



# SRSO Newsletter

January - March 2011

MONITORING  
EVALUATION &  
RESEARCH UNIT



## Editor's Note

Our hope is to make this newsletter, a useful tool to communicate. I regret for unavoidable delay in releasing 6<sup>th</sup> quarterly news letter. First we had a page covering mega event of celebrating international women's day then it carries series of SRSO activities during January to march 2011.

We have visitor's gallery to share valuable guest/visitors who visited SRSO in reporting period taking the opportunity, I would like to thank all the contributors who feel the significant and contributed in this issue.

*Syeda Nazia Shah*

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## EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR POVERTY REDUCTION.

It is the day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political, and it is a day importantly for looking back on past struggles and opportunities that wait for future generations of women.

Gender and Development Section of SRSO celebrated five events during the month of March 2011 at Shikarpur, Sukkur, Kandhkot and Jacobabad districts to mark as International Women's Day, with the theme of "Empowering Women for Poverty Reduction".

The objective was to provide a forum to the community women for sharing their experiences and learning from others about the issues and difficulties being faced as women in the society.

The additional objectives of the events were:

- To provide possible environment for rural and indigenous women for participation in the economic, social and cultural rights, consultations, discussions, decision-making and collective ownership by providing sufficient information through moral and social support.
- Providing a platform to women which offer them joyful moments and generate ideas in order to build their confidence.
- Networking among the Community Organizations, Non-Government Organizations and Government Line Departments.

The events focused specifically rural women. SRSO team ensured the participation of women community members, who spoke and highlighted their issues through different speeches, tableaux and songs.







## LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF SINDH AGRICULTURE RECOVERY PROJECT

By: Nisar Pathan

Sindh Agriculture recovery project (SARP) implemented by SRSO funded by USAID for the flood affected farmers of seven districts of Sindh i.e. Kandhkot-Kashmore, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Larkana, Kamber@Shahdaktot, Dadu and Thata.

Total 50,150 flood affected farmers go through the cultivation of Sunflower crop on more than 101,570 acres of land. The support package per beneficiary was for 2 acres land containing DAP 50 kg, Urea 50kg, Sunflower seed 4 kg, cash for land preparation Rs: 4000/-, Cash for work Rs: 4800/-, Cash for threshing Rs. 5000/-.

In this regard, a launching ceremony of the project was held at village Madadpur Khoso, UC Balochabad of district Jacobabad on 13.12.2010, Chief Guest of the ceremony was Agha Jan Akhter Secretary Agriculture Govt. of Sindh.



Small farmers were informed that this project would create new horizons for flood victims in re-establishment.

Sarah Parvaiz USAID's economic growth specialist said that the project would bring the new hope for small farmers who could not get benefit from the crop due to the devastating natural disaster and they can recover themselves from this trauma.

Abdul Majeed, Nizamani president of Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) said that the project would be very beneficial for the small farmers / harees who have left nothing due to flashy waves of flood, so they can strengthen themselves through the crop of sunflower moreover he informed that farmers can get minimum 10 mounds from one acre and will get the profit of Rs. 20,000 per acre. SAB will play vital role in helping the beneficiaries for cultivation of crop and its marketing. He also emphasized that the Government must supporting in this kind of initiatives.

Agha Jan Akhter Secretary Agriculture shared that sunflower crop would open the window for the flood victims who suffered from the natural disaster. Moreover he said that the Government is planning to support and sustain the farming community through different dynamics, the results will come shortly and also we shall not leave alone the flood affected people.



Dr. Sono Khangharani Chief Executive Officer of Sindh Rural Support Organization said that our efforts and struggles are with

needy and divested people. SRSO is working for poverty elevation since 2003. During the flood, SRSO supported 4 million families with WFP dry ration; provided wheat seed, fertilizers and non-food items to a large number of families. He proceeded that those who have lost everything in this flood can recover themselves by raising the income through this project.

In the end, Chief Guests and participants distributed the Sunflower package to the 20 beneficiary farmers.



