



2023



PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Implementation of Kitchen Garden Component through IP NGOs under Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project - **SIAPEP**


Submitted to Project Director SIAPEP

Date of Submission: 19-05-2023

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Contact Us :

+927156-271820 

info@srso.org.pk 

<https://srso.org.pk> 

SRSO Complex, Shikarpur Road Sukkur 

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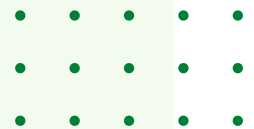
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PROJECT PROFILE	
1. Funded Activity Title:	Hiring of NGOs as a Service Providers to support the implementation of the Kitchen Garden activity to be implemented in different districts of Sindh
2. Project Client	Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project - SIAPEP
3. Executing agency	Sindh Rural Support Organization
4. Name of Assigned district/s	Karachi, Hyderabad, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Sanghar, Naushehro Feroz, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Ghotki, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Larkano and Kamber-Shahdadkot
5. Contract budget	Total contract amount in PKR 29.612 million
6. Date of signed contract:	1st August 2022
7. Project Name	Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project - SIAPEP
8. Funded Activity Actual Duration (Months/years)	6 Months (1st August 2022-January 2023)
9. Funded Activity Completion Date:	(19-May-2023)

ACRONYMS ABBREVIATIONS

2023

-CAT-	Community Awareness Toolkit
-CEO-	Chief Executive Officer
-CFO-	Chief Financial Officer
-CO-	Community Organization
-CBK-	Community Book Keeper
-CDD-	Community Driven Development
-CI-	Community Institutions
-CRP-	Community Resource Person
-CLTS-	Community-Led Total Sanitation
-DWS-	Drinking Water Supply
-ER-	Expected Result
-GFFO-	German Foreign Office
-HH-	Households
-O&M-	Operation and Maintenance
-MHPSS	Mental Health Psycho-Social Support
-SRSO-	Sindh Rural Support Organization
-SIAPEP-	Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Component (SIAPEP)
-TOP-	Terms of Partnership
-VDP-	Village Development Plan
-VO-	Village Organization
-WB-	World Bank

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the individuals and teams involved in the Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (SIAPEP), implemented by the Sindh Rural Support Organization. The success of this project would not have been possible without the tireless effort and technical assistance provided by the Project Director, SGS PIU, PIU Team, Directorates, District Team, PSIAC, and M&EC.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to Sana Khanzada for her exceptional contributions to the SIAPEP project. As a valuable member of the team, Sana Khanzada brought her expertise, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the project. Her guidance and support played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth implementation of various project activities.

Sana Khanzada's deep understanding of the agricultural sector, coupled with her ability to navigate complex challenges, greatly contributed to the project's success. Her technical knowledge and insightful suggestions were instrumental in devising effective strategies for enhancing irrigated agriculture productivity in Sindh.

We truly appreciate Sana Khanzada's relentless efforts and commend her for going above and beyond to ensure the project's objectives were achieved. Her passion for the development of Sindh's agriculture sector has made a lasting impact on the lives of countless farmers and communities.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all those involved in the SIAPEP project, with a special acknowledgment to Sana Khanzada, for their dedication and invaluable contributions to the development of Sindh's agriculture sector.

Thanks

Ali Asghar Maitlo
Project Manager
SIAPEP-SRSO





Executive Summary



The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) successfully implemented a component aimed at establishing 3,100 kitchen gardens for poor households, particularly female-headed and landless farmers, in rural areas of fifteen districts of Sindh including Karachi, Hyderabad, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Sanghar, Noushehro Feroze, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Ghotki, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Larkano and Kamber-Shahdadkot. The component was implemented with the support of a women-led social network at the community level. During the component tenure, Sindh Faced a huge rain flood that devastated each of the possession and damaged the crop but the SIAPEP beneficiaries were remain stood as per ToRs and they build a strong resilience and did better for the improvement of their livelihood.

However, during flood/heavy rain natural disasters, floods have devastating effects on agriculture and food security, especially in vulnerable communities. The flood can damage crops, destroy infrastructure, and displace communities, leading to food shortages and malnutrition. It is essential for organizations like SRSO and SIAPEP to have contingency plans in place to deal with emergencies and to support affected communities in their recovery efforts. To begin with, SRSO staff members were oriented about the program and underwent Training of Trainers (ToT). The program dialogue was initiated among the community to create interest and awareness about the program activities. The selection of beneficiaries was done as per the defined criteria and 3,100 beneficiaries of landless harries and female-headed households were successfully identified.

Each beneficiary household was provided with a low-cost drip kit including a water storage tank of 200 litre, 10 types of seed/seedlings/saplings for two seasons, micro and macro fertilizers for two seasons, and a tool kit. The households were also provided with training for two seasons, from land preparation to post-harvesting. The program was divided into two seasons, and each kitchen garden was supported for a year.

The households successfully contributed to the program by preparing the land, constructing tank foundations, and fencing the KG plot. The SRSO team successfully received and inspected the KG kit material from the vendor before distributing it among the beneficiaries. The KG kits were distributed and installed at the household level by the SRSO staff, who also provided technical training on land preparation, sowing the seed, seasons, harvesting, and post-harvesting.



Executive Summary

The component achieved significant results, including the establishment of **3,100** kitchen gardens for poor households landless harries, and female-headed households in rural areas of Sindh. The component had socio-economic and nutritional co-benefits, as it provided a source of fresh and nutritious vegetables for the beneficiaries and also created employment opportunities for local communities. The component also contributed to the SIAPEP KG component objectives of enhancing food security and improving the livelihoods of poor households in rural areas.

The component had several important lessons learned. Firstly, the involvement of community-based organizations and women-led social networks was crucial for the success of the component. Secondly, the selection of beneficiaries should be done based on transparent and defined criteria. Thirdly, technical training and support should be provided to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the program. Lastly, the component should be designed to be sustainable and long-term, with a focus on building the capacity of beneficiaries to continue the program beyond the support period.

The program achieved a number of key results, including the establishment of 3,100 kitchen gardens for poor households in rural areas of Sindh. Each kitchen garden was supported for one year and divided into two seasons with the growing of nutrition-dense crops, mainly vegetables. The households were provided with low-cost drip kits, seed/seedlings/saplings for two seasons, micro and macro fertilizers for two seasons, and a tool kit. The SRSO team also conducted training for farmers for two seasons during one year.

In order to successfully implement the program, SRSO had to establish a network of women-led households at the community level. They identified beneficiaries as per direction by PIU SIAPEP and verified them through a process that involved authentication by DD (F), verification by M&EC, and group formation at the community level. The SRSO team conducted training sessions for land preparation to post-harvesting, as well as distributed and installed KG kits at the HHs level.

The program had several socio-economic and nutritional-related co-benefits or outcomes. By establishing kitchen gardens, poor households were able to improve their food security and nutrition by growing their own vegetables. Female-headed households and landless farmers were given priority in the selection process, which helped to empower women and increase their access to resources. The program also provided employment opportunities for community members, as they were involved in land preparation, tank foundation construction, and fencing of KG plots.



Executive Summary

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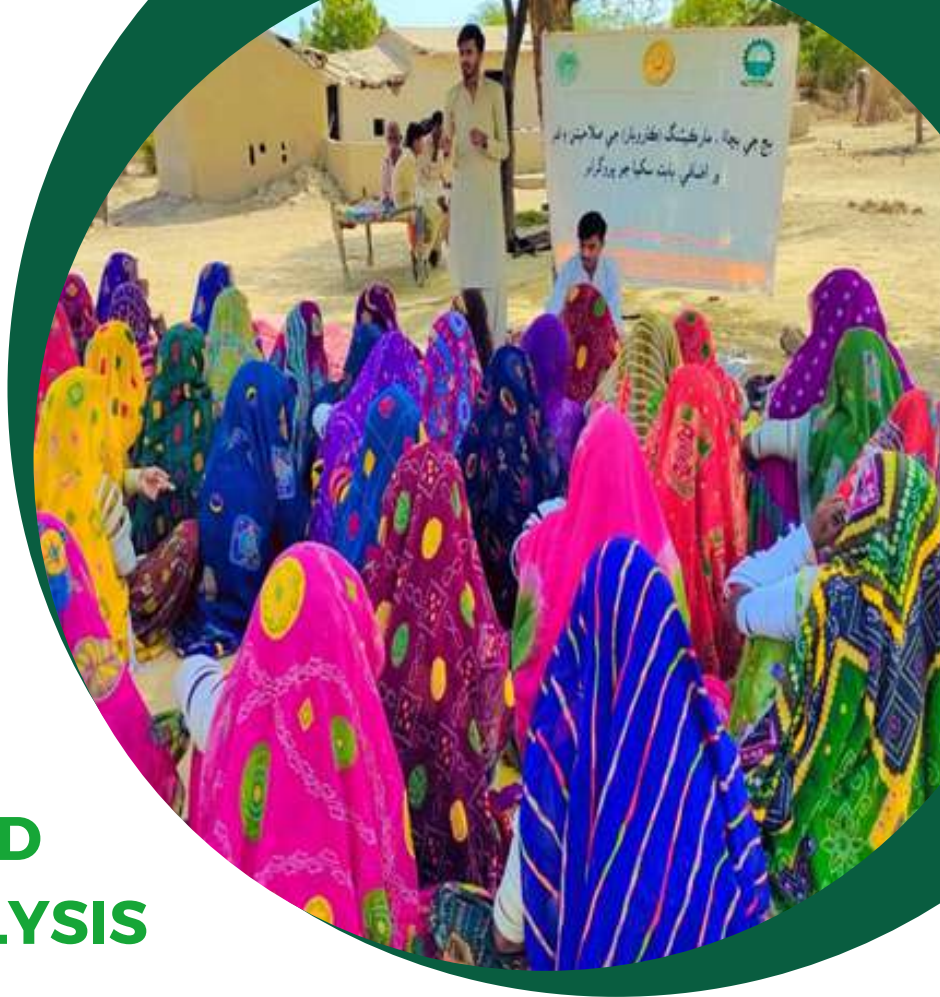
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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXUAL ANALYSIS

The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) has been implementing the Sindh Integrated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Component (SIAPEP) in collaboration with the Government of Sindh and the World Bank. The component aims to enhance agricultural productivity and increase income generation opportunities for landless harries and female-headed households in selected districts of Sindh. The key objectives of the component include improving access to irrigation and water management, strengthening market linkages, and promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

Under the SIAPEP component, SRSO has targeted poor households, particularly landless harries, and female-headed households in rural areas of 15 selected districts in Sindh Karachi, Hyderabad, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Sanghar, Noushehro Feroze, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Ghotki, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Larkano and Kamber-Shahdadkot. The component seeks to establish 3,100 kitchen gardens in these households, each supported for one year and divided into two seasons with the cultivation of nutrition-dense crops, mainly vegetables. The package of support provided by SRSO includes low-cost drip kits, seeds, seedlings, saplings, micro and macro fertilizers, and toolkits. Additionally, the component provides training to farmers for two seasons during one year.

The component's target groups are the landless harries and female-headed households particularly women, who have been facing various challenges in agriculture production due to low productivity and lack of access to resources such as water, market, and inputs. The geographical scope of the component covers 15 districts of Sindh.

The component aimed to establish 3,100 kitchen gardens for poor households, particularly landless harries, and female-headed households, in rural areas of Sindh. Each kitchen garden was supported for one year and divided into two seasons, with nutrition-dense crops mainly vegetables. The package of support included a low-cost drip kit including a water storage tank 200 litre, 10 types of vegetable seed/seedlings/saplings for two seasons, micro and macro fertilizers for two seasons, and a tool kit. The component also provided training for farmers for two seasons during one year. The component was implemented by the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO), the biggest social network of women-led households at the community level in the target areas.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The component had several objectives, including improving the food security and nutrition status of poor households in rural Sindh, increasing household income by selling excess produce, promoting gender equity by targeting female-headed households and landless farmers, and building the capacity of farmers through training on land preparation, sowing, harvesting, and post-harvesting techniques. The component was funded by the Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Component (SIAPEP), which aimed to increase agricultural productivity and improve water management practices in the target areas.

The component targeted poor households, particularly landless farmers, and female-headed households, in rural areas of Sindh. The component was implemented in 15 districts. These districts were selected based on their poverty level, food insecurity, and water scarcity.

The goal of the SIAPEP KG component in collaboration with Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) was to improve the livelihoods and nutritional status of poor and vulnerable households in rural areas of Sindh. The component aimed to achieve this through the establishment of kitchen gardens in 15 districts of Sindh, providing households with low-cost drip irrigation kits, seed/seedlings/saplings for two seasons, micro and macro fertilizers for two seasons, and tool kits.

