production of milk still could increase if the appropriate green fodder would have available in those areas. According to the responses of the beneficiaries that the production of milk varies with the fodder season it increases by 22% of total production in all animals excluding of goats, but unfortunately required green fodder is not available even in the seasonal period due to the financial capacity of poor owners of these livestock.

During the course of graduation survey the field teams have thoroughly discussed with the beneficiaries about the possible benefits of the milk production. Through the individual and group discussions it has come on the record and reported that the production of milk have potentially helped the 28% households who never had any milk at the household level to consume domestically which somehow fulfilled the nutrition requirements specifically of children. It was further recorded that **17% beneficiaries have started to sale out the milk within the village at the rate of Rs. 60 per Litr, which found supportive for them to consume that money in domestic needs**. Whereas 83% beneficiaries are using milk domestically, this has fulfilled their needs and saving in their monthly expenses. This has enriched the ratio of calorie intake especially in children.

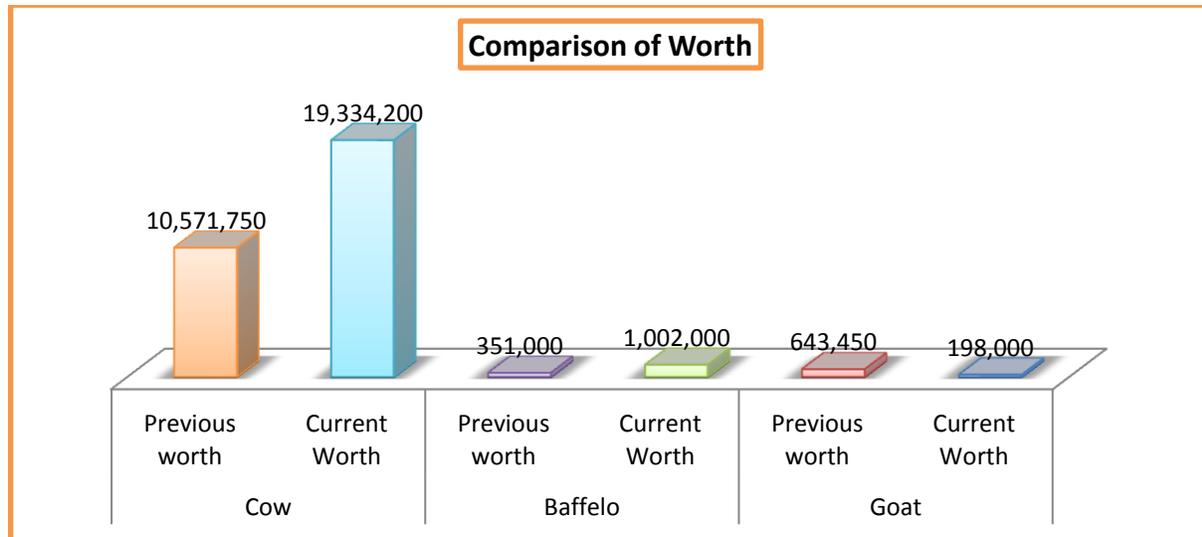**h)   Livestock worth comparison (Previous & Current):**

The survey has thematically identified the comparison of worth at the time of asset transfer and in current stage. This is quite encouraging that existing comparison is generally based on the responses received from the beneficiaries through the quantitative and qualititative methods. Below table reflects the average worth per animal based on the type:.

Table: 08 Showing the Comparison of Livestock Worth

Worth (period)	Average worth of animal		
	Cow	Buffalo	Goat (3-4 no.)
Worth when asset transferred (average)	23,345	23,425	20,625
Current worth when graduation survey (average)	46,710	58,941	22,000

The table shows that on average, Rs. 23,345 was awarded to single beneficiary to get the animals of cow, whereas Rs. 23,425 was given to each beneficiary to purchase the Buffalo and simultaneously Rs. 20,625 was extended to each beneficiary to get Goats (more than 2 in case of goats).