Agha Jan Akhter Secretary Agriculture made a press briefing about the SARP project in Sindh, he also announced the future strategy for agriculture by Sindh Government.

## SOCIAL MOBILIZATION PROJECT GHOTKI

Zahid Ali Shaikh

SRSO is working in district Ghotki on the components such as Social Mobilization, Health, Microcredit, Physical Infrastructure Development, Natural Resource Management and Education in the quarter Jan-March 2011. The SM team formed 3,740 against the target of 3,700 COs by organizing 55,313 households, community savings of Rs. 240,192 was reported during the Qtr Jan-March 2011, which accumulates at Rs. 7,428,277. 146 Village Organizations have been formed during the quarter, cumulatively 240 VOs formed against the target of 240 VOs.

With regard to capacity building of the Communities, 285 events were conducted to train 7,537 pax, which includes 1,175 (Male) and 6,362 (Female). The training titles were two days of "Saving and it's Utilization" and one day workshops on Civil Rights.



In the quarter Jan-March 2011, 423 Kits of students (Books, Bag, Uniform, and Shoes) have distributed among the students of K-G class to 5th class and 17 sports kits in 4 different schools under the Education Project. During the quarter, civil work of 7 schools out of 14, have been completed and equipped with furniture, student kits and sports kit.

During Jan-March 2011, 288 male and female CRP's were trained under MCH Project by UNICEF, Mother and Child, health awareness sessions were delivered to 30,189 Pax and 1,740 children of 0-12 years age were vaccinated.





One of the great achievements of the quarter was the installation of "water filtration plants" funded by the GoS in village Bago Bhutto, which is serving and benefitting a population of about 2000 people. Moreover, 01 CPI scheme of Brick pavement at village Jan Muhammad Bughio was completed and 9 other schemes surveyed and initiated at different villages.

PPAF - CPI and M&E team also visited to monitor the quality of CPIs in the Quarter.

## FOREWORD AND PROGRESS OF BAHAAAL PROJECT

By: Nadia Samo

SRSO launched BAHAAAL Project with support of USAID in five flood affected districts of Sindh i.e. Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Kashmore-Kandhkot, Qambar-Shahdadkot and Jamshoro with purpose of providing 20,411 flood affected households for emergency relief and early recovery interventions through agricultural inputs, Cash Grants, animal feed supplement for livestock, emergency shelter for WASH services. The project cost is USD \$8,234,208 for 6 months. As of 31st March, 2011 with three components (Agriculture & Seed, Livestock services and WASH infrastructures were provided to 5,803 households). The project is successfully completed, while its fourth component of 3,000 transitional Shelters is under progress.

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

By: Nisar Pathan

Natural Resource Management Sector is engaged to work with Poor Community relates with Agriculture profession. It focuses on livestock, forestry, fisheries and irrigation systems (micro drip). Agriculture professionals are agitated to give know how about latest agricultural methods and transferring latest technology of cultivation for getting high yields, self sufficiency in cereal crops is the main objective. From the year 2010, European Union has granted the fund for supporting small farmers, harees, share cropper or tenants having one acre of land in district Sukkur and Khairpur. The support package consists of Agri-Inputs under titled "Combating Rising Food Prices in Pakistan" Food & Agriculture Organization remained the implementing partner. In this programme, SRSO formed Vegetable Groups, Cereal Groups and Water User Groups and formed a General Body which was elected at UC level known as Machinery Pool Group and has been registered as cooperative. They were given seed grader, Power Tiller, Planter, Store Bins, Drillers, and Flour Mills. 12 MPGs were formed in 02 districts.