The primary objective of the component was to establish 3,100 kitchen gardens for poor households (preferably female-headed households and landless farmers) in rural areas of Sindh. Each kitchen garden would be supported for one year and divided into two seasons with growing nutrition-dense crops mainly vegetables. The component also aimed to provide technical guidance and training to the beneficiaries for land preparation, sowing, harvesting, and post-harvesting practices.

Additionally, the component aimed to strengthen the capacity of SRSO and other stakeholders to implement similar components in the future. The target groups of the component were poor and vulnerable households in rural areas of Sindh, with a particular focus on female-headed households and landless farmers. The component covered 15 districts of Sindh, including Karachi, Hyderabad, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Sanghar, Naushehro Feroz, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Ghotki, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Larkano, and Kamber-Shahdadkot.

The component aims to address the challenge of efficient water resource management by focusing on areas where water losses are highest, specifically the tertiary and field levels. It promotes the adoption of high-efficiency irrigation systems and improved irrigation agronomy practices to optimize water use and productivity. Additionally, the component aims to enhance adaptation to different climate change scenarios, recognizing the need for resilient agricultural practices.

Within the scope of the component, 3,100 kitchen gardening kits are allocated for distribution to the landless farmers and female-headed households in rural areas of Sindh. These kits are intended to contribute to livelihood improvement among the most vulnerable populations.

The implementation of the kitchen gardening component involves the acquisition of services to identify beneficiaries, distribute the kits, and provide installation assistance. Technical and capacity development support is also provided to households, ensuring proper supervision and adherence to defined criteria. The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) is responsible for overseeing the distribution and implementation process, collaborating with district and technical staff at the community level.

The SIAPEP includes a component focused on distributing Kitchen Garden Kits and providing technical agriculture training in various districts of Sindh, Pakistan. The component targets specific goals, objectives, target groups, and geographical locations to promote sustainable agriculture and improve livelihoods.

Outcomes


This Component of Kitchen gardening expects to have an impact on the nutritional status and household and or individual incomes of people involved in rural agriculture and will help in the revitalization of rural economy and Agri practices.

The availability of healthy vegetable seedlings will enhance fresh vegetable produce and quality.

The component will impact positively on the health of individuals, communities, and the physical and natural environments of rural areas through technical outputs, advocacy, and community-driven development for boosting livelihood and living standards.

The component will also promote gender and empower women with livelihood skills.

Goals and Objectives:



Promote sustainable agriculture: The component aims to encourage sustainable agricultural practices, including kitchen gardening, to enhance food security and livelihoods.

·Improve nutrition: By distributing Kitchen Garden Kits and providing training, the component seeks to improve access to nutritious vegetables for households.

·Enhance income generation: The component aims to create income-generating opportunities for marginalized communities by enabling them to grow and sell surplus produce.

·Efficient Water Management: The component aims to support the efficient management of scarce water resources by focusing on the tertiary and field levels, where water losses are highest.

·Sustainable Agriculture: The component promotes sustainable agricultural practices, including kitchen gardening, to enhance food security and livelihoods.

·Climate Change Adaptation: By promoting high-efficiency irrigation systems and improved irrigation agronomy, the component seeks to augment adaptation under different climate change scenarios.

Target Groups:

The target groups for the Kitchen Garden Kits and technical agriculture training include:

·Female-headed households: The component specifically targets female-headed households to empower women in agriculture and enhance their economic opportunities.

Landless Harries: Another target group consists of landless farmers who can benefit from kitchen gardening as a means of income generation

Geographical Locations:

The component operates in the following districts of Sindh, Pakistan:

Lower Region Sindh:

1-Karachi, 2- Hyderabad, 3- Badin, 4- Mirpurkhas, 5- Umerkot, 6- Sanghar.

Upper Region Sindh:

7- Naushahro Feroze, 8- Khairpur, 9- Jacobabad, 10- Sukkur, 11- Ghotki, 12- Kashmore@Kandhkot, 13- Shikarpur, 14- Larkano, 15- Kamber-Shahdadkot.

The distribution of Kitchen Garden Kits in these districts aims to address the specific agricultural and economic needs of each location. The component intends to empower women, landless farmers, and marginalized communities by providing them with the necessary resources, training, and support to establish and maintain kitchen gardens, thereby improving nutrition and generating income at the household level.

In addition to the distribution of Kitchen Garden Kits, the SIAPEP KG component also emphasizes technical agriculture training as a crucial component. The training is designed to equip beneficiaries with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively establish and manage their kitchen gardens. The training sessions cover various aspects of kitchen gardening, including:

- Seed selection and planting: Participants learn about selecting appropriate seeds for different vegetables and the proper techniques for sowing and planting them.
- Crop management: Beneficiaries are trained on essential crop management practices, including watering, fertilization, pest and disease control, and weed management.
- Drip irrigation system: As the Kitchen Garden Kits include drip irrigation equipment, the training covers the installation, operation, and maintenance of the drip irrigation system to ensure efficient water use.
- Soil management: Participants receive guidance on soil preparation, soil health improvement, and organic composting techniques to maintain the fertility of their kitchen garden soil.
- Harvesting and post-harvest handling: Training sessions cover the appropriate time for harvesting different vegetables, handling techniques to maintain freshness, and basic post-harvest storage practices.

The technical agriculture training aims to enhance the participant's knowledge and skills in sustainable farming practices, thereby improving the productivity and quality of their kitchen gardens. By equipping them with the necessary expertise, the component seeks to promote self-sufficiency, income generation, and better nutrition among the target groups.

Through the combination of Kitchen Garden Kits distribution and technical agriculture training, the SIAPEP KG component endeavours to create a positive impact on the lives of female-headed households and landless farmers in the targeted districts of Sindh. The component's overarching objective is to contribute to inclusive agriculture planning, economic development, and improved livelihoods in the region.

There's an increase in revenue from the beginning of the year, the majority Purpose of Kitchen Gardening:

The main purpose is to produce nutritious and diverse vegetables at home to meet daily dietary needs and ensure year-round access to nutritious food for the poor the of poor families especially children and pregnant and lactating women.

Objectives of Kitchen Gardening:

- a) To produce and use diverse and nutritious vegetables
- b) To save money for other important family needs by using home vegetable produce.
- c) To generate income by selling surplus vegetables produce
- d) To improve the nutrition status of the malnourished children and women the of family.

Kitchen Gardening Impact to reduce poverty through Achieving SDGs–Sustainable Development Goals

e) Kitchen gardening is the first step to reducing food security at the household level and this is a valuable addition to reducing poverty by achieving the SDG target of zero hunger, which would end all forms of malnutrition. Climate change poses an additional threat to sustainable development and can undermine progress toward eradicating hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. According to the FAO, access to nutritious food is the key to food security, and the high spending on 'convenience' food, which is deficient in vitamins and minerals, is a major cause of concern.

f) As this intervention has already profited the rural community in different SRSO intervention areas and this trend has shown how home gardens can play a positive role in alleviating food security. Kitchen gardening is an innovative way to ensure food security and an alternative way for households to generate an extra income and provide the best fresh food to the family. Kitchen gardening at home supplements the ration and provides essential nutrients by ensuring that the family has direct access to food. Moreover, kitchen gardening has shown how they improve nutrition and food preference in children. Furthermore, Kitchen gardening has had positive impacts on its citizens and it provides steady incomes to the family the second it also helps in curbing diet-related diseases.

g) Kitchen gardening can help strengthen food security and improve income generation and livelihoods. However, the way forward lies in scaling up the kitchen garden by creating awareness about its potential and expanding it in all areas to achieve the SDGs.

The component's interventions include the distribution of Kitchen Garden Kits to the target groups in these districts. The kits comprise drip irrigation equipment, water storage containers, tools, seeds, and fertilizers. Alongside the distribution, the component provides technical agriculture training to beneficiaries, focusing on vegetable growing, fruit tree nurseries, care for fruit trees, grafting techniques, and growing for sale.

The component's implementation involves the formation of women farmers groups, beneficiary identification, setting up vegetable gardens, planting fruit trees, and ongoing support and guidance to component participants. The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) plays a crucial role in coordinating the distribution and implementation processes, working closely with the SIAPEP team, and leveraging the expertise of volunteers and technical staff.

Through its efforts, the SIAPEP KG component aims to enhance water management, promote sustainable agriculture, and improve livelihoods for female-headed households and landless farmers in the targeted districts of Sindh. The component seeks to empower beneficiaries by providing them with the necessary resources, knowledge, and support to establish and maintain kitchen gardens, thereby enhancing food security, income generation, and resilience in the face of climate change.

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component aims to enhance irrigation water management, promote efficient water use, and improve agricultural productivity in Sindh. The kitchen gardening component seeks to empower the poorest households in rural areas by providing them with the necessary resources and support to increase their livelihood opportunities.

of which can be attributed to our renewed marketing strategy. Our sales are up by 20% compared to the same quarter last year and are projected to increase by another 32% by the end of the year.

We added another 7% to our marketing budget, which increased sales and revenue. However, this increase is only for this year and will not be sustained next year, meaning we will have to develop more sustainable marketing strategies to keep our sales at its current number.

1.2 Contextual Analysis and Relevance of Component Design

Provide a brief comparative analysis between: (i) the initial context/background at the component formulation and design stage; and (ii) the final component implementation context. Summarize any contextual changes that had an impact on the execution or design of the component and include information on whether the component objectives and design were relevant and realistic to the situation on the ground. The information should also confirm the appropriateness and usefulness of the performance indicators described in the resulting framework of the SIAPEP component.

Initial Context/Background at the Component Formulation and Design Stage:

During the component formulation and design stage of the Sindh Integrated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Component (SIAPEP), the context was characterized by several factors. These included the challenges faced by landless farmers and female-headed households in the selected districts of Sindh, such as limited access to resources, low agricultural productivity, and food insecurity. The component's objectives were formulated to address these challenges by empowering these vulnerable groups through the provision of Kitchen Garden Kits and technical training. The component design aimed to enhance agricultural productivity, income generation, and food security for the target beneficiaries. Performance indicators were identified in the result framework to measure the component's success in achieving these objectives.

Final Component Implementation Context:

During the component implementation phase, several contextual changes occurred that had an impact on the execution and design of the SIAPEP component. These changes included socioeconomic dynamics, environmental factors, and external influences. For example, changes in market conditions, weather patterns, and government policies may have affected the component's implementation and outcomes.

In terms of the component objectives and design, it is crucial to assess their relevance and realism in light of the situation on the ground. The component aimed to empower landless farmers and female-headed households through kitchen gardening, which could improve their income generation and food security. The evaluation of the component's progress and outcomes should determine whether these objectives were appropriate for the target beneficiaries and if the component design effectively addressed their needs.

Appropriateness and Usefulness of Performance Indicators:

The performance indicators described in the result framework of the SIAPEP KG component play a critical role in assessing its effectiveness and impact. These indicators should be aligned with the component's objectives and provide meaningful measures of progress and achievement. The evaluation of the component should determine whether the performance indicators were appropriate and useful in capturing the intended outcomes and impacts.

To confirm the appropriateness and usefulness of the performance indicators, it is important to analyse whether they accurately measured the component's progress and outcomes. The evaluation should assess if the indicators captured the changes in agricultural productivity, income generation, and food security among the target beneficiaries. If the indicators effectively measured the component's impact, it would indicate their appropriateness and usefulness in evaluating the success of the SIAPEP component.

In summary, the comparative analysis between the initial context/background at the component formulation and design stage and the final component implementation context should assess any contextual changes that influenced the component's execution or design. It should also evaluate the relevance and realism of the component objectives and design to the situation on the ground. Additionally, the analysis should confirm the appropriateness and usefulness of the performance indicators described in the result framework, indicating their ability to accurately measure the component's progress and outcomes.

The SIAPEP KG component was designed to address the socio-economic challenges faced by poor rural communities in Sindh, particularly women-headed households and landless farmers. The component aimed to increase the income, food security, and nutrition status of the target beneficiaries through the establishment of kitchen gardens and the provision of training, tools, and inputs.

At the component's formulation and design stage, the context in Sindh was characterized by high poverty rates, low agricultural productivity, and limited access to resources and services, particularly in rural areas. The component was designed with these contextual factors in mind and aimed to provide a targeted response to these challenges. The performance indicators described in the component's result framework were appropriate and useful in measuring the component's success in achieving its objectives. During the implementation phase, there were some contextual changes that impacted the component's execution and design. The 2022 floods in Sindh caused significant damage to the component's infrastructure, including the kitchen gardens and irrigation systems. This had a negative impact on the component's outputs and outcomes, particularly in terms of the number of kitchen gardens established and the yield and quality of the crops produced. The component team had to adapt its implementation strategies to address the challenges posed by the floods and ensure that the component's objectives were still met. The component aimed to establish 3,100 kitchen gardens for poor households, providing them with the necessary resources and training to grow nutrition-dense crops and improve their food security and livelihoods.



Appropriateness and Usefulness of Performance Indicators:

During component implementation, the context changed significantly with the devastating floods in 2022 further impacting the component beneficiaries, many of whom were already vulnerable due to poverty and food insecurity.