Now after project completion, it has been recorded that average worth of a single cow is Rs. 46,710, while the worth of a single buffalo is Rs. 58,941 and Rs. 22,000 stated the average worth for Goats where survived. Again, it is essential to inform that as per the statement of respective beneficiaries, the average worth does not includes the worth of animal kids, the worth is calculated only for single animal with any type and if we add its calves value then it would increase even more. Furthermore, the current worth is basically based on the local market cost.

Comparison of Worth

The above chart represents the overall comparison of worth of total assets given to the beneficiaries. If we see type wise project investment, it has doubled over the period of time. Cows of 10 million now worth 19.3 million, buffalo worth 0.35 million has reached up to 1 million while in case of goats, loss of Rs. 445,450 due to 2012 rain floods as already mentioned above. **Overall, investment on livestock through assets distribution was 11.5 roughly which has now increased up to 20.5 million excluding worth of 173 newborns of breeding animals.**
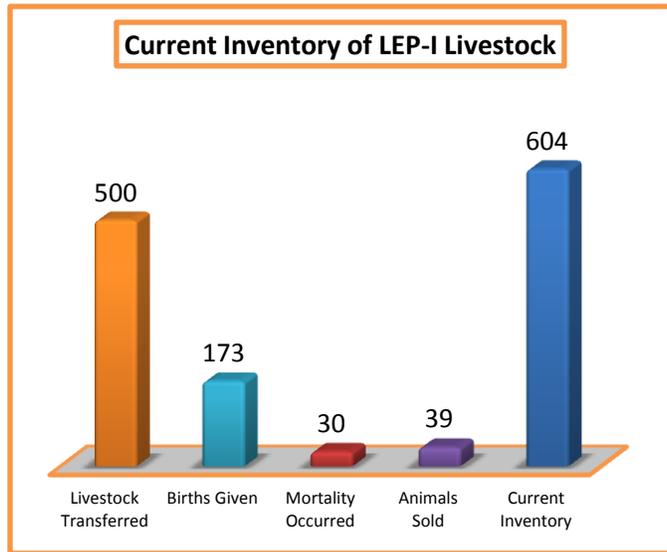
During the graduation survey 39 (30 cows and 9 buffaloes) out of 445 animals were reported to be sold out by the beneficiaries. The reasons were as under:

1. Sudden illness
2. Inability to conceive
3. Law and Order / tribal conflict.

Yet it is encouraging that 9 beneficiaries who sold out animals because of sickness purchased another animal from the selling amount.

i)   Current Inventory of LEP-I Livestock:

This graph reflects the information of overall livestock inventory. It entails that total 500 animals were given in which 173 animals have given births that has added in the total number/inventory of the livestock assets. Yet 30 animals died and 39 animals were sold out but still we can clearly see that at the moment 604 animals are present at the homes of respective beneficiaries which is a valid benchmark ever achieved.

Current Inventory of LEP-I Livestock

Livestock Transferred	Births Given	Mortality Occurred	Animals Sold	Current Inventory
500	173	30	39	604

This practice has achieved the asset creation purpose and ultimately influences the status of households who had received the animals. While it is quite necessary to highlight based on the responses received from the randomly interviewed beneficiaries that they are being facilitated by the SRSO teams at the times of any emergencies taking place with LEP-I animals either of disease or of something else yet been faced efficiently. Furthermore, instead of harder conditions at ground still the beneficiaries have made the animals managed and safeguarded them with all possible means that they have domestically available, resultantly the inventory of animals has increased at 21 % rate which indicates the first step towards graduation and the protection of livelihood at the grass root levels. It has further strengthened the asset creation which is a prime objective in LEP-I project. By and large, the beneficiaries have managed the animals effectively and increased the inventory at household level in spite of unfriendly conditions at the ground. This reflects their ownership which is healthy for the sustainability of any project.