Under this project, Farmer's Field School and Women Open Schools were established for enlightening female and male beneficiaries with latest technology of cultivation. 12 Women Open School and 08 Male Field Schools are functional in 17 UCs of 02 districts. Agriculture graduates (Male/Female facilitators) are providing training on daily basis. In this project 18,996 households have been facilitated so far, 15 water courses and 16 water channels have been rehabilitated. According to FAO survey, in project area, beneficiary households got 30% raise in their yield which is an outstanding achievement. The project started on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and ends on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

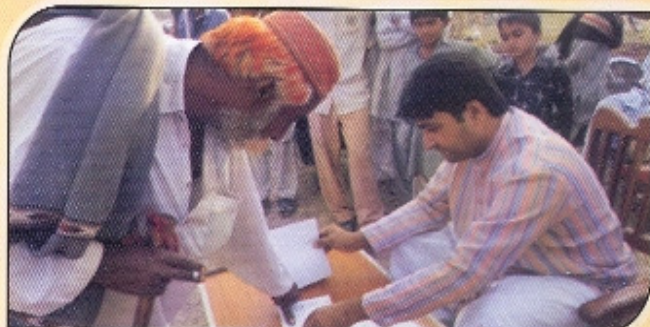


Project offered Agri-inputs to 4,270 beneficiaries including small farmers, harees or owners of one acre land, supported a package of Wheat Seed 50kg, DAP 50kg, and Urea 50kg, Vegetable Seeds to 4,274, Lentils to 4,276 beneficiaries in 08 UCs of Sukkur & Khairpur were given as Rabi, while 11,886 beneficiaries supported with the package of Wheat Seed, DAP, Urea, Vegetable Seed, Sorghum seed in district Sukkur & Khairpur as Kharif.

In 2010, SRSO supported to 5,000 beneficiaries that increased to 18,996 and 03 UCs of Sukkur were also added. Total 20 FFS/WOS were established.

## FAO-AusAID:

January 2011, Australian-Aid provided support for 7,500 flood affected households in three districts Dadu, Khairpur and Larkana. FAO-AusAid project started on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2011, ending is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.



This project offers support to small farmers possessing one acre land, with the package of Sunflower Seed 2kg, DAP 50kg, Urea 50kg to 7,500 beneficiaries for sowing the crop.

## EU-WFP "Food for work"

Due to soaring market rates small and poor harees are unable to meet their requirement of food grain for household consumption. They usually purchase agri- inputs from middlemen on high rates for cultivation. In this regard, European Union granted the funds. WFP and SRSO selected the beneficiaries previously benefitted from EU-FFP in Sukkur district in 2010. About 10,488 households were supported with 100 Kg of Wheat Grain. Total 4,284 Metric Tons were distributed. In addition, FFW was given to labor who were engaged in rehabilitation of 16 Water Channels and 15 Water Courses under this project (10kg/day/1 head).

## GOVT. OF SINDH - STATE LAND TO LANDLESS HAREES PROJECT

By: Nisar Pathan



The Land Less harees Project is government of Sindh's initiative to grant state land to the poorest & most marginalized female harees. After successful completion of 1st Phase, the Government of Sindh provided land to 972





poor female harees in 2nd phase. However, in 1st Phase SRSO provided the support of more than Rs. 2.5 Crore to 1,359 harees having on 04 acres land, along with plants and chicken layers. The project is operated in 08 districts and provides additional support on 04 acres of land, it offers RS. 7,500 grant P/Acre to 1388 Harees along with six Plants Poultry birds & FNKs (Rs. 23800000 was the program cost of 1st Phase) In 2nd Phase survey of 972 allottees in Process.

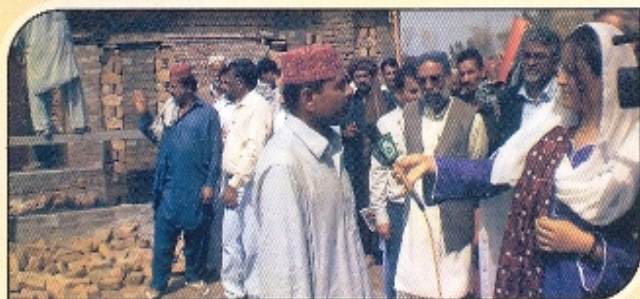
## FAO-RICE PROJECT

FAO-Rice Project funded by Food agriculture Organization is implemented in five flood affected districts of Sindh. It aims to support 47,482 Harees, share cropper, tenant having one acre land. The support package contain Rice Seed 100kg, DAP 50kg, Urea 50kg, Vegetable Seeds and poultry package.