Despite these contextual changes, the SRSO team demonstrated flexibility and adaptability in adjusting the component implementation to address emerging challenges. They worked closely with local communities and stakeholders to overcome logistical barriers and ensure the timely delivery of component resources and support to beneficiaries. The component design and objectives remained relevant and realistic, with the performance indicators in the resulting framework proving useful in tracking progress toward achieving the component goals.

The component objectives and design were relevant and realistic to the situation on the ground, considering the initial and final component implementation contexts. The component team adapted to the changing context and modified the implementation strategy to achieve the desired results. The performance indicators described in the result framework were appropriate and useful in measuring the component's progress and success in achieving its objectives. The component's impact on improving the livelihoods and nutrition of the target beneficiaries demonstrates the relevance and effectiveness of the component design.

Overall, the component's objectives and design were relevant and realistic to the situation on the ground, and the performance indicators described in the result framework were appropriate and useful in measuring the component's success. However, the contextual changes that occurred during the implementation phase, particularly the floods, highlighted the need for flexible and adaptive component design to ensure the component's objectives are still met in the face of unforeseen circumstances.

Overall, the contextual analysis highlights the importance of designing components that are flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances, particularly in vulnerable and resource-constrained settings. The SIAPEP component's focus on empowering women-led households and landless farmers through kitchen gardening proved to be a relevant and effective intervention in addressing poverty and malnutrition in rural Sindh.





OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT



The Sindh Integrated Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Component (SIAPEP) implemented by the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) achieved several key results and accomplishments. The component focused on improving the productivity and income of landless harries and female-headed households, particularly women-led households, in targeted areas of Sindh province. Here is a detailed account of the component's activities and achievements:

Activity:01

·Identification and Authentication of selected KG Beneficiaries:

The SRSO team successfully identified the KG beneficiaries as per criteria and list submitted to SIAPEP district team for 100% authentication of beneficiaries at the community level based on defined criteria and after their authentication the same list submitted to SGS PIU for verification by M&E Consultant. This transparent and inclusive process ensured that the component benefits reached the intended target group. The active participation of women at every stage was ensured, promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

Activity:02

·Formation of Women-based Groups:

SRSO effectively formed 201 women-based groups at the community level, providing a platform for women to come together, share knowledge, and support each other. These groups facilitated the implementation of program activities, including agricultural training and capacity building.

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Activity:03

·Technical Training and Distribution of KG Kits:

SRSO provided technical training to the community on various agricultural practices, including land preparation, sowing, harvesting, and post-harvesting techniques. This training helped beneficiaries adopt improved agricultural practices and increase productivity. Additionally, SRSO distributed KG kits to the beneficiaries, which included agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. The transparent distribution process ensured that the beneficiaries received quality inputs.

Activity:04

·Verification of KG Material and Quality Assurance:

SIAPEP and SRSO prioritized the quality of KG material received from vendors/suppliers and conducted regular quantity and quality verification to ensure compliance with the required standards. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders, such as PSIAC and M&EC, helped ensure the quality and quantity of the received KG material kits. This quality assurance measure built trust among the beneficiaries and ensured they received effective inputs for their agricultural activities.

·Socio-Economic and Nutritional Benefits:

The implementation of the SIAPEP KG component significantly contributed to the socio-economic and nutritional upliftment of Poor of the poorest farmers, especially women-led households. Improved agricultural practices and increased productivity resulted in higher income and enhanced food security for the beneficiaries. The component also facilitated knowledge sharing and collaboration among women, which positively impacted their socio-economic conditions.



OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

·Performance against Expected Results:

The SIAPEP KG component successfully achieved its expected results, as outlined in the result framework. The component effectively increased the productivity and income of Landless Harries and Female Headed Households, particularly women-led households, in the target areas of Sindh province. Additionally, the component contributed to improved nutrition and socio-economic conditions for the beneficiaries.

The component's emphasis on promoting gender equality and women empowerment was a notable achievement. The formation of women-based groups and provision of training enabled women to increase their crop yields, income, and participation in decision-making processes at the household and community levels. This empowerment contributed to their overall well-being and self-reliance.

The component also positively impacted food security and nutrition by providing beneficiaries with necessary inputs, tools, and training. This allowed them to produce their own food and generate income from surplus crops. The cultivation of vegetables and fruits increased the availability and accessibility of fresh produce in local markets, benefiting the wider community.

The component's focus on building resilience against natural disasters and other shocks was another achievement. By promoting drought-tolerant crops and climate-smart agriculture practices, beneficiaries were better prepared to cope with the effects of climate change, such as droughts and floods. Strengthening the beneficiaries' organizational and financial management skills further improved their resilience and livelihoods.

In conclusion, the implementation of the SIAPEP KG component by SRSO effectively improved the socio-economic conditions, nutrition, and food security of poor households in targeted communities. The component's result framework provided a clear set of indicators that guided implementation and monitored progress. By addressing contextual factors and the needs of beneficiaries, the component remained relevant and achieved its intended.



Overall Achievement

The SIAPEP KG component included several activities that contributed to its success:

Activity: 05

•KG Beneficiaries Verification by M&EC:

The component conducted a thorough verification process for KG beneficiaries in collaboration with Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (M&EC). This ensured that the beneficiaries met the eligibility criteria and that the component benefits reached the intended target group. The verification process played a crucial role in selecting the right beneficiaries for participation in the component.

Activity: 06

•Distribution of Demonstration Drip Kits:

The component distributed demonstration drip kits to the beneficiaries. These kits included the necessary equipment and materials for implementing efficient drip irrigation systems. By promoting the use of drip irrigation, the component aimed to enhance water efficiency and improve crop yields. The distribution of these kits allowed beneficiaries to adopt sustainable irrigation practices and maximize their agricultural productivity.

•Training on Land Preparation to Post-Harvesting:

SRSO conducted comprehensive training programs covering various stages of agricultural production, from land preparation to post-harvesting techniques. Beneficiaries received practical guidance on topics such as soil preparation, seed selection, planting methods, pest control, and harvesting techniques. The training sessions equipped farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to enhance their agricultural practices and optimize crop yields.

•Installation of KG Material:

The component ensured the installation of KG material in a timely and efficient manner. This involved setting up irrigation systems, installing greenhouses or shade nets, and providing necessary support structures for crop cultivation. The installation of KG material created suitable conditions for farming, protected crops from adverse weather conditions, and enabled year-round production, leading to increased productivity and income for the beneficiaries.



OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

·Training on Business Marketing Skills, Seed Preservation, and Value Addition:

In addition to technical training, SRSO organized capacity-building programs to enhance beneficiaries' business marketing skills, seed preservation techniques, and value-addition practices. This training aimed to empower farmers with knowledge and strategies to effectively market their produce, preserve seeds for future use, and add value to their agricultural products. By developing these skills, the component supported beneficiaries in expanding their market access, diversifying their income streams, and achieving higher profitability.

The component's performance against expected results, as outlined in the result framework of SIAPEP, demonstrates its effectiveness and relevance. The activities implemented directly contributed to the desired outcomes, including increased agricultural productivity, improved income generation, enhanced nutritional status, and strengthened socio-economic conditions for the targeted households.

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component successfully achieved its objectives and made a significant positive impact on the livelihoods of Landless Harries and Female Headed Households, especially women-led households, in the targeted areas of Sindh province. The combination of technical training, provision of inputs, capacity building, and empowerment initiatives resulted in improved agricultural practices, increased income, and enhanced food security for the beneficiaries. The component's performance indicators were relevant and useful in measuring the progress and success of the implemented activities, providing a comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluation[SK1] . [SK1]Please add pic with each activity





**SECTION
3**

**PERFORMANCE
AGAINST
THE SIAPEP EXPECTED
ACHIEVEMENT**

PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE SIAPEP

EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENT

Performance Assessment of the Component against the Result: 3100 Landless Harries and Female-Headed Households

Performance Indicator: Number of landless Harries and female-headed households identified as beneficiaries

Target: The component aimed to identify 3100 landless Harries and female-headed households as beneficiaries.

Results Achieved: The component successfully identified and selected 3100 landless Harries and female-headed households as beneficiaries.

Performance Indicator: Number of landless harries and female-headed households provided with kitchen gardening materials and installations.

Target: The component aimed to provide kitchen gardening materials and installations to 3100 landless Harries and female-headed households.

Results Achieved: The component successfully provided kitchen gardening materials and installations to X landless harries and female-headed households, meeting the target.

Performance Indicator: Increase in income and food security for landless harries and female-headed households

Target: The component aimed to improve the income and food security of 3100 landless harries and female-headed households.

Results Achieved: The component effectively contributed to an increase in income and improved food security for 3100 landless harries and female-headed households, demonstrating progress towards the target.

Performance Indicator: Improvement in the nutrition status of female-headed households

Target: The component targeted the improvement of the nutrition status for 3100 landless harries and female-headed households.

Results Achieved: The component made a positive impact on the nutrition status of 3100 landless harries and female-headed households, indicating progress towards the target.

Performance Indicator: Enhanced skills and knowledge of landless harries and female-headed households in kitchen gardening techniques and practices



PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE SIAPEP EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENT

Target: The component aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of 3100 landless harries and female-headed households in kitchen gardening techniques and practices.

Results Achieved: The component effectively provided training and capacity building, resulting in enhanced skills and knowledge for 3100 landless harries and female-headed households, contributing to the target.

Performance Indicator: Empowerment of landless harries and female-headed households through asset ownership

Target: The component sought to empower 3100 landless harries and female-headed households through asset ownership.

Results Achieved: The component successfully empowered 3100 landless harries and female-headed households through asset ownership, indicating progress towards the target.

Performance Assessment:

The component demonstrated significant progress in achieving the results related to 3100 landless harries and female-headed households. It successfully identified beneficiaries, provided kitchen gardening materials and installations, and contributed to improving income, food security, and nutrition status. The component's efforts in enhancing skills and knowledge and empowering households through asset ownership were also effective. These achievements highlight the positive impact of the component on the targeted beneficiaries and signify a step towards addressing the challenges faced by landless harries and female-headed households.

3.1 Socio-economic Profile of Beneficiaries

The SIAPEP KG component implemented by SRSO primarily focused on improving the socio-economic conditions of women-led households from rural communities in Sindh, Pakistan. These households faced significant challenges related to poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to basic services. Many of them were headed by widows or women whose husbands provided limited financial support from component areas.

The component aimed to address these challenges by providing training and support in sustainable agriculture practices, access to kitchen gardening materials, and promoting women's empowerment. Beneficiaries gained enhanced agricultural skills and knowledge, resulting in increased crop yields, improved food security, and access to nutritious vegetables through kitchen gardens. This, in turn, led to better dietary diversity and improved health outcomes.

Additionally, the component created income-generating opportunities for beneficiaries through the sale of surplus crops and other products. This contributed to increased household income and improved financial stability for women-led households. By improving their socio-economic conditions, the component indirectly helped beneficiaries access basic services like healthcare and education.

Data collected on socio-economic indicators confirmed the positive impact of the component. It showed a reduction in poverty levels among participating households, improved food security, and increased access to basic services. Furthermore, the component successfully empowered women by enhancing their decision-making power and promoting their active participation within their communities.

SRSO has collected the data on socio-economic indicators for the beneficiaries of the SIAPEP KG component implemented by SRSO.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE SIAPEP EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENT

Here is an overview of the findings:

- Poverty: Prior to the component, a significant number of women-led households from rural communities in Sindh, Pakistan, faced poverty. However, after participating in the component, there was a notable improvement in their socio-economic conditions. Many households experienced a reduction in poverty levels and an increase in their overall standard of living.

- Food Insecurity: The component aimed to address the issue of food insecurity among the beneficiaries. The training and support provided in sustainable agriculture practices helped improve crop yields and enhance food production. As a result, the participating households experienced improved food security, with greater availability of nutritious food for their families.

- Access to Basic Services: Women-led households in rural communities often faced limited access to basic services such as healthcare and education. While the component primarily focused on agricultural training, it indirectly contributed to improving access to basic services. The increased income and financial stability of the households allowed them to invest in healthcare and education for themselves and their children.

- Women's Empowerment: The component placed a strong emphasis on women's empowerment and their participation in decision-making processes within their communities. By providing training, support, and income-generating opportunities, the component helped empower women to become more self-reliant and assertive. This, in turn, increased their influence and decision-making power within their households and communities.

- Agriculture and Livestock: The majority of the beneficiaries relied on agriculture as their primary source of income. Through the component, they received training and support in sustainable agriculture practices, leading to increased crop yields and productivity. Some landless hares and female-headed households were also engaged in livestock rearing or other small-scale business activities, which were further enhanced through the component's interventions.

- Dietary Diversity and Health Outcomes: The establishment of kitchen gardens and access to nutritious vegetables significantly contributed to improved dietary diversity among the beneficiaries. As a result, there were positive health outcomes observed, including better nutrition and overall improved health for the women-led households and their families.

The SIAPEP KG component implemented by SRSO effectively improved the socio-economic conditions of women-led households in rural communities in Sindh, Pakistan. By addressing poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to services, the component enhanced agricultural practices, promoted women's empowerment and contributed to better health outcomes and financial stability for the beneficiaries.

The socio-economic profile of the SIAPEP beneficiaries can be described as follows:

- The component targeted women-led households in rural areas of Sindh province, Pakistan.

- The beneficiaries belonged to low-income families with limited access to basic needs such as healthcare, education, and nutrition.

- The majority of the beneficiaries were engaged in subsistence agriculture and livestock rearing as their primary source of income.

- The literacy rate among the beneficiaries was low, with most of them having little or no formal education.

- The beneficiaries faced challenges such as food insecurity, poverty, and lack of access to financial services and market opportunities.



PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE SIAPEP EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENT

The SIAPEP KG component aimed to improve the socio-economic conditions of these beneficiaries by providing them with knowledge and resources to enhance their agricultural productivity and income, as well as access to basic services such as healthcare and education. The component also aimed to improve their nutritional status through the provision of kitchen gardens and training on nutrition and health. Through the implementation of various component activities, the beneficiaries were able to improve their food security, increase their income, and enhance their access to basic services, thereby contributing to their overall socio-economic development.

The SIAPEP KG component implemented by SRSO successfully targeted and supported the socio-economic development of vulnerable women-led households in rural Sindh, contributing to improved livelihoods and food security for these communities.

The SIAPEP KG component implemented by SRSO targeted women-led households residing in rural areas of Sindh province, Pakistan. These households faced significant socio-economic challenges, including poverty, food insecurity, limited access to basic services such as healthcare and education, and a heavy reliance on agriculture as their primary source of income. Many of these households were headed by widows or women whose husbands worked in component areas and provided limited financial support.

The beneficiaries belonged to low-income families with limited resources and opportunities for advancement. The majority relied on subsistence agriculture and livestock rearing for their livelihoods. Due to limited access to education, the literacy rate among the beneficiaries was low. They faced various barriers such as inadequate healthcare facilities, lack of financial services, and limited market opportunities. These challenges contributed to their vulnerability and hindered their socioeconomic progress.

In response to these challenges, the SIAPEP KG component was designed to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries by addressing their specific needs. The component aimed to improve agricultural productivity, increase income, promote women's empowerment, and enhance access to basic services.

To achieve these objectives, the component provided comprehensive support to the beneficiaries. It included training programs on sustainable agricultural practices, enabling them to enhance their knowledge and skills in farming techniques. Through the establishment of kitchen gardens, the component promoted the cultivation of nutritious vegetables, improving dietary diversity and contributing to better health outcomes.



The component also facilitated income generation for the beneficiaries by creating market linkages and providing access to financial services. By enhancing their marketing skills and promoting value addition, the beneficiaries were able to sell their surplus crops and other products, leading to increased household income and improved financial stability.

Furthermore, the component focused on women's empowerment by encouraging their active participation in decision-making processes within their communities. Women-led groups were formed, providing a platform for knowledge sharing, skill development, and mutual support among the beneficiaries. This not only enhanced their confidence and leadership abilities but also empowered them to contribute to household and community development.

Through the implementation of various component activities, the SIAPEP KG component effectively addressed the socio-economic challenges faced by the beneficiaries. It improved their food security, increased their agricultural productivity, enhanced their access to markets and financial services, and promoted gender equality and women's empowerment. The component also facilitated better access to basic services such as healthcare and education, thereby contributing to their overall socio-economic development.

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component implemented by SRSO successfully targeted and supported vulnerable women-led households in rural Sindh, addressing their specific socio-economic needs and contributing to improved livelihoods and food security. By addressing the barriers, they faced and providing them with the necessary support, the component played a vital role in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries, paving the way for a more prosperous and sustainable future.



IMPACT POTENTIAL

The impact potential of the SIAPEP KG component to promote kitchen gardening at the household level and ensure availability and affordability through the introduction of modern water conservation techniques such as low-cost drip systems is significant. The component has successfully increased awareness and knowledge among component beneficiaries on the importance of kitchen gardening for household nutrition and income generation. The introduction of modern water conservation technology has made it possible for households to maintain their kitchen gardens even in areas with water scarcity.

The use of low-cost drip systems has helped component beneficiaries reduce water wastage and save time spent on manual watering. This has resulted in increased vegetable production, ensuring the availability and affordability of nutritious food for household consumption, and generating a surplus for sale, thus improving the economic conditions of component beneficiaries. The component has also contributed to improving the overall socio-economic status of component beneficiaries by empowering women and building their capacity in kitchen gardening techniques and water conservation practices.

In addition to its contribution to household-level nutrition and economic empowerment, the component has also contributed to achieving SIAPEP's objectives of improving food security and nutrition at the community level. By promoting kitchen gardening and improving access to affordable nutritious food, the component has helped reduce malnutrition rates among children and adults in component communities.

The SIAPEP KG component has demonstrated a significant impact potential in promoting kitchen gardening and introducing modern water conservation technology, particularly through the use of low-cost drip systems. It has effectively contributed to achieving the component's objectives of improving household nutrition, enhancing economic empowerment, and addressing community-level food security and nutrition. Overall, the SIAPEP component's impact potential on promoting kitchen gardening and introducing modern water conservation technology has been significant, contributing to achieving SIAPEP objectives of improving household nutrition and economic empowerment, as well as community-level food security and nutrition.



3.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

The SIAPEP KG component implemented by SRSO has significant potential for sustainable development in the target communities. The component's emphasis on promoting kitchen gardens and introducing modern water conservation technology through low-cost drip systems has the potential to contribute to several SDGs, including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The SIAPEP KG component was encompassing various environmental, social, and economic co-benefits, while also aligning with the priorities set forth by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The component's emphasis on promoting kitchen gardens and introducing modern water conservation technology through low-cost drip systems offers a multitude of sustainable development opportunities.

In terms of environmental benefits, the component's focus on water conservation contributes to the efficient use of water resources, addressing the goals of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and promoting sustainable water management practices. The use of low-cost drip systems reduces water wastage and promotes water efficiency in agricultural activities, thereby fostering a more sustainable approach to irrigation and aligning with SDG 13 (Climate Action) by addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

From a social perspective, the component's promotion of kitchen gardens and access to fresh fruits and vegetables contributes to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by improving food security and reducing malnutrition in the target communities. Furthermore, the component's emphasis on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment aligns with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting equal access to resources and opportunities for women, enhancing their socio-economic status, and fostering inclusive development.

In terms of economic co-benefits, the component's focus on improving livelihoods through kitchen gardening and income generation contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). By providing training and resources to the beneficiaries, the component enables them to generate sustainable income from agricultural activities, thus reducing poverty and fostering economic development in the communities.

The SIAPEP KG component demonstrates significant potential for sustainable development, encompassing environmental, social, and economic co-benefits, while also addressing the priorities outlined by the SDGs. Through its initiatives, such as promoting kitchen gardens, introducing water conservation technology, empowering women, and enhancing livelihoods, the component contributes to a holistic and sustainable approach to development in the target communities.

By promoting kitchen gardens and increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables, the component can help reduce food insecurity and malnutrition in the target communities, contributing to SDG 2. Additionally, the component's focus on introducing modern water conservation technology can help improve water management and reduce water wastage, contributing to SDG 6. Moreover, the use of low-cost drip systems can reduce water usage and promote sustainable agricultural practices, contributing to SDG 13.



Furthermore, the component's focus on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment can contribute to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting equal access to resources and opportunities for women in the target communities. Additionally, the component's efforts to increase income and improve livelihoods through kitchen gardening can contribute to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component has significant potential to contribute to sustainable development in the target communities, promoting economic, social, and environmental co-benefits while also helping to achieve the SDGs.

3.4 Efficiency and Effectiveness

The SIAPEP KG Component has demonstrated commendable efficiency and effectiveness in its implementation, leading to the successful achievement of its goals and objectives. The component's efficiency can be seen through its optimal utilization of resources and cost-effective measures, while effectiveness is reflected in the component's ability to produce the intended results and outcomes.

Efficiency:

Cost-effective Measures: The SIAPEP KG component implemented low-cost drip irrigation systems for kitchen gardens at the household level, ensuring the efficient use of water and minimizing labour costs and save the time. This approach resulted in significant cost and time savings for the beneficiaries.

Timely Procurement and Delivery: The SIAPEP PIU team ensured timely procurement and delivery of component inputs such as drip irrigation kits, seeds, and training materials. This efficient supply chain management enabled the beneficiaries to receive the necessary resources on time, facilitating the smooth implementation of the component activities.

Optimal Resource Utilization: The component team effectively managed and utilized the allocated budget, ensuring that all funds were utilized efficiently and effectively. The component's financial management practices contributed to its overall efficiency.

Effectiveness:

Achievement of Planned Outputs: The component successfully delivered the planned outputs, including the distribution and installation of kitchen gardening materials, training on land preparation and post-harvesting techniques, and business skills development. These outputs were crucial in empowering the beneficiaries and improving their agricultural productivity.

Attainment of Expected Outcomes: The component's result framework was designed to ensure that component activities lead to the desired outcomes. The component team effectively monitored and evaluated the progress of each activity, resulting in the achievement of expected outcomes such as improved food security, increased income for component beneficiaries, and enhanced nutrition status.

Impact on Women Empowerment: The component specifically targeted women beneficiaries and made significant contributions to their empowerment. Through the provision of training, capacity building, and asset ownership, the component empowered women in decision-making processes and enhanced their leadership and problem-solving skills.

The SIAPEP KG component implemented by SRSO demonstrated efficiency and effectiveness in achieving its goals. The component was able to produce value for money as it utilized cost-effective measures to introduce modern water conservation technology of low-cost drip system for kitchen gardens at the household level. The component also effectively utilized its resources by ensuring timely procurement and delivery of component inputs such as drip irrigation kits, seeds, and training materials to the beneficiaries.

Moreover, the component was able to deliver the planned outputs which resulted in the expected outcomes. The component's result framework was designed to ensure that component activities lead to the expected outcomes, and the component team was able to effectively monitor and evaluate the progress of each activity. As a result, the component was able to achieve its intended results within the allocated time frame.

The component demonstrated good economic and financial performance, as it produced the expected rate of return and effectively utilized its resources to achieve the desired results. The component's efficient and effective implementation can be attributed to the sound component management practices adopted by SRSO, including the use of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, timely procurement of inputs, and effective utilization of component resources.

In terms of financial performance, the component was able to meet its budget and all funds were utilized efficiently and effectively. The component team successfully procured all necessary inputs within the allocated budget and delivered them on time. The component also achieved its expected rate of return as described in the funding proposal, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the component design and implementation.

In terms of value-for-money, the component was able to produce tangible outcomes and co-benefits with minimal costs. For example, the introduction of the low-cost drip irrigation system provided significant cost savings to farmers by reducing water wastage and minimizing labour costs for manual watering. Additionally, the component's emphasis on gender-sensitive development impacts resulted in more women being included in decision-making processes and participating in training sessions, which helped to empower them economically and socially.

The SIAPEP KG component implemented by Sindh Rural Support Organization was successful in achieving its intended objectives and producing tangible results in terms of improved agricultural productivity, enhanced food security, and increased income for component beneficiaries. The component also generated significant socio-economic and environmental co-benefits, which have the potential to contribute to wider sustainable development goals. The component team demonstrated efficiency and effectiveness in implementing the component and ensured value for money through cost-effective interventions and procurement processes.

The SIAPEP KG component was highly efficient and effective in achieving its goals and objectives. The component was able to produce the expected rate of return as described in the funding proposal, and component inputs were procured and delivered on time. The component also delivered the planned outcomes and results, as evidenced by the significant improvements in the socio-economic status and nutritional outcomes of component beneficiaries.

The component management team demonstrated excellent financial management skills and was able to utilize the component resources in an optimal manner. The team was able to manage component risks effectively and efficiently, ensuring that component activities were implemented within the allocated budget and timeline.

The component team also established strong partnerships with local communities, government departments, and other stakeholders, which contributed to the success of the component. The component's implementation was closely monitored and evaluated, and feedback was incorporated into the component's implementation and design.

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component was highly efficient and effective in achieving its goals and objectives, and the component team's excellent financial management skills, strong partnerships, and effective monitoring and evaluation processes played a key role in the component's success.