District	BHs Pack-1 Canada	BHs Pack-1 UK	BHs Pack-2 IFAD	BHs Pack-1 Swedish	BHs Pack-3 Swedish	Total
Jacobabad	6,100	4,360	-	-	1,000	11,460
Kashmore	6,100	-	-	-	1,500	7,600
Qambar Shadadkot	6,200	2,732	-	5,000	-	13,932
Shikarpur	-	-	-	5,000	1,500	6,500
Dadu	6000	0	0	2000	0	8000
G.Total	24,400	7,092	0	12,000	4,000	47,482

## VILLAGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

By: M. Khuram



Village Rehabilitation Project (VRP) is the Reconstruction Plan of Two Room Low Cost Houses to rebuild 7,000 houses for the flood victims in three districts of Sindh i.e. Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Kashmore@Kandhkot initiated by Government of Sindh. Simultaneously, some of the INGOs such as WFP, USAID, UNICEF, DFID etc. have also decided to contribute in different shapes like Food For Work and Sanitation. Each house comprises of two rooms with solar light (where light is not available), drainage and brick-paved streets. The material cost of one house would be Rs. 83,541 and the total cost of the house would be Rs.128, 000. The civil work started after December 15th- 2010 and will be ending by 30th June 2011. As of March-2011, work of 3,567 houses has been initiated, while 3,279 houses have reached up-to plinth level and 884 houses completed up-to roof level, simultaneously 138 houses have been fully completed. Besides the construction of low cost houses, VRP is carrying out the water and sanitation schemes, as of Mar 2011, 02 schemes initiated, 29 schemes surveyed and estimation completed.



## بینظیر انکم سپورٹ پروگرام



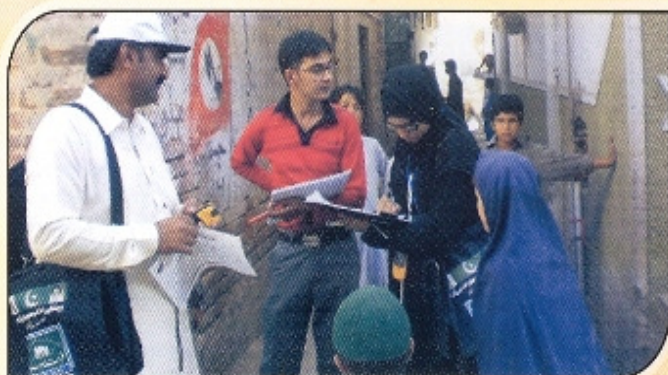
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## NATIONWIDE POVERTY TARGETING SURVEY-NPTS

By: Raza Soomro

Government of Pakistan has launched the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as the main social safety net Programme to cushion the negative effects of the food crisis and inflation on the poor. The rapid introduction of BISP manifests the Government's strong commitment to protect the poor and vulnerable people from economic crises.

The Government is introducing a Targeting Process that is objective, conforming to international best practices, minimizes the risk of major inclusion and exclusion of errors and ensures its effective implementation. In addition, BISP is adopting a complementary verification tool based on the NADRA database to check the quality of the data collection in the field. SRSO, through RSPN, is responsible of the survey in 08 districts (SRSO operational areas).



safeguard integrity and quality of the collected data. SRSO started the enumeration in its Sub-Cluster Sukkur, which consists eight districts namely 01-Larkana, 02-Naushahro Feroze, 03-Sukkur, 04-Khairpur, 05-Qambar Shahdadkot, 06-Shikarpur, 07-Kashmore & 08-Jacobabad.

SRSO has been engaged in data collection since 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2010 and by March 2011 five districts namely Larkana, Shikarpur, Kashmore, Jacobabad and Naushehro Feroze have been completed successfully while three districts are in progress.

## CHAIRMAN VISIT ALONG WITH HIGH MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL - SSK

Contributed by: Ali Bux Mangi

My field visits took me both to flood affected areas and areas not inundated by flood waters. Ranjhapur in Jacobabad district of 225 households was submerged by over 15 feet of flood waters forcing total evacuation on August 11, 2010 and with the exception of less than 10 households, all returned by November. This is one of the villages, Government of Sindh has identified under Village Rehabilitation Project. In the first phase, 170 houses are being built. Prior to the floods, SRSO had organized 180 households through ten(10) COs which had also been federated into a Village Development Organization (VDO). Despite the trauma they had suffered, the VDO with representatives of all the ten COs, met us in a most disciplined manner. Some of them described their harrowing ordeal, moving from place to place in search of shelter going as far as Karachi, Quetta, Sibi etc.





Since 7,000 houses are to be rebuilt, Dr. Sono should set up a separate unit to supervise the construction work involved in Village Rehabilitation Project (VRP). It is a good opportunity to incorporate underground sanitation (OPP type) to ensure clean and sewage free environment in the village.

My next visit to Local Support Organization (LSO) Mehran in Union Council Bhurkan of district Shikarpur was most uplifting and heartening. The LSO with a 24-member General Body and 13-member Executive Committee was representing 24 VOs with 2,653 organized households. 100% of the households falling in poverty bands 0-24 of the poverty score card (PSC) had been organized.

In addition, the organizations have implemented a number of physical infrastructure projects. Many came forward and narrated their life stories of what their condition was before organization and what it became post organization. How vocational training helped in earning incomes. How TBA training not only helped pregnant mothers in delivery but was also a source of income to the TBA.



The LSO also took note of the functioning of schools in their union and went to Education Department to ensure teacher attendance and provision of missing facilities. The LSO is determined to have hundred percent enrolments of boys and girls in primary schools. In addition to government departments, LSO has also forged linkages with donors like Engro, Nestle etc. I fully agreed with Dr. Bengali about the benefits and importance of the provision of clean drinking water. The current filtration plants need regular and proper maintenance and about Rs. 500 per day as cost of diesel for the generator.

I assured the Adviser that the maintenance side can be taken care of but the recurring cost is beyond the capacity of the communities. It would be desirable to select a low cost recurring expenditure technology for provision of clear drinking water. He promised to look at the Acumen Fund supported technology and asked Dr. Rashid Bajwa to help him in the matter.

I was most grateful and happy at his strong support of the UCBPRP.

## ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ENDEAVOURS DURING QUARTER

By: Samina Barkat Ali

During Jan-Mar 2011, Enterprise Development Section involved organizing and supporting community development based activities by applying innovative ideas in product development in art and crafts and marketing. Focused on product promotion and business development at micro level and networking through line departments.



Activities performed by Enterprise Development Section as:

- **Survey of VTP at Khairpur, Ranipur and Ghotki:** Surveyed 90 women craft persons graduated from vocational centers Mirpur Mathelo, Khairpur and Ranipur on the basis of their trade and its proper utilization by developing home based business. This study also accumulates the capacity building of artisans in marketing skills and product diversification.
- **Survey of product at local market:** Local market surveyed regarding potential products at Khairpur and Sukkur, handicrafts such as date leave key chain, bracelet, tablemat, date leave message holder, chikh wall hangings, patch work cushions.
- **Exposure visit of artisans at Islamabad and Lahore:** 11 artisans facilitated in exposure visits of Lahore Dachi Festival and Islamabad Sabah Pakistan's organized training of leadership and organizing skills, in which artisans learned about time management, supply chain and role of a group leader entrepreneurship at micro level.
- **Participated in local and national level exhibitions and festivals:** Exhibition plays a very important role in marketing and

business promotion, in which artisans deal with their customers directly and sell their products themselves. Enterprise Development Section team participated in Dachi Mela at Lahore, SAARC International Exhibition at Karachi, Khairpur Festival at Khairpur Colonel Shah Hostel, Larkana Mega Festival at Sambara Hotel-Larkana and Dachi Mela at Khairpur arranged by Bhitai Welfare Association Khairpur.