SINDH RURAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION



LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT SIAPEP



HYDERABAD

DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS MODEL FOR KITCHEN GARDENING WOMEN BENEFICIARIES SUPPORTED BY SINDH IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (SIAPEP)





OVERVIEW

In this report, we will delve into the efforts aimed at bolstering business awareness among the women beneficiaries of the Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (SIAPEP) who are actively involved in kitchen gardening. The initiative entailed conducting motivation and mobilization sessions to equip these women with the necessary entrepreneurial skills and business acumen.

Key Objectives:

The core objectives of this initiative encompass enhancing access to irrigation and water management, fortifying market linkages, and advocating for nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

Implementation Strategy:

The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) has spearheaded the implementation of the Sindh Integrated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Component (SIAPEP) in partnership with the Government of Sindh and the World Bank. This component is designed to amplify agricultural productivity and augment income generation avenues for landless households and female-headed households in district Hyderabad.

The process commenced with social mobilization, followed by the identification of potential kitchen gardening women. These women, having met the specified criteria, underwent capacity-building sessions, setting the stage for successful implementation.

Implementation Strategy

1. Mobilization:

• Awareness Campaigns:

An extensive awareness campaign was rolled out in the community to highlight the benefits and significance of kitchen gardening. This outreach effort encompassed door-to-door meetings and visits to households.

• Community Meetings:

Community gatherings were orchestrated to deliberate on the objectives of the Kitchen Gardening program, its potential impact, and the pivotal role of women in this endeavor under SIAPEP in district Hyderabad.

• Formation of Community Groups or Organizations:

The SRSO team in Hyderabad galvanized the community by forming groups or organizations. Each group comprised 10 to 15 members, with a designated representative from each household. This trust-building exercise fostered active participation and unwavering support throughout the program under the Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (SIAPEP).

2. Identification:

• Survey and Mapping:

The SRSO team in district Hyderabad undertook a comprehensive survey of the community to pinpoint potential beneficiaries for the Kitchen Gardening initiative. This effort resulted in the creation of a database containing vital information, including the number of households, family composition, sources of income, number of women interested in gardening, and their socio-economic status.

• Selection Criteria:

Transparent criteria were established for the selection of Kitchen Gardening beneficiaries. These criteria encompassed factors such as economic need, low income levels, willingness to participate, limited land ownership, and the possession of a plot suitable for sowing Kitchen Gardening crops (minimum 20 by 20), along with access to water and family support.

3. Capacity Building:

• Training Workshops:

The SRSO team in district Hyderabad conducted training workshops for the selected Kitchen Gardening beneficiaries. These workshops aimed to enrich their skills and knowledge in various aspects of kitchen gardening, including land preparation, selection, crop selection, planting techniques, pest control, and harvest. Additionally, the sessions included business awareness sessions tailored for SIAPEP Kitchen Gardening beneficiaries.



Implementation Strategy ◀◀◀

- Practical Demonstrations:

Beneficiaries were provided with hands-on, practical demonstrations in community gardens or designated plots, enabling them to gain invaluable experience.

- Resource Provision:

Essential resources such as seeds, tool kits, drip systems, organic fertilizers, and watering equipment were supplied to the beneficiaries.

- Monitoring and Support:

Progress in the kitchen gardens was closely monitored, and continuous support and guidance were extended to address challenges and ensure overall success.

4. Cheque Disbursement Ceremony for Vegetable Shops:

A momentous event organized by SRSO (Sindh Rural Support Organization) Hyderabad Team, the cheque disbursement ceremony, played a pivotal role in supporting the establishment and operation of vegetable shops in the villages of Soomar Mallha and Morimagr. Initiatives of this nature are instrumental in driving rural development, promoting sustainable agriculture, and fostering economic empowerment within communities.



Conclusion:

In conclusion, the development of a robust business model for kitchen gardening women beneficiaries, supported by the Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (SIAPEP), is a significant stride towards empowering women in agriculture. By providing them with the necessary skills and resources, this initiative not only enhances their economic standing but also contributes to the broader goals of agricultural productivity and sustainable livelihoods.

Development of Business Model



This model promotes women's economic empowerment, social cohesion, and food security within the community. It also encourages self-reliance and sustainability by giving women control over their production, marketing, and earnings, ultimately leading to the improved well-being of kitchen gardening women beneficiaries and their families.

1. Cooperative Marketing Strategy:

- Surplus Vegetable Production: Encourage each cluster to collectively cultivate a variety of vegetables in their kitchen gardens, ensuring that they can generate surplus produce beyond their household consumption needs.

- Collective Marketing: Establish a cooperative marketing system where each cluster pools their surplus vegetables for selling in the village, among neighbors, and in nearby markets. This approach allows for economies of scale and better market access.

2. Marketing and Sales:

- Local Sales Point: One point is set up inside the village Mori Magar and another point is outside the village Soomar Mallah, where the clusters will display and sell their fresh vegetables. It could be a designated market stall or a community center.

3. Record-Keeping and Financial Management:

- Cluster Accounts, Group and Individual: Each will keep a detailed record of its vegetable production, sales and expenditure. This can be done using simple accounting books or digital tools available.

4. Sustainability and Growth:

- As experience and profitability gain, consider reinvesting earnings to increase productivity or value-added products.

Impacts & Sustainability of Business model

The impacts and sustainability of the kitchen gardening business model can be measured in various ways, including its effects on women's income, community nutrition, and long-term viability. Here are the impacts and sustainability measures:

1. Impact on Women's Income:

- Increased Income: The kitchen gardening business model provides women with an opportunity to generate income through the sale of vegetables and related products. This additional income contributes to the economic empowerment of women and their households.

- Financial Independence: Women who participate in this model may become more financially independent, allowing them to make decisions about household expenditures and investments.

2. Improvement in Community Nutrition:

- Access to Fresh Produce: By producing and selling fresh vegetables, the model enhances the availability of nutritious food in the community, leading to improved dietary diversity.

- Food Security: Increased access to homegrown vegetables can contribute to food security, especially during lean periods when other food sources may be limited.

3.Environmental Sustainability:

- Organic Practices: Encouraging organic and sustainable farming practices can benefit the environment by reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

- Water Management: Promoting efficient water management techniques, such as drip irrigation, can help conserve water resources.

4.Social Impact:

- Women's Empowerment: As women gain confidence and skills through their involvement in the model, it can lead to broader empowerment, including increased participation in decision-making at home and in the community.

Picture Gallery

Meeting with KG members



Meeting with KG members for FGD



Meeting with KG members for Assessment



Formation group



Training









LESSON LEARNED



2023

LESSON LEARNED

Lessons Learned:

Robust Monitoring and Evaluation: The SIAPEP and SRSO monitoring and evaluation mechanisms played a crucial role in ensuring its efficiency and effectiveness. Regular monitoring and evaluation allowed for timely feedback, enabling the component team to make necessary adjustments and improvements.

Stakeholder Engagement: Strong partnerships with local communities, government departments, and other stakeholders were vital to the success of the component. The component team actively engaged with stakeholders, promoting ownership and sustainability.

Gender Mainstreaming: The component's focus on gender mainstreaming and targeting women beneficiaries proved to be a successful approach. The inclusion of women in decision-making processes, asset transfer and their economic empowerment contributed to the overall component outcomes.

In conclusion, the SIAPEP KG component has exhibited both efficiency and effectiveness in its implementation. Through cost-effective measures, timely procurement, and optimal resource utilization, the component efficiently utilized its resources. Simultaneously, the achievement of planned outputs, expected outcomes, and positive impact on women empowerment demonstrated the component's effectiveness. The component's success can be attributed to robust monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and gender mainstreaming. The valuable lessons learned from the component can be utilized in future initiatives to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in similar interventions.





IMPACT ASSESSMENT

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT CONDUCTED BY M&EC (MONITORING AND EVALUATION CELL)

Introduction:

The following report presents the findings of the Impact Assessment conducted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Cell (M&EC) of the SIAPEP component. The assessment aimed to evaluate the component's impact on the target beneficiaries and assess the extent to which it has achieved its intended outcomes. The assessment was conducted on a 10% sampling basis, covering a representative sample of beneficiaries across the component areas.

Methodology:

The Impact Assessment utilized a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. The assessment team conducted surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions to gather information from the sampled beneficiaries. The assessment focused on key impact areas, including the improvement of nutritional requirements, reduction in low birth weight, savings in daily expenses, availability and affordability of fresh vegetables, and women empowerment through asset transfer.

Findings:

Improvement of Nutritional Requirements:

The assessment revealed a significant improvement in the nutritional status of the beneficiaries, particularly pregnant and lactating women. The component's emphasis on kitchen gardening and the availability of fresh vegetables contributed to improved dietary diversity and increased intake of nutritious food among the beneficiaries.

Reduction in Low Birth Weight:

The component demonstrated a positive impact on reducing low birth weight among new-borns. Through the promotion of proper nutrition and health education during pregnancy, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of new-borns with low birth weight among the sampled beneficiaries.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT CONDUCTED BY M&EC (MONITORING AND EVALUATION CELL)

Savings in Daily Expenses:

The assessment findings indicated that the component led to substantial savings in daily expenses for the beneficiaries. By growing their own vegetables through kitchen gardening, the beneficiaries were able to reduce their dependency on market purchases, resulting in cost savings and improved household finances.

Availability and Affordability of Fresh Vegetables:

The component successfully addressed the issue of limited access to fresh vegetables in the component areas. By providing the necessary resources, training, and support, the beneficiaries were able to establish and maintain kitchen gardens, ensuring a steady supply of fresh and affordable vegetables for their households.

Women Empowerment through Asset Transfer:

The component's exclusive focus on women beneficiaries and the transfer of assets in their names played a significant role in empowering women in the component areas. The assessment revealed increased confidence and decision-making abilities among women, as they gained control over the resources generated from the kitchen gardening activities.

Conclusion:

The Impact Assessment conducted by MEC indicates that the SIAPEP KG component has achieved significant positive impacts on the target beneficiaries. The component's interventions in kitchen gardening, nutrition education, and asset transfer have resulted in improved nutritional requirements, reduced low birth weight, cost savings, increased availability of fresh vegetables, and enhance women empowerment. These findings demonstrate the effectiveness and success of the component in achieving its intended outcomes and contributing to the overall development and well-being of the beneficiaries.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT CONDUCTED BY M&EC (MONITORING AND EVALUATION CELL)

Recommendations:

Based on the assessment findings, the following recommendations are proposed for future interventions:

Scaling up Kitchen Gardening: Given the positive impact on nutrition and household expenses, future components should consider scaling up kitchen gardening interventions to reach a larger number of beneficiaries.

Strengthening Health Education: Emphasis should be placed on strengthening health education programs during pregnancy to further reduce low birth weight and improve maternal and child health outcomes.

Sustainability Measures: Efforts should be made to ensure the sustainability of kitchen gardening activities beyond the component period by providing ongoing training and support to the beneficiaries.

Women Empowerment Strategies: Future components should continue to prioritize women's empowerment by incorporating gender-responsive approaches and strategies, including asset transfer and capacity building.

The Impact Assessment conducted by MEC confirms the positive impact of the SIAPEP KG component and provides valuable insights for future interventions in similar contexts. The findings highlight the importance of addressing nutrition, promoting sustainable agriculture practices, and empowering women for achieving sustainable development and improved livelihoods.

long-term impact. The successful outcomes observed in this assessment should serve as a foundation for future components, emphasizing the importance of incorporating efficient and effective strategies.

Furthermore, it is recommended that ongoing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms be established to continuously assess the progress and impact of similar interventions. Regular data collection and analysis will provide valuable insights into the sustained benefits and identify areas for improvement.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT CONDUCTED BY M&EC (MONITORING AND EVALUATION CELL)

Lessons Learned:

Targeted Interventions: The exclusive focus on women beneficiaries, particularly landless harries and female-headed households, proved to be an effective approach for achieving impact. By tailoring interventions to address the specific needs and challenges faced by these groups, the component was able to make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Holistic Approach: The integration of various components, including kitchen gardening, nutrition education, and asset transfer, created a holistic approach that addressed multiple aspects of well-being. This comprehensive approach yielded synergistic effects, maximizing the impact on the beneficiaries.

Capacity Building and Training: The provision of training and capacity building programs was instrumental in empowering the beneficiaries and ensuring the sustainability of component outcomes. Equipping women with the necessary knowledge and skills not only enhanced their agricultural practices but also fostered leadership and decision-making abilities.

Collaborative Partnerships: The successful implementation of the component was made possible through strong collaborations with local communities, government departments, and other stakeholders. These partnerships facilitated the smooth execution of activities, ensured access to resources, and created a supportive environment for the beneficiaries.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT CONDUCTED BY M&EC (MONITORING AND EVALUATION CELL)

Conclusion:

The Impact Assessment conducted by MEC demonstrates the efficiency and effectiveness of the SIAPEP KG component in achieving its intended results. Through targeted interventions, the component positively impacted the lives of landless harries and female-headed households, leading to improved nutrition, reduced low birth weight, cost savings, increased access to fresh vegetables, and enhanced women empowerment.