- **Participated in leadership and organizing skill training:** Five artisans of SRSO operational area with ED team participated in leadership and organizing skills at Rawalpindi - Islamabad arranged by Sabah Pakistan, in which artisans learned communication skills and collaboration with other line agencies for development of their business.





- **Market internship activity at pothari village Islamabad:** Four artisans from three craft groups (Hand Embroidery, Date Leaves Products and Cutwork crafts) of SRSO involved in market internship activity with the support of RSPN. Artisans were there for fifteen days to hold a shop for selling their own products directly and arranging orders at their own and noted customer's feedback and suggestions for the improvement of their work. This activity provides a good and productive market exposure to the artisans of rural areas.
- **CCBs Registered:** ED team facilitated crafts women of four villages in institution building at community level for the development and promotion of their crafts.
- **Four crafts groups from village:** Waneko Goth, Agha Ali Jatoli, Nihal Khan Solangi and Village Sagyoan registered with Community Development Department Khairpur district. The main idea behind this effort is to organize and promote business groups of women artisans from rural areas and support for the establishment of village based vocational training and production centers.
- **Networking with line departments:** Artisans were invited from IRC, CDD Department and Ahan for the exhibitions and capacity building of artisans and marketing of traditional products on profitable returns. 30 artisans from SRSO participated for cutwork, date leave and patch work, these will further create networking with district Govt. Khairpur.
- **Corresponding with Designer Ms. Sehar Mirza:** MoU has been signed between SRSO and Pakistani designer from UK Ms. Sehar Mirza on balochi embroidery projected. Products received from the artisans and dispatched to her in the month of January 2011.
- **Enterprise Development marketing skills training:** Twenty artisans from vocational training center UCBPRP Khairpur learned record keeping of their business, marketing tools, communication between customer and buyers, market survey, supply chain and business plan at micro level.
- **Sabah Pakistan Meeting:** Resource person Ms. Shahida Begum is the Board Member of Sabah Pakistan. She is the quality controller of SRSO-Sabah and attended the board meeting of Sabah-Pakistan on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011. Agenda discussed under this meeting was related to the issues of artisans during the order work, such as: raw material quantity, quality of work, time management and payments of orders. Shahida represented on behalf of SRSO artisans and shared issues of SRSO Sabah artisans.

The objective of this project is to train, link and register with Sabah Pakistan and hundred home based women workers in stitching, embroidery, rillie work, bead work, chunari, Sindhi embroidery etc. These groups of home based women workers were identified, during initial assessments especially conducted to assess the quality of work and skills.

Journey from 2009 till now is a great experience, success of our valuable artisans after being the members of Sabah Pakistan. Till now there are forty one artisans from village Manday Dero, Sangrar and Agha Ali Jatoli, they had proved their skills and are well know for their Sindhi and Balouchi embroidery. During this journey Sabah members from SRSO visited Indian communities and attended training workshops on product designing, capacity building, leadership and business orientation and achieved good recognition from SEWA (Self employed women association) trade facilitation centre Ahmedabad.



Artisans are also invited to attend Annual General Body meeting every year at Sabah Head Office, Rawalpindi and given right to vote for the Annual Election. Two of Sabah members from SRSO, Ms. Shahida Begum and Ms. Bahgul are elected as Board Members of Sabah Pakistan and nominated as quality controller for Sindh Sabah members, and for follow-ups and dispatch the order back to Sabah Pakistan.

Recently artisans received order from Pakistan famous designer Hasan Sheher Yar (HSY) through Sabah Pakistan, the artisan's work was designed on apparel and were shown in a fashion show at Lahore. SRSO is also on the chart of Pakistan Fashion Industry and quality work is recognized by the top most designers, and artisans of Agha Ali Jatoli and have been receiving order on regular basis and are satisfied with their income. Enterprise development section had identified skilled groups from SRSO community and Sabah Pakistan will also visit soon to meet these groups and confirm their membership.

## SABAH PAKISTAN AND SRSO

By: Mahtab Tariq Pirzada



An agreement (MoU) signed between Sabah Pakistan (Saarc business association for the home based workers) and Sindh Rural support organization (SRSO), on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Sabah Pakistan is a registered company under the provision of the company act 1985, Sabah Head office is situated in Rawalpindi and its Project Manager is Ms. Nuzhat Tabussam.

## PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY DEV. (PITD)

By: Farhad Ali Qureshi

Physical Infrastructure and Technology Development is the wide range of Rural Development interventions tried the world over. Physical infrastructure promise the greatest efforts to the population that lacks the basic critical physical infrastructure and does not have access to the facilities that support the delivery of key services like transport, safe drinking water, sanitation, health, education, electricity etc. They are also necessary for people to meet their livelihood needs and maintain a healthy physical quality of life.

SRSO has developed a strong team of PITD engineers who have helped communities to construct physical infrastructure schemes. SRSO is working at District Sukkur, Khairpur and Ghotki of PPAF Phase VI, IWEIP, Education and PPAF-ENGRO Projects. In this quarter 34 CPLs have been initiated which





include Brick Pavement, CC Pavement, Drinking Water Hand Pumps, Lift Irrigation, Water Course, Land Leveling and Renovation of School Buildings.

Under PPAF Phase-VI, SRSO initiated 26 schemes which benefited 2,238 households. Under PPAF-Education Project completed renovation of 10 Schools and equipped furniture, uniforms, books, school bags and sports material.

Four schemes were initiated under PPAF-Engro partnership benefiting 465 households. Four(04) IWEIP projects are also initiated to benefit 190 households in Nara-Khairpur.

## EXPOSURE VISIT OF AKHUWAT ORGANIZATION

By: Shazia Shaikh

On 24-02-2011, SRSO-RCED team along with Ms. Shazia Shaikh Manager-RCED visited Akhuwat Organization-Lahore. The purpose of visit was to learn the overall nature of Micro Finance System. Mr. Tayab, Branch Manager Akhuwat gave brief introduction of Akhuwat Organization to SRSO RCED team. Akhuwat was established in 2001. The objective of organization is to provide interest free micro credit to the poor, so as to enhance their living standards. The organization started with a first loan of Rs. 10,000 which was given to a widow. Currently, Akhuwat has fifty four branches in all over Pakistan. This Organization is offering products in Enterprise, Liberation, Housing, Education, Marriage, and Emergency & Health).

SRSO Team visited Akhuwat's Finance and HR Sector regarding organization recruitment policy and financial record keeping procedures. Staff turnover has been very low which reflects a high degree of commitment and motivation among the staff members. It was shared by Mr. Adeel that Akhuwat has developed over a period and comprehensively covering areas like operations, administration, human resources, finance, audit, fund mobilization etc. Hiring of an employee starts as interns and go through intensive three months training in microfinance before they are treated as regular staff members. Staff members are also benefitted with various incentives and medical facility.

They are performing best work with portfolio of Rs. 100 million.



Women always play important role for improvement of living standard of her home, **Nazia Khatoon** is also one of them. Thirty four years old brave poor female lives in village Abdul Qadir Chachar.

She has four son and four daughters, she lost her house in flood disaster. She faced hard situations, displacement, and fought with hunger, disease and poverty after flood.

When SRSO launched VRP project with support of Government of Sindh in flood affected areas of Sindh province through Community Organizations, she got low cost house scheme. Nazia Khatoon was excited to construct her house, for that purpose she sold her gold and decided to start her house work. She supported her husband through knitting, embroidery to forgive financial strength and bright future of her children.

Patience wins all barriers & success grasp out in her hands, now she has own shelter, which gives her confidence and empower her to decide for the betterment of her family.