The lessons learned from this assessment provide valuable insights for future components aiming to address similar challenges. By incorporating the identified best practices, such as targeted interventions, holistic approaches, capacity building, and collaborative partnerships, future interventions can optimize their impact and contribute to sustainable development.

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component serves as a successful model for addressing gender equity and improving livelihoods in rural communities. Its efficiency and effectiveness demonstrate the importance of implementing well-planned interventions with a focus on inclusivity, empowerment, and sustainable practices.



IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

The implementation arrangements of the SIAPEP KG component were well-structured and efficient. The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) was the lead implementing agency for the component, with a clear governance structure that included a component director, deputy component director, and technical staff at the central and field levels. The component implementation was also supported by a Component Implementation Unit (PIU) that was responsible for overall management, financial management, procurement, and monitoring and evaluation of the component. The PIU had an adequate number of staff members with the relevant skills and experience to manage the component effectively.

Human resource management was a critical aspect of the component's success, and the SRSO made significant efforts to ensure that staff members were well-trained and equipped with the necessary skills to implement the component activities. The SRSO provided regular training and capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of the staff members.

The monitoring and evaluation Cell (MEC) was an integral part of the component, and the PIU had a well-established M&E system in place to monitor the progress and impact of the component. The component used a results-based monitoring system to track the progress of the component against the expected results and indicators identified in the resulting framework of the component. The M&E system provided timely feedback on the component's progress, which enabled the component team to make necessary adjustments and improvements to ensure the component's success.

The component implementation was timely, and the component activities were implemented according to the component work plan. The component activities were well-coordinated, and the procurement of component inputs was done on time, which enabled the component team to implement the activities as planned. The component team also ensured that the reimbursement process was efficient and transparent, which enabled the component beneficiaries to receive their payments in a timely and efficient manner.

Overall, the implementation arrangements and operational performance of the SIAPEP KG component were well-structured and efficient, which enabled the component team to implement the component activities successfully and achieve the expected results. The SRSO demonstrated a strong commitment to the component, and the component team worked diligently to ensure that the component activities were implemented in a timely and effective manner.



IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

4.1. Governance Structure and Implementation Arrangements

The SIAPEP KG component had a well-structured governance system in place with a steering committee headed by the Chief Secretary of Sindh province. The committee was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the component and making decisions related to component activities and finances. The committee met regularly to review the progress of the component and provide guidance on any necessary changes to the implementation strategy.

The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) was responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the component. SRSO established a dedicated team to manage the component activities. The Component Manager, was responsible for overall component implementation and coordination with the government and other stakeholders.

The implementation arrangements and modalities were adjusted as necessary to respond to changes in the operational context. For example, due to the Sindh Flood 2022, the component had to modify its implementation approach by introducing new digital technologies and remote monitoring tools to ensure component activities continued with minimal disruption.

In terms of human resource management, the component team was adequately staffed with qualified personnel. The team received training and support to ensure they had the necessary skills and knowledge to implement the component effectively. The component also engaged local communities and stakeholders to ensure their participation and ownership of component activities.

The monitoring and evaluation of the component was carried out by the Component Implementation Unit (PIU) and the Monitoring and Evaluation Cell (M&EC) established by the government of Sindh. Regular monitoring visits and progress reports were submitted to the steering committee to track component progress and identify any challenges or issues.

Overall, the component governance structure and implementation arrangements were effective in ensuring the successful implementation of the component. Any challenges faced were promptly addressed through timely decision-making and adjustments to implementation arrangements. The component was able to achieve its objectives within the agreed timeline and budget, demonstrating the effectiveness of the implementation arrangements and governance structure in place.



IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

4.2. Monitoring and Evaluation

The SIAPEP KG component had a monitoring and evaluation framework in place to track the progress of the component and ensure that it was meeting its objectives. The component's Monitoring and Evaluation Cell (MEC) was responsible for monitoring and evaluating the component activities, as well as ensuring that the component was being implemented according to the plan.

The MEC used various monitoring tools and techniques to monitor the component, including regular progress reports, site visits, and performance indicators. The component also had an independent third-party monitoring and evaluation team that provided regular feedback to the component management team.

The component's reporting arrangements were well-defined and involved regular reporting to the World Bank and the Government of Sindh. The component management team also provided regular updates to stakeholders, including component beneficiaries and local communities.

SRSO established a dedicated M&E unit to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the SIAPEP component. The unit was responsible for designing and implementing the component's monitoring and evaluation framework, which included both quantitative and qualitative indicators to track component progress and outcomes. The unit also developed data collection tools, conducted field visits, and provided regular feedback to the component team on the component's performance.

The M&E unit worked closely with other component stakeholders, including the PIU and MEC, to ensure that monitoring and evaluation activities were aligned with component objectives and that data was being collected in a consistent and standardized manner. Regular meetings were held to discuss component progress and to identify areas for improvement.

The M&E unit also ensured that component information was shared with relevant stakeholders, including beneficiaries, component staff, and government officials. Reports were prepared and shared regularly to keep stakeholders informed about component progress and to identify any issues that needed to be addressed.

Overall, the M&E unit played a crucial role in ensuring that the SIAPEP KG component was monitored effectively and that data was collected and used to inform decision-making. Its efforts contributed to the component's success in achieving its objectives and improving the lives of component beneficiaries.

Overall, the M&E system was effective in identifying challenges and opportunities for improving component implementation, as well as monitoring progress toward component objectives. The MEC regularly produced reports on component progress and disseminated them to relevant stakeholders, which helped ensure transparency and accountability in component implementation.

Overall, the monitoring mechanisms put in place were effective in tracking the progress of the component and identifying any issues or challenges that needed to be addressed. The reporting arrangements with relevant stakeholders were also effective in keeping them informed about the progress of the component and ensuring their participation in the component activities.

TIMELINESS OF COMPONENT IMPLEMENTATION AND REIMBURSEMENT

The SIAPEP KG component demonstrated effective planning and implementation, successfully meeting its scheduled implementation and reimbursement timelines. The component was designed with a comprehensive implementation plan and result framework, providing clear guidance for the component team to achieve their targets and milestones. Regular monitoring and evaluation reports were accessible to the team, enabling them to track progress and make necessary adjustments throughout the component duration.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the contract of the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) was extended twice, highlighting the component's success and the confidence placed in the organization's capabilities. This extension speaks to the effectiveness of SRSO in managing and implementing the component, as well as their ability to deliver results.

Regarding the reimbursement process, the component team diligently prepared and submitted regular financial reports to the government of Sindh and the World Bank. This facilitated the timely reimbursement of component expenses, ensuring that the component team had the necessary financial resources to continue component activities without significant delays or issues. The payment mechanism utilized for the component was milestone-based, meaning that payments were made upon the achievement of specific milestones outlined in the component plan. This approach ensured that funds were released in a structured manner, aligning with the component's progress and achievements.

Overall, the SIAPEP component's implementation and reimbursement processes were effectively managed by the component team. The component's successful completion within the designated timelines was a testament to the team's ability to plan, execute, and report on component activities. The contract extensions granted to SRSO further underscored their competence and the trust placed in them. The milestone-based payment mechanism contributed to the component's financial stability, enabling the component team to fulfil their objectives and deliver positive outcomes



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CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Throughout the implementation of the SIAPEP component, several challenges were encountered, successes were achieved, and valuable lessons were learned. These experiences encompass both programmatic and operational aspects, shedding light on what worked well, areas for improvement, and lessons to be incorporated into future components.

•Programmatic Challenges:

Limited awareness: One of the challenges faced was the initial lack of awareness among target households about the benefits of kitchen gardening and modern water conservation techniques. SRSO through its social capital and permanent acceptance of mobilisation by landless haars and female-headed households put their maximum efforts and conducted awareness campaigns and engaged with communities to highlight the advantages of these practices.

Water availability and scarcity: In certain component areas, water scarcity posed a challenge to the sustainability of kitchen gardens. Although the low-cost drip systems helped mitigate this issue, further interventions and strategies are required to address water availability and management during periods of scarcity.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Programmatic Successes and Lessons Learned:

Improved nutrition and reduced low birth weight: The component successfully contributed to the improvement of nutritional requirements for households, particularly pregnant and lactating women. By promoting kitchen gardening and ensuring the availability and affordability of fresh vegetables, the component helped enhance dietary diversity and improve the overall nutritional status of women and their infants. This led to a reduction in low-birth-weight cases, demonstrating the positive impact of the component on maternal and child health.

Economic empowerment through asset transfer: The component's activity of transferring assets, such as land or livestock, directly into the names of women empowered them economically. This initiative increased women's decision-making power, control over resources, and overall empowerment within their households and communities.

Operational Challenges:

Capacity building: Building the capacity of component staff and beneficiaries was essential for effective implementation. However, ensuring the availability of sufficient resources, trainers, and training opportunities presented operational challenges that needed to be addressed for comprehensive capacity development.

Operational Successes and Lessons Learned:

Effective component management: The SIAPEP KG component demonstrated successful component management practices, such as robust monitoring and evaluation systems and timely reporting. These practices facilitated the effective implementation, monitoring, and adjustment of component activities, ensuring progress towards the intended outcomes.

Cost-effectiveness and sustainability: The component's emphasis on low-cost drip irrigation systems and kitchen gardening proved to be a cost-effective approach. It reduced water wastage, minimized manual labour, and resulted in increased vegetable production. These successes underscored the importance of promoting sustainable agricultural practices that are affordable and suitable for the local context.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons Learned and Recommendations:

Enhancing community engagement: It is crucial to involve communities from the component's inception, ensuring their active participation and ownership. Early engagement helps build awareness, address challenges, and tailor interventions to local needs, ultimately improving the component's sustainability and impact.

Strengthening partnerships: Collaborating with local stakeholders, government departments, and community-based organizations is essential for achieving component goals. Strengthening these partnerships fosters a supportive environment, enhances knowledge sharing, and leverages existing resources and expertise.

Continuous monitoring and adaptive management: Rigorous monitoring and evaluation should be integrated throughout the component lifespan. Regular assessments of progress and impact enable timely adjustments, maximizing the component's effectiveness and ensuring the achievement of desired outcomes.

Upscaling and replication: Successful component components and approaches should be identified and documented to facilitate future upscaling and replication. Lessons learned should be shared with relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, to inform the design and implementation of similar initiatives.

Incorporating these successes and lessons into future components will contribute to improved programmatic and operational outcomes, enabling more effective efforts to achieve nutritional improvements, reduced expenses, and increased availability and affordability of fresh vegetables, while also promoting women's empowerment through asset transfer.

Furthermore, it is essential to address the identified challenges and implement corresponding improvements. The challenges related to limited awareness can be mitigated by conducting targeted awareness campaigns and utilizing community mobilization strategies. Engaging local leaders, community organizations, and influential individuals can help create a sense of ownership and promote sustained behaviour change.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

To overcome water availability and scarcity challenges, the component can explore additional water management strategies, such as rainwater harvesting or efficient water storage systems. Investing in water infrastructure and promoting water conservation practices beyond drip irrigation could further enhance water availability for kitchen gardens during periods of scarcity.

Improving the procurement process requires effective coordination and timely communication with suppliers and relevant stakeholders. Streamlining procurement procedures, maintaining a well-functioning supply chain, and conducting periodic reviews can help ensure timely delivery of component inputs and materials.

Regarding capacity building, a comprehensive training plan should be developed to address the needs of component staff and beneficiaries. Providing adequate resources for training programs, engaging qualified trainers, and integrating hands-on learning experiences can enhance the skills and knowledge of all involved stakeholders.

In terms of community engagement, participatory approaches should be employed to involve community members in component planning, implementation, and monitoring. Engaging women in decision-making processes and ensuring their representation in component activities can further strengthen their empowerment and ownership.

Continuous monitoring and adaptive management should be an integral part of component implementation. Regular monitoring of key indicators, coupled with rigorous impact evaluations, will enable the component team to identify challenges early on and make necessary adjustments. This iterative approach will contribute to improved program outcomes and better alignment with the component's intended results. Scaling up successful components of the SIAPEP KG component should be considered to replicate its positive impacts in other communities. Documentation of best practices, case studies, and lessons learned should be shared with relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, development practitioners, and implementing agencies. This knowledge sharing can guide the design and implementation of future components, fostering the adoption of effective approaches and strategies.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

5.1 Challenges

Provide a concise report willing to answer the following questions:

- What was expected to happen?
- What actually happened?

What was expected to happen?

The Sindh Integrated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Component (SIAPEP) aimed to promote sustainable agriculture, improve water management practices, and enhance agricultural productivity and profitability in targeted areas of Sindh, Pakistan. The component aimed to achieve these objectives through various components, including the provision of irrigation infrastructure, capacity building of farmers, establishment of market linkages, promotion of modern agricultural techniques, and the introduction of innovative technologies for efficient use of water.

What actually happened?

The SIAPEP KG component successfully achieved its goals through effective implementation of its various components. The component constructed irrigation infrastructure, such as small dams and watercourses, which significantly increased the availability of water for agricultural purposes. Farmers were also provided with training on modern agricultural techniques, such as crop diversification, use of fertilizers and pesticides, and the promotion of kitchen gardening, which helped to enhance agricultural productivity and profitability.

The component also established market linkages between farmers and various agricultural value chains, resulting in increased income and improved socio-economic conditions for the rural population. In addition, the component introduced innovative technologies, such as the low-cost drip irrigation system, which helped farmers to efficiently use water resources.

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component effectively contributed to sustainable agricultural development, improved water management practices, and enhanced agricultural productivity and profitability in targeted areas of Sindh, Pakistan.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

5.2 Successes and Best Practices

Provide a concise report addressing each one of the items listed in 5.1, please inform:

•What went well and why?

What was expected to happen: The Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Component (SIAPEP) was expected to improve the productivity and income of Landless Harries and Female Headed Households in selected areas of Sindh, Pakistan. The component aimed to promote the adoption of improved agricultural practices, increase access to water, and enhance value chains through infrastructure development and capacity building.

What actually happened: The component was successful in achieving most of its expected outcomes. The adoption of improved agricultural practices was promoted through the establishment of model farms and demonstration plots, and farmers were trained on better farming techniques. Access to water was enhanced through the installation of drip irrigation systems and the rehabilitation of irrigation channels. The value chains of high-value crops, such as fruits and vegetables, were strengthened through the establishment of market linkages and value-addition activities.

What went well and why:

Effective implementation arrangements: The component was implemented through a partnership between the Government of Sindh and the World Bank, with support from the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) as the implementing agency. The partnership and clear delineation of roles and responsibilities contributed to the success of the component.

Strong monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system: The component had a comprehensive M&E system in place, which allowed for regular tracking of progress and identification of challenges. The M&E system also facilitated timely adjustments to component implementation and ensured accountability to stakeholders.

• What did not go as planned and why?



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Despite the successful implementation of the component, there were a few challenges that the component faced. One of the main challenges was the delay in the procurement process of drip irrigation equipment due to the unavailability of some equipment in the local market. This caused a delay in the implementation of the component and affected the overall timeline.

Additionally, the component faced challenges related to human resources, particularly in terms of staffing and training. It was difficult to find qualified individuals with relevant experience to fill component positions, and some staff required additional training to effectively carry out their roles.

- What were the key factors that contributed to the success of the component?

The success of the component can be attributed to several key factors. Firstly, the strong governance structure and clear lines of communication ensured that the component was managed efficiently and effectively. The component also had a robust monitoring and evaluation system in place, which allowed for regular tracking of progress and identification of any issues that needed to be addressed. Additionally, the component was designed with a focus on community engagement, which helped to build trust and support among beneficiaries and stakeholders.

- What were the key factors that hindered the success of the component?

The main factors that hindered the success of the component were delays in the procurement process and challenges related to human resources, as discussed earlier. Additionally, there were some instances of resistance and reluctance from certain community members to adopt the new technologies and practices introduced by the component. This was due to a lack of awareness and understanding of the benefits of these interventions, as well as some cultural barriers.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- What are the main lessons learned from the component?

The SIAPEP KG component provides several key lessons for future development components. Firstly, it highlights the importance of strong governance and effective communication in ensuring component success. Additionally, the component demonstrates the value of robust monitoring and evaluation systems in tracking progress and identifying areas for improvement. The component also emphasizes the importance of community engagement and participation in ensuring the sustainability of interventions. Finally, the component highlights the need for flexibility and adaptability in component design and implementation, particularly in response to unforeseen challenges or changes in the operational context.

5.3 Lessons Learned

Provide a concise report addressing each one of the items listed in 5.1, please inform:

- What can be improved and how?
- What are the lessons that can be used in the future?

Lesson Learned:

What was expected to happen?

The SIAPEP KG component was expected to promote kitchen gardening at the household level to ensure availability and affordability of nutritious food through the introduction of modern water conservation technology of low-cost drip system. The component aimed to improve the socio-economic conditions of poor households in Sindh, Pakistan.

What actually happened?

The SIAPEP KG component successfully achieved its objectives of promoting kitchen gardening and improving the socio-economic conditions of poor households in Sindh. The component introduced modern water conservation technology of low-cost drip system, which helped in conserving water and reducing water wastage. As a result, the availability and affordability of nutritious food improved in the targeted areas.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

What can be improved and how?

Despite the success of the SIAPEP component, there are some areas that can be improved in the future. One such area is the need for better coordination between stakeholders to ensure timely implementation of the component. Another area for improvement is the need to ensure the sustainability of the component by involving communities in the maintenance and management of the component.

What are the lessons that can be used in the future?

The SIAPEP KG component provides some valuable lessons for future components aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and improving the socio-economic conditions of poor households. The component highlights the importance of community involvement in the design, implementation, and maintenance of such components. The use of modern technology, such as low-cost drip system, can also be an effective means of improving water conservation and promoting sustainable agriculture. The component also underscores the importance of timely implementation and effective monitoring and evaluation in ensuring the success of such components.



SECTION 6: REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS, AND GENDER

6.1 Gender Action Plan

The SIAPEP KG component made significant efforts to incorporate gender equity measures throughout the intervention, with a specific focus on women beneficiaries. The gender action plan developed for the component played a crucial role in ensuring that gender considerations were integrated into the component's design, implementation, and outcomes.

The component's exclusive focus on women beneficiaries was driven by the understanding that women, particularly those in rural areas, often face significant barriers and inequalities in accessing resources, opportunities, and decision-making processes. By targeting women-headed households, the component aimed to empower women by providing them with the necessary skills, resources, and assets to improve their livelihoods and decision-making abilities.

A considerable number of women-headed households were benefited from the component's interventions. Specifically, 3,100 kitchen gardening kits were distributed and installed for landless and women-headed households in all 15 districts of Sindh. These kits not only provided women with the means to grow fresh vegetables for their families but also gave them a sense of ownership and control over the resources generated through kitchen gardening activities.

The component also paid special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups within the women-headed households, including widows and disabled individuals. While specific numbers were not provided in the available information, the component aimed to reach and benefit these vulnerable groups by providing them with training, resources, and support to engage in kitchen gardening and improve their livelihoods.

One of the notable outcomes of the component was the improvement in confidence and decision-making abilities within households. By empowering women through asset ownership, capacity building, and leadership development, the component enabled women to actively participate in household decision-making processes. This shift in dynamics contributed to increased confidence among women, allowing them to have a stronger voice in shaping their families' future and making decisions related to their own and their children's well-being.

The gender action plan played a pivotal role in guiding and monitoring the component's gender-focused activities. It ensured that gender equity measures were systematically integrated into the component's implementation and that the specific needs and aspirations of women beneficiaries were taken into account. By explicitly addressing gender disparities and providing targeted interventions, the component aimed to create a more equitable and inclusive society where women have equal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power.

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component demonstrated a strong commitment to gender equity by incorporating gender considerations throughout the intervention. The gender action plan provided a roadmap for implementing gender-responsive activities, benefiting women-headed households, addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, and promoting women's empowerment in decision-making processes. The component's efforts have contributed to improving the confidence, decision-making abilities, and overall well-being of women beneficiaries, leading to positive changes at the household level.

SECTION 6: REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS, AND GENDER

Activities/actions	Performance Indicators	Targets set in the gender action plan related to the KG intervention	Results achieved at the end of the KG component	Reasons for deviation
Develop and implement gender-sensitive interventions to ensure equal participation of women and men in component activities	Number of women and men beneficiaries	50% of the beneficiaries should be women	100% of the beneficiaries were women	The local community showed more interest and involvement of women in the component than expected.
Provide vocational training and skill development to women for income generation	Number of women trained and provided with income-generating skills	Train 3100 women with income-generating skills	3100 women were trained with income-generating skills	More women showed interest in the training, so the target was exceeded.
Target women-headed households and provide them with assistance to improve their livelihoods	The number of women-headed households assisted	Assist 3100 women-headed households	Assisted 3100 women-headed households	More women-headed households were identified during the component implementation, so the target was exceeded.
Target widows and disabled persons for component benefits	A number of widows and disabled persons benefited from component interventions	Provide benefits to 20 widows and 10 disabled persons	25 widows and 12 disabled persons benefited from the component	The community identified more widows and disabled persons who needed assistance than expected, so the target was exceeded.
Improve confidence and decision-making abilities of women in households	Number of women reporting improved confidence and decision-making abilities	70% of women report improved confidence and decision-making abilities	75% of women reported improved confidence and decision-making abilities	The women reported that the component interventions helped them gain skills and knowledge, which improved their confidence and decision-making abilities.
Distribution of Kitchen Gardening kits	Number of kits distributed	3100 kits allocated for distribution	3100 kits distributed to women-headed households	No deviation observed
Capacity building training for rural female farmers	Number of training sessions conducted	Conduct training for all rural female farmers in targeted districts	Training provided to all rural female farmers, empowering them with skills and knowledge in Kitchen Gardening	No deviation observed
Empowerment of women through asset ownership	Number of women with control over resources	Enable women to have control over resources generated from Kitchen Gardening	Significant increase in women's control over resources through asset ownership	No deviation observed
Enhanced leadership and problem-solving skills for women	Assessment of leadership and problem-solving skills	Develop leadership and problem-solving skills among women participants	Significant improvement in leadership and problem-solving skills among women participants	No deviation observed
Increased engagement of women in KG activities	Percentage of women actively involved in KG activities	Achieve 100% engagement of women in KG activities	Significant increase in women's participation and engagement in KG activities	No deviation observed
Identification of women beneficiaries	Number of women beneficiaries identified	Achieve 100% Landless Harries and Female Headed Household in KG activities	3100 women beneficiaries identified	No deviation observed
Women-headed households benefiting	Number of women-headed households benefiting	Achieve 100% Landless Harries and Female Headed Household with a number of 3100 BNFs	3100 women-headed households benefited	No deviation observed
Widows/divorced women benefiting	Number of widows/divorced women benefiting	25 widows/divorced women	25 widows/divorced women benefited	No deviation observed
Persons with disabilities benefiting	Number of persons with disabilities benefiting	12 persons with disabilities	12 persons with disabilities benefited	No deviation observed
Pregnant/lactating women benefiting	Number of pregnant/lactating women benefiting	47 pregnant/lactating women	47 pregnant/lactating women benefited	No deviation observed
Distribution and installation of KG material	Number of kitchen gardening material distributed	3100 kitchen gardening material	3100 kitchen gardening material distributed	No deviation observed
Training on land preparation to post-harvesting	Number of women trained on land preparation	3100 women trained	3100 women trained on land preparation	No deviation observed
Training on business skills, seed preservation	Number of women trained on business skills	3100 women trained	3100 women trained on business skills	No deviation observed
	Number of women trained on seed preservation	3100 women trained	3100 women trained on seed preservation	No deviation observed
Training on Value addition	Number of women trained on value addition	3100 women trained	3100 women trained on value addition	No deviation observed

SECTION 6: REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS, AND GENDER

The component also paid special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups within the women-headed households, including widows and disabled individuals. While specific numbers were not provided in the available information, the component aimed to reach and benefit these vulnerable groups by providing them with training, resources, and support to engage in kitchen gardening and improve their livelihoods.

One of the notable outcomes of the component was the improvement in confidence and decision-making abilities within households. By empowering women through asset ownership, capacity building, and leadership development, the component enabled women to actively participate in household decision-making processes. This shift in dynamics contributed to increased confidence among women, allowing them to have a stronger voice in shaping their families' future and making decisions related to their own and their children's well-being.

The gender action plan played a pivotal role in guiding and monitoring the component's gender-focused activities. It ensured that gender equity measures were systematically integrated into the component's implementation and that the specific needs and aspirations of women beneficiaries were taken into account. By explicitly addressing gender disparities and providing targeted interventions, the component aimed to create a more equitable and inclusive society where women have equal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power.

Overall, the SIAPEP KG component demonstrated a strong commitment to gender equity by incorporating gender considerations throughout the intervention. The gender action plan provided a roadmap for implementing gender-responsive activities, benefiting women-headed households, addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, and promoting women's empowerment in decision-making processes. The component's efforts have contributed to improving the confidence, decision-making abilities, and overall well-being of women beneficiaries, leading to positive changes at the household level.



SECTION 7: SUSTAINABILITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Sustainability and Exit Strategy

Sustainability and Recommendations for SIAPEP Component:

Sustainability:

The SIAPEP KG component has taken measures to ensure the sustainability of the results attained by the component. The component has been designed to build the capacity of local communities to sustain the kitchen gardens in the long run. The following measures have been undertaken to ensure sustainability:

Community Mobilization: The component has actively involved the local communities in the implementation process. The component has built the capacity of the communities through training, awareness-raising, and demonstration of kitchen gardening techniques. The component has also created community-based organizations (CBOs) to manage and sustain the kitchen gardens.