## SAVE THE FLOOD DISASTER VICTIM ORGANIZATION:

The MoU has been signed between Sindh Rural Support Organization and save the flood disaster victim Organization, for the construction of 200 houses in district Qamber-Shahdadkot. The project initiated on 15, Feb 2011 and will end on 15 April 2011. The civil work started after assessment and 94 out of 200 houses. 89 houses are up to plinth level, 14 are at roof level, while two houses have been completed.

These houses are exclusively for the women beneficiaries only, the specification of house is same as VRP-Model i.e. two rooms, hand pump, laterin, with the cost of one house as **Rs. 95,000**.

## COMMUNITY LIVESTOCK EXTENSION WORKER CLEW TRAINING UNDER UCBPRP (GOS)

By: Latif Soomro



The Livestock production is one of the major activity as about 30-35 million people of rural areas are engaged in raising livestock and deriving 30-40 per cent of their incomes, besides its importance and share in the national economy.

It is still a sign of prestige for the people associated with agriculture sector. It is an integral part of socio-economic activities of the rural areas and plays a very supportive role in mitigating the effects of poverty.

(Pakistan Livestock Census Report 2006)

Women dominate domestic livestock management in Pakistan. They are involved in almost all aspects of animal health and production. Despite their considerable involvement and contribution, women's role in livestock production has been undervalued and widely ignored and unnoticed.

Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Program through RSPs is an initiative of Government of Sindh for poorest of the poor implemented in district Shikarpur, Kashmore-Kandkot and Jacobabad. This project is designed for women empowerment, the major and more important component of UCBPRP is Vocational Technical Program VTP. The livestock in Sindh is mainly infested with various diseases due to lack of awareness of timely vaccination and its benefits. The government facilities are spread out in rural areas, but not efficient in providing basic treatment measures.

## THE VISIT OF MR. ABDUL SALAM THAHEEM AT GPI-W SUKKUR

The Chairman Mr. Abdul Salam Thaeem "Sindh Technical Education, Vocational and Training Authority" Government of Sindh, visited Government Polytechnic Institute for Women, Sukkur.



The main objective of the visit was to know the institutional setup of GPI-W and NRSP-Institute of Rural Management. During the visit he walk through all class-rooms of GPI-W regular programme and then he visited the SRSO-IRM portion, where the principal-VTEC Mehran briefed about the ongoing training under

Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme through RSPs. He was keenly interested in Bag Making and Block Printing trade, and suggested GPI-W administration for initiating such type of innovative courses under its regular programme. Mr. Abdul Salam Thaeem also met with trainees who are enrolled in bag making, CLEW and Block printing trades and asked about the quality, management, food and facilities, he is inspired to listen that all trainees were happy regarding training arrangements by SRSO-IRM.

"I visited GPI-Women Sukkur on February 12-2011 at 02:00 pm. the institute is running very well. The institute is offering short courses of NVTEC and SRSO-IRM. The joint venture of STEVTA and SRSO-IRM is very well managed and benefits trainees who are mostly from rural areas. The Principal of Institute and SRSO-IRM team is doing its best for the institute, people of the city as well as the rural areas of Sukkur, Shikarpur, Kandkot-Kashmore".

Abdul Salam Thaeem



By: Latif Soomro





Ms. Joole Konain American Consulate (Information officer)  
Visiting SARP Project.



Chairman Mr. Shoalb Sultan Khan visiting KOMAK Project at  
District Jacobabad.



Mr. Mohammad Ali Azizi visited Jacobabad for conducting the  
SM Session with Community.



Dr. Kaiser Bengali visited Village Rehabilitation Project  
briefing to Media.



Mr. Sikander Sanam VRP (Team Leader) briefing to visitors  
about Layout Plan of Village Qiyas Bhayo-Kandhkot.



Celebrating Women's Day at UC Jagan, District Shikarpur



Chief Executive Officer Dr. Sono Khangharani addressing  
at Sunflower Launching Ceremony, Shikarpur.



American Consulate (Information officer) Joole Konain at  
Launching Ceremony of SARP at District Jacobabad