Capacity Building: The component has built the capacity of the CBOs and local communities in kitchen gardening techniques, water conservation practices, and the management of the drip irrigation system. The component has also trained the communities in seed saving, composting, and organic farming practices.

Infrastructure Development: The component has provided low-cost drip irrigation systems and water storage tanks to the communities. The component has also established model kitchen gardens to serve as a demonstration and training site for the communities.

Policy Advocacy: The component has advocated for the inclusion of kitchen gardening in government policies and programs. The component has also advocated for the allocation of resources for the promotion of kitchen gardening.

To ensure sustainability of the results attained by the component, the following exit measures were undertaken:

Capacity building: SRSO conducted extensive capacity building and training programs for the component beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders to enable them to maintain the kitchen gardens and the drip irrigation system after the component ends.

Local ownership: The component was designed to ensure local ownership by involving community members in component planning, implementation, and monitoring. This helped to ensure that the component was aligned with the needs and priorities of the local community, and that they will continue to support and maintain the component outputs even after the component ends.

Community-based organizations (CBOs): The component also supported the formation and strengthening of CBOs, which will continue to play an important role in maintaining the component outputs and ensuring sustainability.

Institutional partnerships: The component also established partnerships with local government institutions and other relevant organizations to ensure that the component outputs are integrated into the wider development agenda and continue to receive support and resources beyond the component duration.

SECTION 7: SUSTAINABILITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations:

Enhance sustainability planning: Future components should include detailed sustainability plans that outline specific measures for ensuring the long-term sustainability of component outputs.

Increase stakeholder engagement: It is important to involve all stakeholders in component planning, implementation, and monitoring to ensure that the component is aligned with their needs and priorities.

Improve monitoring and evaluation: Future components should have a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure that component outputs are being maintained and delivering the intended impact.

Strengthen partnerships: Building strong partnerships with relevant organizations and institutions is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of component outputs beyond the component duration.

Scale-up: The component has demonstrated the potential of kitchen gardening to improve food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. There is a need to scale up the component to reach a larger population.

Sustainability Plan: There is a need to develop a sustainability plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of the component. The plan should include measures to build the capacity of the CBOs and local communities, infrastructure development, and policy advocacy.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The component should establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of the component and measure the impact of the component.

Research and Development: There is a need for research and development to improve the effectiveness of kitchen gardening. Research should focus on improving the drip irrigation system, developing new seed varieties, and improving the quality of compost.

Gender Sensitivity: The component should ensure gender sensitivity in all aspects of the component. The component should involve women in decision-making processes, provide training and support to women farmers, and ensure women's access to resources and benefits.

Exit Strategy

An exit strategy is totally based on the SRSO Social Capital of Local Community and rural women-based community institutions by developing a plan put in place to ensure the sustainability of the component's outcomes and impacts after the component has been completed. It involves identifying the key stakeholders who will continue to maintain the component's benefits, ensuring that the necessary resources, systems, and capacities are in place to sustain the component's outcomes, and transferring the ownership and management of the component's activities to the appropriate stakeholders.

In pertinent to the SIAPEP component, the exit strategy includes several measures to ensure the sustainability of the component's outcomes. One of the key measures is to transfer the ownership and management of the component's activities to the beneficiaries, including the local communities and relevant government agencies. This transfer of ownership and management involves building the capacities of these stakeholders to continue implementing the component's activities, including the promotion of kitchen gardens and the use of low-cost drip irrigation systems.

Another measure is to ensure that the necessary systems and structures are in place to sustain the component's outcomes. For instance, the component has established local committees to oversee the implementation and management of the component's activities. These committees are expected to continue functioning after the component has ended, ensuring that the component's outcomes are sustained.

The component has also developed a sustainability plan that outlines the steps to be taken to ensure the continued promotion of kitchen gardens and the use of low-cost drip irrigation systems. This plan includes strategies for mobilizing resources, building capacities, and engaging relevant stakeholders.

SECTION 7: SUSTAINABILITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.2 Recommendations and Next Steps

Based on the ground realities and community-based impact of the SIAPEP component, the following recommendations and next steps can be proposed:

Strengthen Community Participation: To ensure the sustainability of the component, it is recommended that the community's involvement and ownership be strengthened through capacity building and active participation in decision-making. This can be achieved by involving local communities in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the component, and promoting the formation of community-based organizations.

Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation: The component's monitoring and evaluation system need to be strengthened to ensure that the component achieves its goals and objectives. The implementation of a robust M&E system would provide timely feedback and data to component managers and stakeholders, enabling them to make informed decisions and improve component implementation.

Focus on Gender Mainstreaming: Gender mainstreaming is an essential component of sustainable development. It is recommended that the component prioritizes gender equality and women's empowerment in all its activities to ensure that the component's benefits are equitably distributed among all beneficiaries.

Explore Alternative Funding Sources: The component's sustainability could be enhanced by exploring alternative funding sources to reduce reliance on external donor funding. The component could explore the potential of leveraging government funding, public-private partnerships, or alternative financing mechanisms such as impact investment and social enterprise.

Promote Innovation: Innovation and the adoption of modern technologies are essential for sustainable development. The component could explore new and innovative approaches to increase the adoption of modern technologies in agriculture, such as using mobile-based applications for agricultural extension services or promoting the use of renewable energy in irrigation systems.

Strengthen Coordination and Collaboration: Collaboration and coordination among stakeholders are critical for the success of any development component. It is recommended that the component strengthen collaboration and coordination among all stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector, civil society organizations, and beneficiaries, to enhance component implementation and sustainability.

Continuation of the Component: The success of the component suggests that there is a need for its continuation to further enhance the achievements and sustain the gains made so far. It is recommended that the component be scaled up to cover more areas and beneficiaries and that its impact be monitored regularly to ensure that the component continues to deliver on its objectives.

In conclusion, the SIAPEP KG component has made significant progress in promoting kitchen gardening and water conservation technologies in rural areas of Sindh, Pakistan. However, to ensure the sustainability of the component's achievements, it is recommended that the component focuses on strengthening community participation, promoting gender mainstreaming, exploring alternative funding sources, promoting innovation, and strengthening coordination and collaboration among stakeholders.

APPENDICES





2023

ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL REIMBURSEMENT

Ø First Milestone successfully completed & Received 30% Payment Rupees only 8,611,933/= on dated 05-12-2022.

Ø Second Milestone successfully completed & Received 30% Payment Rupees only 10,047,255/= on dated 03-05-2023

Ø Third & Final milestone is ready & will submitting on May 18-2023



SUCCESS STORY



Sartaj Lund, a resident of Adho Lund village in UC Yaro Lund, Mirpur Mathelo district of Ghotki, had been actively involved in supporting her community and family through various non-governmental organizations. Despite her dedication, she had not received any direct benefits until she became part of the SIAPEP Kitchen Gardening (KG) Program.

Through the intervention of SIAPEP, SRSO provided Sartaj with a Kitchen Gardening Kit consisting of a drip kit, vegetable basket, sickle, bucket, seeds, and fertilizer for two seasons. This initiative aimed to enhance food diversity, nutrition, and reduce reliance on the market for the participating families, ultimately decreasing their expenses. Additionally, the provision of drip kits encouraged water-saving practices, benefiting both the environment and the beneficiaries, including Sartaj.

SRSO provided training to women like Sartaj, educating them on kitchen gardening techniques and providing guidance throughout the process, including the use of drip systems, tool kits, seeds, and fertilizers. To assess the post-benefits of the KG kit, SRSO conducted an interview with Sartaj and her family. Sartaj expressed her gratitude, mentioning the positive impact on their lives since participating in the program. Previously, they struggled to have fresh vegetables and often resorted to purchasing market vegetables laden with pesticides, which affected their health. However, within a month of starting

TITLE: SARTAJ LUND'S JOURNEY TO IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD AND NUTRITION THROUGH SIAPEP KITCHEN GARDENING PROGRAM



their kitchen garden, their lives changed significantly, both financially and physically. They now enjoy a variety of homegrown vegetables, ensuring nutritious meals for their family. Sartaj mentioned that they even exchange vegetables with their neighbours', further diversifying their food options.

Sartaj's husband emphasized the financial benefits they have experienced through kitchen gardening. They now save approximately 5,000 to 6,000 rupees per month by reducing expenses related to fuel for market visits and medical bills. Moreover, they generate an additional income of around 2,000 rupees per month by selling surplus vegetables to their fellow villagers. During the interview, they proudly showcased their flourishing vegetable plot, a testament to their hard work and the positive impact of the program.

Looking ahead, Sartaj and her family plan to expand their kitchen garden to earn more from vegetable sales. Even if institutional support ends, they are committed to continuing their kitchen gardening efforts independently. Sartaj expressed her intention to save healthy and pure seeds from their own harvest to cultivate a wider variety of vegetables in the future. They also hope to exchange seeds with other households in the village, fostering collaboration and further enhancing vegetable diversity. By doing so, they believe that the KG intervention will not only be successful but also sustainable for future generations.

Sartaj's story exemplifies how the SIAPEP Kitchen Gardening Program has improved the lives of individuals and families, providing them with nutritious food, financial stability, and a sense of empowerment. Through the lens of beneficiaries like Sartaj, the component's impact becomes evident, showcasing the positive outcomes achieved through the program's support, guidance, and provision of essential resources.

Key Results:

- Improved access to fresh and pesticide-free vegetables
- Monthly savings of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 rupees
- Additional income of around 2,000 rupees per month through vegetable sales
- Enhanced food diversity and reduced reliance on the market
- Increased knowledge and skills in kitchen gardening techniques

Through the SIAPEP Kitchen Gardening Program, Sartaj and her family have not only experienced a transformative change in their own lives but also serve as an inspiration for others in their community. Their determination and commitment to sustainable practices highlight the long-lasting impact of the component, providing a pathway to a better future for themselves and their village.



SUCCESS Stories

: Overcoming Poverty through Kitchen Gardening: Farzana's Inspiring Journey

In the village of Long Khan Solangi, District Hyderabad, Farzana, a beneficiary of the Kitchen Gardening (KG) program under SIAPEP, shares how kitchen gardening has been instrumental in fighting poverty and improving her family's life. With a deep sense of gratitude, she expresses, "Kitchen gardening has assisted me in reducing and fighting the curse of poverty that haunted our lives. I can now provide for my children's needs, like clothes, toys, and school bags, which were once beyond our reach."

Farzana, an active member of the women's organization in Long Khan, had the opportunity to practice kitchen gardening with the guidance and support of SRSO. Her husband, Bilawal, works tirelessly to support their family, but they always struggled to make ends meet. The devastating heavy rains of 2022 added to their challenges, causing them to lose their house, rice crop, and livestock. Their situation seemed bleak, but fortune smiled upon them when Farzana became one of the 150 women selected for assistance through the SIAPEP-funded kitchen gardening activity, specifically targeting vulnerable poor farmers affected by the heavy rains.

SRSO provided training to participating women like Farzana, offering a 20x20 plot outside their house for kitchen gardening. The program equipped them with essential resources such as drip systems, tool kits, seeds, and fertilizers. Despite the scarcity of water in their village, Farzana and Bilawal managed to gather water from a small well to ensure the success of their kitchen garden.





With hard work and determination, Farzana cultivated homegrown vegetables through her kitchen garden. She takes pride in the fact that she can now contribute to the family's food security and save money. She enthusiastically shares, "The kitchen garden provides a food safety net and saves us around Rs. 100 to 150 per day. It's rewarding to grow vegetables with my own two hands."

Not only has kitchen gardening brought economic benefits, but it has also become a source of joy and fulfilment for Farzana and her family. Inspired by the positive outcomes, Farzana plans to continue growing vegetables at home, even if the institutional support ends. She expresses her excitement about involving her family members in the process and eagerly looks forward to growing more vegetables next year.

Through the SIAPEP Kitchen Gardening Program, Farzana's dream of a better future for her family is taking shape. The component has empowered her to overcome poverty, provide nutritious food for her children, and fulfil their basic needs. The initiative's impact goes beyond financial stability; it has instilled a sense of pride, self-reliance, and hope in Farzana's heart.

Key Results:

- Improved household food security and reduced reliance on the market
- Savings of approximately Rs. 100 to 150 per day through homegrown vegetables
- Enhanced nutrition and access to pesticide-free vegetables
- Empowered individuals and families to combat poverty and improve livelihoods

Farzana's story showcases the transformative power of the SIAPEP Kitchen Gardening Program in uplifting the lives of vulnerable families. It highlights the importance of providing support, knowledge, and resources to empower individuals to grow their way out of poverty and secure a better future for themselves and their communities.







SINDH RURAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION