

Project Completion Report

“Improving Water Governance and Promoting Water Cooperation” (IWG & PWC)

Reporting Period: March 15 to December 31st 2015
Project Number: A-04424-02-506892

Submission Date: Zero draft: 14 January 2016
Revised version: 8 February 2016

Submitted to



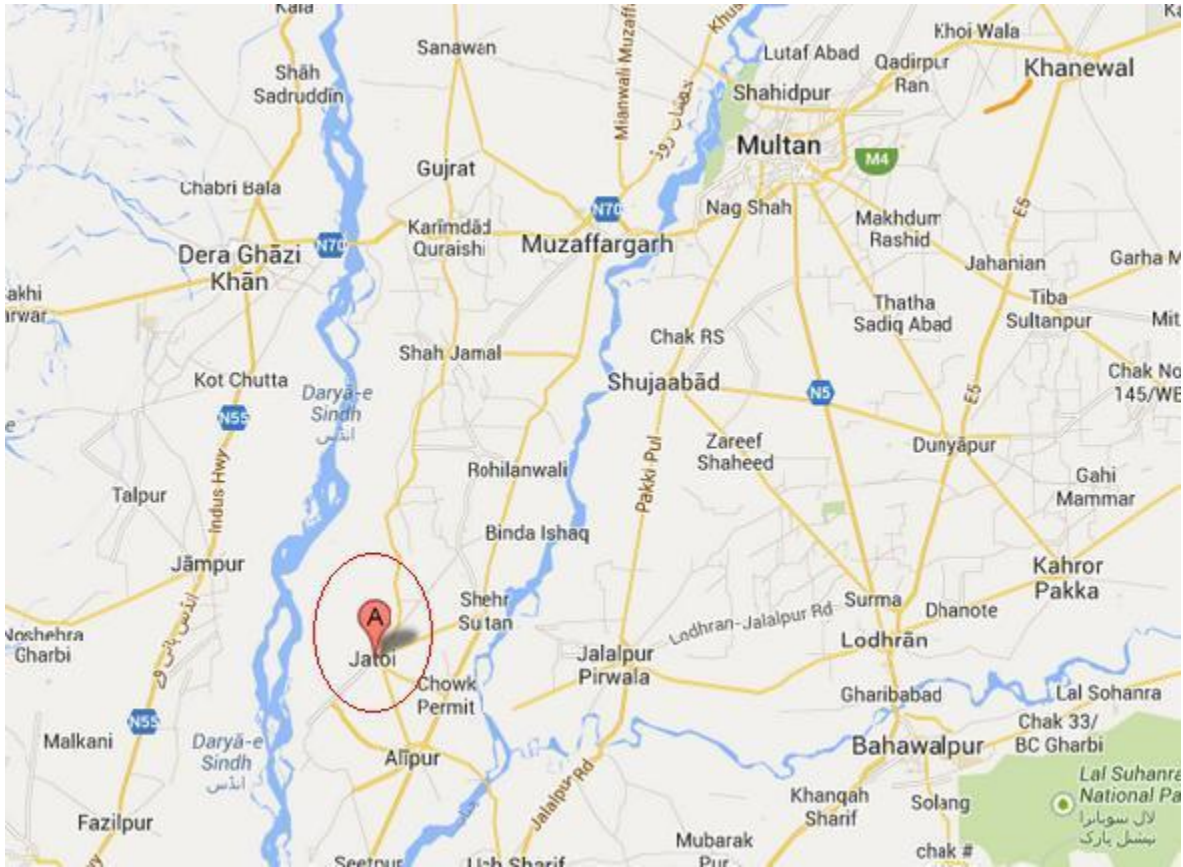
By



Map of District Badin, Sindh



Map of District Muzaffargarh



Abbreviations

AWB	Area Water Board
FO	Farmer Organization
SIDA	Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority
PIDA	Provincial/ Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Authority
IC	Indus Consortium
WUA	Water User Association
ON	Oxfam Novib
WSIP	Water Sector Improvement Project
WCA	Water Course Association
OO	Overall Objective
SO	Specific Objective
NPC	National Project Coordinator
DCC	District Campaign Coordinator
LHDP	

Executive Summary

Improving Water Governance and Promoting Water Cooperation project was an advocacy based project of the duration of 9 months from April to December 2015 in its phase -2. Under its first objective with tail end farmers of 30 Water Course Associations at three canals i.e., Akram Wah Badin, Dajal Canal Rajanpur and Rangpur canal Muzaffargarh, the project has achieved tremendous results. After continuous and rigorous networking with line departments at district and provincial level, Akram Wah Badin has received the water after 15 years till the last water course. The tail end farmers have sown their peddy crops this year due to the availability of water. Similarly, the bridge is constructed at Dajal Canal Rajanpur after the continuous efforts of the farmers' Alliance, established under the project. Rangpur canal Alliance members have registered about 200 complaints of water theft and as a result get the gauges installed at their water courses. An exposure of the farmers male and females from Sindh to the south Punjab canals have strengthened the cultural bonds between the people of two provinces enhanced the water cooperation at community level. Two mega events of Provincial Water Conferences held at Karachi and Lahore in which irrigation department, SIDA/PIDA, universities and civil society actors participated to highlight this important issue and developed the recommendations for policy framework. The draft of policy frame work for Sindh is presented to the Department for further improvements. Media engagement has remained at the core heart of the programme including three TV talk shows, press conferences, radio and newspaper messages, song development and the documentary.

Unity in shape of Alliance Group brings an appreciable change in the attitudes and also in the practices of farmers. Before implementing this project they do not believe in raising their voice even at their village level among other tail end farmers. Some of them rely on their fate and never grow anything and some of them used peter engine for irrigation. But now they are together for approaching relevant institutions for solving their disputes.

Linkages building with irrigation authority (Xen, SDO) and PIDA/ SIDA workers put good impact towards solutions of problems at ground level. It is in the knowledge of local line departments that a farmer organization is actively working on tail end of the subject canals. They cooperate with Alliance members and appreciate the role of Alliance groups at local level. In future if we don't exist, civil society organizations and media workers are there to support them and strengthen their issues and problem via paper and electronic media etc.

Before launching the project, line departments (Irrigation) did not give importance to the issues of tail end farmer, but through this project, continuous meetings among Irrigation/PIDA officials with alliance members have decreased the communication gap. Now they take some actions (increases water discharge in minors and decrease in water theft cases) and also ensure their cooperation in the future. Echo of tail end farmer's not only reached in the parliaments, but it touches the height of law makers in form of policy papers, recommendations and drafts.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background:

1.1 The Issue:

Background: Pakistan is an agricultural country and thus the irrigation is backbone of rural economy in Pakistan. The irrigation system now in Pakistan is one of largest integrated irrigation networks in the world. It consists of Indus River and its tributaries, three major storage reservoirs, 19 barrages, 12 inter-river link canals, 43 irrigation canal commands and over 110,000 watercourses, delivering water to farms, households and industrial units. Water is diverted from the rivers by barrages or head works into the main canals. Generally, the hierarchical canal system runs from main canals to branch canals, distributaries/ minors and watercourses that supply water to agricultural fields in chucks or dehs (tertiary irrigation command area) through moghus (ungated outlets) in distributaries and minors.



Figure 1: Water Tampering at Dajal Canal

At Field Level: Aging infrastructure, deteriorated governance, institutional decay, minimized role of communities, inadequate cost recovery, environmental degradation, changed cropping patterns, water theft (Fig.1) and several other issues have emerged during the time. All these factors have negatively affected overall performance of irrigated agriculture and agrarian based rural economy pushing people towards unemployment, poverty and food insecurity.

At Policy Level: The government of Pakistan is still working with National Water Policy. After 18th amendment, the water has become the provincial matter but they are lacking in policy formulation as it is highly politicized matter between the provinces. The project had foreseen the change that provincial policies will be drafted but these government departments due to their routine bureaucratic style of working may delay the process. Baluchistan out of four provinces has declared its provincial water policy in 2014. The other provinces need some catalyst forces along with technical and financial supports to carry on the task.

Improving Water Governance and Promoting Water Cooperation project is a unique project in its nature that has addressed both the above aspects and integrates them.

1.2 Project Summary

Improving Water Governance and Promoting Water Cooperation Project (IWG & PWC) was awarded to Indus Consortium by Oxfam Novib as an extension of one year project under title of Improving Water Governance at local level in three districts of Pakistan. The duration of this phase – II was 9.5 months i.e., 15 March 2015 to December 2015. The project is a successful integrated model worked at field as well as policy level. It has worked to ensure the water rights of tail end farmers at local level as well as

provincial level. It has also sown the seeds of water cooperation between the two provinces, in which water has remained a bone of contention.

1.3 The Project Location

The location of the project is including the three following canals of two provinces i.e., Sindh and Punjab of Pakistan:

S#	Canal	Selected Minors/ sub canals	Water Courses (No.)	Union Council	District	Province
1	Akram Wah	Ali Wah, Sher Wah and Sunni goni		Nindo & Abdullah Shah	Badin	Sindh
2	Dajal Canal	Kauser Minor			Rajanpur	Punjab
3	Rangpur Canal	2R/3L, 4L, 5R & 4R	112	Chak farazi, Ahmedpur Siyal, Saman Dawana, Essaywala, Patal munda, Rangpur	Muzaffargarh & Jhang	Punjab



Figure 2: Google Map of Akram Wah, Badin

As the canals jurisdiction is quiet large hence the project has focused the canal in general and the selected sub canals and minors in specific, e.g., Kauser minor at Dajal Canal and Ali Wah, Sher wah and Sunni goni at Akram Wah, which covers the selected water courses. Rangpur canal is coming from Head Tarimu district Jhang and its end in

Shaher Sultan small town of Tehsil Jatoi District Muzaffargarh. We have selected 4 miners of Rangpur canal as a targeted area. These miners cover the area of both districts Jhang and Muzaffargarh.

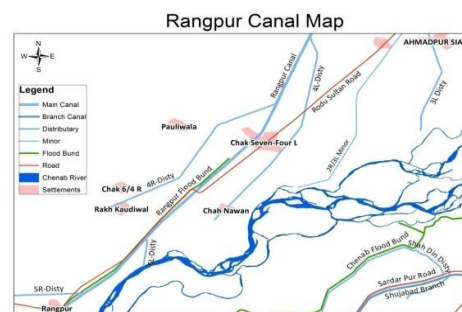


Figure 3: Rangpur Canal Map, Muzaffargarh

1.4 The Project Beneficiaries

The focus of the project is tail end small growers (having land from one to 10 acres) as they are the most-affected in terms of water availability. The project has worked with 30 Watercourse Associations at three canals i.e., 10 at each canal. It has covered 48 villages and 1928 households. The direct beneficiaries of the project are 5,631 and the indirect beneficiaries are 8,578.

Though the water allocation is based on the size of the farm area and water turn in time equitable system but the project is focusing on the small farmer because the water shortage is directly related to the livelihood and food security of small farmers as compare to the farmers' at large scale.

The project also worked with a journalist group on water as thematic area. 15 journalists from Sindh and Punjab were trained in the first phase of the project. They showed their commitment with the issue throughout the project period by writing and conducting different stories around the issue.

Similarly, nine interns from different universities of Sindh and Punjab are the direct project beneficiaries. The details will be given in the following sections.

1.5 The Project Stakeholders

Primary Stakeholders: The most relevant stakeholders include Irrigation Department (ID), Punjab Irrigation & Drainage Authority (PIDA), Sindh Irrigation & Drainage Authority (SIDA) at canal level, district level as well as at provincial levels.

Here we are discussing the brief role of SIDA and PIDA to better understand the project interventions:

The Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) is an autonomous organization, taking over the Sindh irrigation and drainage system from the Sindh Irrigation and Power Department. The SIDA Act was promulgated in Sindh in 1997 but it was repealed during 2002 and it was replaced with the Sindh Water Management Ordinance (SWMO) 2002 which is much broader in context and covers the whole spectrum of water management. With the enactment of the SWMO 2002, the Ordinance of Water Users' Associations was also repealed. Now all the FOs and Watercourse Associations are being registered with SIDA.

The SIDA is an organization playing an outstanding role in a major transition process in the irrigation and drainage sector of Sindh. At present, SIDA has its headquarter at Left Bank, Barrage Colony, Hyderabad, Sindh Pakistan.

The major success in Sindh is that SIDA is now agreed to register all the WCAs whether falling within or outside the AWBs. This would provide better linkages between the SIDA and Sindh On-Farm Water Management.

SIDA works through its three Area Water Boards. Currently, there are two AWBs fully functional covering Left Bank Canal and Nara Canal. Akram Wah Canal comes under the Left Bank Area Water Board, whose mission is to improve water management in its command area. It will ensure equitable distribution of irrigation water, efficient removal of drainage water, management of river flood protection infrastructures and promote farmers' participation. The Left Bank Area Water Board will do so through an integrated approach in a sustainable manner, using sound business principles and in partnership with its clients and stakeholders. The IWG project has worked on two objectives out of four of the above objectives of SIDA i.e., ensure equitable distribution of irrigation water and promote farmers' participation. Indus Consortium has achieved the targets through an integrated approach in a sustainable manner.

The Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Authority (PIDA) Just after the enactment of the provincial Irrigation and Drainage Authorities in the provinces in 1997, the Area Water Board (AWBs) was developed at the canal level in the five AWBs. Within Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Authority (PIDA),

Area Water Boards (AWBs) have been formed which have assumed the responsibility of managing and financing the system's O&M cost of irrigation and drainage network progressively within its jurisdiction.

The AWBs are managing the system at the main or branch canals level. PIDA is pursuing the implementation of Institutional Reforms in the irrigation sector of Punjab. After the transfer of Irrigation Management to 85 FOs in the pilot areas; Lower Chenab Canal (East) Circle Faisalabad, 67 FOs in Lower Chenab Canal (West) Circle, 30 FOs in Chashma



Figure 3: Point of Start of Kauser Distributory, Dajal Canal

Right Bank Canal Circle, 10 FOs in Lower Jhelum Canal

Circle and 3 FOs in Bahawalnagar Canal Circle, PIDA has also initiated the reforms implementation process in Lower Bari Doab Canal Circle and Dera Ghazi Khan Circle. The activities of social mobilization to motivate and educate the farmers are carried out for their understanding and participation in the new irrigation system. The PIDA have appointed a Registrar for an Area Water Board and a Registrar at its Head Office who are performing all the functions relating to the registration of the FOs.

FOs are being registered in PIDA under the 1997 Act and irrigation management at the distributory level has been transferred to the FOs. Now FO is the mid-level organization to manage the secondary level irrigation system.

The PIDA has also registered the Khal Panchayats/ WCAs at the watercourse level representing the tertiary system, where farmers are responsible to manage the watercourses and involved in the formulation of the Katcha Warabandi and after approval of the irrigation department it becomes the Pacca Warabandi, which is required to address the conflicts and court cases.

Dajal Canal, Rajanpur comes under Punjab irrigation and Drainage Authority, whereas the Rangpur Canal, Muzaffargarh is not enlisted under PIDA reforms, thus headed by the Irrigation Department at Muzaffargarh and Jhang districts.

Secondary Stakeholders: Besides these primary relevant departments, agriculture and land revenue departments and other authorities working on water are the main stakeholders at secondary level, e.g., WAPDA, PARC and other civil society organizations working in water sector.

2. Project's Activities Progress

2.1 Project Objectives:

The overall Project Objective and the Specific Objectives are as follows:

OO: Improved Water Governance at Local level for Equitable Distribution and Better Management of Water and Enhanced Productivity

SO#1: To Strengthen Partner communities at local level for their Water Rights and Increased Cooperation

SO#2: To Catalyze the water policy formulation process at the provincial level and ensure the view point of tail end farmers to be incorporated in the provincial policies for Sindh and Punjab

2.2 Objective #1: Progress of Activities

The following Activity Performance Chart shows the overall picture of the planned activities as per Detailed Implementation Plan:

S. no	Activities	No. of events	Implemented in										
			Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	Staff Hiring	1	✓										
1	Inception and Review Workshop	2		✓							✓		
2	Alliance Meetings	54		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Sessions on Farmers' Guide Book	3					✓						
4	Meetings for SMS Service on Warabandi Information	3			✓								
5	Radio Messages on Water	2							✓	✓	✓		
6	Exposure visits for sharing learning	1										✓	
7	CSOs Training on Water Governance	3							✓				
8	Provincial Water Conferences	2								✓	✓		
9	Internship for (9) University students	1							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Documentary	2								✓			

The details of the above activities are as under:

2.2.1 Staff Hiring

As this phase is the continuation of the last year phase, thus some of the project staff was continued for the second phase and some new were inducted with the consent of the local member organizations of the Indus Consortium. Following is the staff for the second phase:

As a result of test and panel interviews, the following candidates finalized for the project:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Fiza Qureshi | National Project Coordinator |
| 2. Aatif Afzal | Media & Communication Manager |
| 3. Deeba | District Campaign Coordinator Muzaffargarh |
| 4. Urooj | District Campaign Coordinator Badin |
| 5. Arif Aziz | District Campaign Coordinator Rajapur |

2.2.2 Inception & Review Workshops

A three - day inception workshop was held from 21 to 23 April 2015 in the head office of Indus Consortium. The field project team including District Campaign Coordinators and the finance officers of the three member organizations, HO team and programme manger water ON participated in the workshop.

Objectives: The objectives of the inception workshop were:

- Providing opportunity to the project team for getting together and know each other;
- Imparting them comprehensive knowhow of the previous phase of the project, the comparison between the two phases, project goals and the strategies;
- Preparing project's Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) through a meticulous brainstorming exercise;
- Bring program team and finance team on one page to ensure the better documentation.



The detailed inception workshop report is attached as an **annexure - I**

A two - day review workshop was held on 27 & 28 October 2015 in PC Bhurbhan to review the progress of the project and way forward for the project sustainability. The project team did the exercise to evaluate the project and compared the phases of pre- project, End of 1st year, End of 2nd year and developed the expected results or outcomes as follows:

Pre Project Phase	End of 1 st Year	End of 2 nd Year	Expectations
Farmers were not educated properly about their water rights.	Farmers have started realizing and understanding their water rights.	Farmers are equipped with their water rights. They talk about them, give their references and took efforts to claim the rights.	Farmers will keep them updated regarding their water rights and continue their struggle.
They were hesitant and unaware the procedures of coordination with the relevant line departments.	Alliances were established and they have started taking steps for the mutual coordination.	They are confident enough and have good linkages and strong coordination with the line departments.	They will not only maintain the mutual coordination but will flourish it.
Proper Conflict Resolution mechanism was unavailable at local level.	Alliances have started resolving their issues at local level.	Alliances are developed as a Conflict Resolution platform at local level.	Alliances will keep continuing this work to ensure the peace in the area.
Academia was not engaged at that level.	Academia started participating.	Academia is fully involved and aware of the tail end farmers' issues.	Hopefully academia keeps on encouraging their students for conducting field level researches.
Irrigation department was not giving proper response to community.	Flexibility in attitude was observed during this phase.	Irrigation department has shown its full cooperation with alliances and responded their complaints and visited the sites to stop water theft.	The mutual cooperation will be continued.
Acute Water shortage at tail end farmers	-Farmers raised their voice and submit complaints and applications regarding water tempering and water shortage at tail end	Canals cleaning and maintenance done and surprise monitoring visits by the department are done which have ultimately reduced the water tempering and ensured water availability at tail end.	Farmers will continue their struggle and will ensure the water availability every year till tail end.
Water Course Associations were inactive.	Selected Water Course Associations made active	Water Course Associations have conducted their overdue elections with the help of SIDA.	-The WCAs remain active. Other WCAs will also get active after the trend set.
Females were considered unnecessary	-Females became the part of the alliance at	More females became active members at	More women participation will be

element regarding irrigation matters	Badin district and received all trainings and played active role through out	Badin. Females at Rangpur Canal also started taking interest in the matter and conduct their meetings. Their males became ready to allow them to participate in the events and meetings.	ensured. Community females will play active role to ensure water rights
Civil Society and local NGOs were unaware about the issue	Civil society members and local NGOs involvement was ensured in the consultative workshops and conferences.	Local Civil Society Organizations are trained on water rights	-Civil Society will support farmers in their struggle
Media was not highlighting the tail end water shortage issue at the required level	Local and national media was engaged. A group of journalists was trained over the issues.	A group of trained journalists have highlighted the issue par excellent in print, electronic and social media.	Trained group of journalists will keep continue their good work.
Community youth was not involved at considerable level in WCAs	Youth was encouraged to play a significant role in Alliances	Youth are engaged in the activities and own the Alliances	Youth will play a vital role in project sustainability
Provincial Policy making was not the priority of the irrigation department.	A rigorous networking, meetings and workshops have been conducted at local and provincial level and policy papers developed.	Irrigation Department and PIDA have started working on the draft. The project has supported Sindh government to have a zero draft.	Punjab and Sindh provincial governments will have provincial water policies.

2.2.3 Meetings of WCAs' Alliances

In first phase of the project, 10 WCAs at each canal were identified as per the criteria developed during the inception workshop, which mainly focused on the tail end small growers (having land from one to ten acres). The informal alliances were established at three locations to claim their water rights.



Figure 4: Group Photo of Rangpur Alliance members in the Alliance Office

More than the scheduled 54 Alliance meetings have been conducted in the reporting period to discuss their various issues on canals, developed their action plans and committees for effective coordination with the relevant government departments. All three alliances have developed their volunteer office setups at their locations. Besides regular monthly meetings, they conduct the meeting as per need for example the planning meetings of the visits

to government officials or to organize or participate in any event or to discuss any urgent matter.

Impact of Alliance Meetings: Partner communities are strengthened having the vibrant alliances who are empowered with tools and techniques of advocacy for their rights. They have built communication and coordination mechanism with relevant departments and having knowledge of their legal water rights. All the three alliances are well aware about the strength of unity and organizational development. They are running their volunteer office setups. They know the importance of record keeping. They are maintaining dispatch register and visitor book. They make their bi annual work plans in their planning meetings and work accordingly.

Case Study: Rangpur Alliance is the most organized alliance regarding organizational development. They have implemented more than what they have learnt during the last year training on organizational development. They have decorated the one room office with handmade charts on water rights, right to information case studies and different slogans. They have taken several appreciable initiatives like establishing purchasing committee and audit committee to ensure the transparency and accountability; developed registration forms, letter heads and stamps of the alliance, fixed a monthly fees on all members and the treasurer collect it regularly and give the status on monthly basis during monthly meetings. They decide mutually about the utilization of funds and are running their organization. General Secretary is keeping the record of each and every thing in an organized manner and keeps it in proper lock and key cupboard. They conduct their meeting weekly and now broadening their membership. Kissan Itehad Rangpur canal has engaged a legal Advisor for free legal services. Alliance president Manzoor bhai is a real local leader who have encouraged the youth to play their role in the strengthening of the alliance.

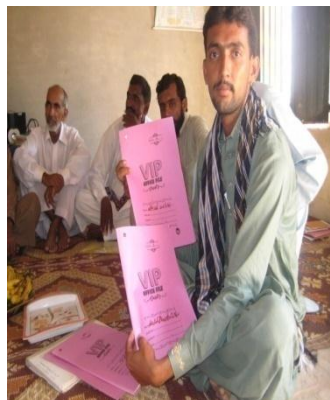


Figure 5: General Secretary Rangpur Farmers Alliance showing the Record Keeping

2.2.4 Training on Farmers' Guide Book

Background: The basic issue identified was that information about the Acts and Ordinances is not available in local and in simple languages, which is a pre-requisite for building capacity of the FOs and WCA/KPs. Thus, in the first phase, the consultants produced the research reports and developed a farmers' guidebook in which the relevant laws and guidelines are mentioned in detail that how the farmers can claim their legal water rights effectively and efficiently. The guidebook is available with Urdu and Sindhi Translations.



Figure 6: A Group Photo of Training Participants with the Trainer, Badin

Objective: Two-day training was given to the farmers' at all three locations on farmers' guide book in June 2015.

Main objective of the training was "To aware the farmers about the relevant laws of water governance, information of SIDA/PIDA and also about their roles and responsibilities."

Resource Persons: Mr. Nasir Panhwar delivered the training sessions in Badin and Mr. Khurram Saed delivered the same on both locations in South Punjab.

The resource persons were selected as per the selection process keeping in view their local language proficiency and the command on the relevant subject knowledge.

Methodology: The methodology of the trainings was interactive and participatory learning including plenary sessions, group works, short documentary screening etc.

Participants: Total number of participants was 78 including males and females.

Sessions: In these sessions participants developed their plan of actions, whereas citizens' charter on water rights, effective communication plan, preparation for meeting with officials, citizens' action public hearings, citizens' report card and media management were discussed in detail. An exercise was conducted to develop press release in group work.



Figure 7: Rengpur Canal Alliance Training

Impact: Training opportunities for alliance members does not only for enhance their learning but an opportunity for exposure and bonding social capital. All the participants of the trainings were enthusiastic and took it as learning, networking and confidence building opportunity.

In the previous phase of the project, they were trained about Fundamental Rights, Right Based Advocacy, Right to Information and Organizational Management. After receiving such trainings, they have set the model of well organized volunteer farmers' organization especially at Rangpur Canal. Similarly, they have started submitting applications to government line departments seeking information they need as per the RTI law. Success stories have started surfacing apace about government officials providing information they never provided before.

The detailed reports of the trainings are attached as [annexure – II, III and IV.](#)

2.2.5 Coordination with ID & SIDA/PIDA

Several meetings have been conducted with the relevant line departments by the alliances to improve the coordination and develop the linkages, which ultimately leads to the achievement of farmers water rights. All the three alliances have conducted meetings with different officials including XEN irrigation, Vice Chairman SIDA, Transition and Engineering Sections of SIDA, SDOs, SDCOs etc.

Now the alliance presence is in the notice of line departments. They have admired the unity of local farmers and have shown their cooperation with them.

Meeting on SMS Service(Khuli Katcheri with SIDA Vice Chairman): A detailed meeting in the form of “khuli katchery” or “Open Discussion” with Vice Chairman SIDA Mr. Nawaz Chandio was conducted at Laar Guest House Badin on 9 July 2015 and participated by 22 participants with a majority of tail end farmers. They screened the water documentary together. The farmers’ alliance shared the water shortage and water theft issues and discussed about the proposed SMS service on warabandi or rotation schedule. It was mutually agreed that as Akram Wah is a perennial canal



Figure 8: Meeting of Alliance members and XEn Rajanpur

hence there is no need for such service. This service may be used for the gauge information on daily basis and stopping of water due to any technical reasons e.g., during de-silting or other maintenance work on Akram wah.

The vice chairman shared that the WSIP is going to announce 4 billion for the rehabilitation of different canals, including 1.6 billion for de silting of the canals and minors, which will improve the scenario of water unavailability. He assured the farmers that he would take the notice of their complaints and take efforts to ensure the water availability till the last water course of Akram Wah.

This is an exception that the officials show their confidence in the farmers by sharing the undeclared development project budgets.

After this meeting, farmers remained in regular coordination with him and he took personal efforts for the de silting of the Akram Wah, stopping cases of water theft and ensures the water availability at the tail end.

Case Study (Surprise Visit of ID Officials): Kisan Alliance requested irrigation officials for surprise visit of Kousar minor. Finally officials of irrigation (SDO, Zilladar and patwari etc) visited minor on 22 Sep. 2015. During this visit alliance members represented tail end water users of Kausar minor. Executive members of Kisan Alliance led the way from visit started (Head of Kausar minor, Dajal canal). Motor bikes arranged for the visit. SDO Mr. Moazam Shah with his team visited minor and watched several cases of bank damage, cut over minor, illegal mogas, water theft through piping and peter engine. Visit duration was 03 hours (1:00 PM to 4: PM)



Figure 9: Inspection Visit of SDO Kausar Minor

Around 50 cases were registered on the spot. SDO instructed registrar (Moharir) for case filing and other legal conditions applied as per case situation. Continuous follow-up of alliance members build pressure on officials and net result given in increase (8 cusecs) in minor water discharge.

With this increase in water discharge five other (upper) water courses are automatically benefitted. They got enough water for irrigation. They cultivated the cotton crop and utilized their fields which were not irrigated earlier.

2.2.6 Learning, Sharing & Inter - Provincial Exposure Visit

Under this project, a team of tail end farmers' community leaders of Sindh and Punjab is developed to bridge social capital among the communities and enhance the water cooperation between the two provinces.

In first phase of the project, selected community leaders from Punjab visited the project area of Badin, Sindh and in the second phase selected eight male and female community leaders from Sindh visited both the canals in Punjab from 8 to 11 November 2015. During the visit to Dajal Canal, Rajanpur, the farmers' leaders from Rangpur Canal Muzaffargarh also joined them and similarly during



Figure 10: Inter Provincial Exposure Visit

the visit to Rangpur canal, the farmer leaders from Dajal Canal accompany them. Such initiatives proved to be a breakthrough in bridging the social capital and a step forward to enhance the inter provincial water cooperation between the two provinces, who have the history of conflicts over water sharing.

Case Study: When the farmers from Punjab, visited the coastal belt of Badin, observed the living conditions of deprived people in extreme poverty and the acute shortage of water in tail end and also the degraded land due to Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD) – a World Bank project with faulty engineering design, Mr. Faiz Karim, FO Chairman of Kauser Distributary and the President of Alliance Dajal Canal stated during the provincial water conference, Lahore - 2014 in front of 200 participants from government and other walks of life that “ Before visiting Badin, we were of the opinion that we are the most deprived growers being at the tail end of the Dajal Canal, who are not receiving the due share of water due to poor water governance and water theft by big landlords at head. After this eye opening visit, we must say that no one is deprived and under privileged like the tail end farmers of Badin.” Similarly, when Badin’s farmers back from the exposure visit of Punjab’s canals, Haji Abuzar, the alliance member of Akram Wah stated during the provincial water conference – 2015 that “ I think we (the tail end farmers of Sindh and Punjab) are same, deprived of basic rights and suffering from same water shortage and water theft issues. As our problem is same, we should be one to claim our water rights!”

The detailed exposure visit report is attaches as **annexure - VI**

2.2.7 Training on Water Governance to CSOs

One of the successful strategies of IWG project is to enhance the supporters' network through capacity building initiatives. Thus, three two- day trainings have been delivered to local civil society organizations on water governance in Pakistan at three locations of the project. The sessions were conducted in the month of September 2015.



Figure 11: CSOs Training, Rajanpur

Objective: “To Strengthen Partner communities at local level for their Water Rights and Increased Cooperation”.

Resource Persons: Conscious efforts were taken to involve the government officials of the relevant departments to get the benefit of their subject knowledge and rich experience on one hand and develop networking on the other. Mr. Mustafa Ujjan, Ex- Director Nara Canal, Dr. Fateh Mari Project Director WSIP, SDO (Imtiaz Abro & Imtiaz Burgiri) & the Assistant

manager Social Organizer SIDA (Amir Memon) , Ms. Sana from PIDA, Mr. Zain Malik SDCO Irrigation Muzaffargarh and other CSOs representatives gave detailed presentations around their work.

Presentation was given by Mr. Javed Hussain Deputy District Officer On Farm water Management Kot adu Muzaffargarh , in which he shared that they have free laser machines for land leveling, Drip irrigation system on 60 percent share of government and 40% farmer share, concrete water courses all material from government and labor charges by farmer.

Participants: In total 80 participants including males and females attended the sessions. The most of the CSOs were community based organizations.

Impact: Relevant information proved fruitful for the farmers participated in the sessions and they have spread the word as well. This forum, also provide them the platform for developing the direct networking with the concerned officials of the relevant departments.



Figure 12: Facilitator facilitating Group Work

It was also revealed during the preparation for such trainings that no NGO is working around the theme of improving water governance with relevance of irrigation. Most of the NGOs are working either on WASH and drinking water.

The detailed reports are attached as [annexure VII, VIII and IX](#)

2.2.8 Provincial Water Conferences

After one and a half year-long work under its Improving Water Governance and Promoting Water Cooperation project, Indus Consortium organized two one day Provincial Water Conferences on 13 October 2015 in Hotel Regent Plaza, Karachi and 12 November 2015 in Hotel Faletties, Lahore.

Objective: Purpose of these events was to present policy recommendations prepared through consultations with local communities, water experts, line departments and broader civil society; enhance the inter provincial water cooperation among the Watercourse Associations and tail end farmers of Punjab and Sindh provinces and showcase the project progress, achievements and success stories.

Speakers: Provincial Secretary Irrigation, Sindh Province , Sayed Zaheer Haider Shah chaired the



Figure 13: Provincial Water Conference, Karachi

conference at Karachi, whereas Nazeer Ahmed Memon , General Manager(Transition) Sindh Irrigation Drainage Authority (SIDA), Mr. Afzal Toor , Deputy General Manager Punjab Irrigation & Drainage Authority (PIDA), Dr. Bakhshal Lashari, Head of US- Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Dr. Mubashir from Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Mr. Ismail Kumbhar from Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Mr. Mustafa Talpur, Oxfam Asia - Even it Up Campaign Coordinator, Mr. Mehmood Nawaz Shah Vice President Sindh Abadgar Board, Ms. Raheema Panhwar from Strengthening Participatory Organizations (SPO) were the key speakers at Karachi.

The provincial water conference at Lahore was divided into three sessions i.e., Tail End Water Users & Equitable & Reliable Water Distribution (Community's perspective), Research & Development (Academia, Research Institutes & Industry) and Water Resource Management, Institutions & Policy Reforms(Relevant Institutes & parliamentarians). These sessions were moderated by Mr. Khalid Saifullah Khan, Program Manager Water Governance ON; Dr. Fateh Mari, Chief Economist Planning & Development and Mr. Mustafa Talpur (Coordinator Asia- Even it up Campaign Oxfam International) respectively. The key note speakers includes



Figure 14: Provincial Water Conference, Lahore

Dr. Sajid Rasheed Ahmed, Principal College of Earth & Environment Sciences, University of Punjab; Dr. Mubashir, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Dr. Arshad Ashraf, Principal Scientific Officer, CAEWRI, NARC; Dr. Rafiq A. Chandio, Director Administration US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water MUET , Jamshoro; Mr. Ghulam Zakir Hassan Siyal, Director Research (Physics), Irrigation Department, Punjab, Mr. Nazeer Ahmed Memon, Senior General Manager (Transition) SIDA; Madam Sadia Suhail Rana Member Provincial Assembly (PTI). Mr. Manzoor , Chairman Farmers Alliance at Rangpur Canal, Muzaffargarh , Paunjab; Mr. Faiz Karim , president Kousar Distri Rajanpur and Haji Abuzar from Akram Wah Alliance, Badin Sindh remain at the core of the heart of the conferences.

Participants: Small growers from Badin, Muzafargarh and Rajanpur actively participated in the conferences and present their case. Students and faculty member of Sindh University, Karachi University, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, officials from line departments, journalists and a good number of civil society organizations and water experts attended the conferences. More than 200 participants attended each conference.

Policy Recommendations: Following are the main policy recommendations presented in the water conferences:

- **Water Vision:** Sindh/ Punjab Water Vision is looking to water scarcity with growing population and more competitive sectors for water use in the scenario of climate change. Sindh/ Punjab needs a holistic approach by having a water vision supplemented by appropriate water policies.
- **Transparency /Information Sharing:** It is recommended that all information related to water availability, distribution should be shared with the stock holders in an open and transparent manner using modern communication tools like (GSM technologies) mobile phones, FM radio, internet social media well in advance to enable the farmer for taking appropriate decisions in crop nurturing and other water requirements. Similarly the crops produced needs to be recorded by using GIS and remote sensing technologies so that the outcome of per drop water use should be recorded in efficient manner and future planning could be made more realistic.
- **Equitable , Reliable Distribution of Water / Tail Water Scarcity:** All the tail end areas of our irrigation system face acute shortage of water in critical watering period's because of ages old deficient infrastructure, inefficiency of the staff, rent seeking behavior, political involvement and poor governance. The reliability and equitable distribution of water have become major question marks for our irrigation system. Observance of legal water rights should be ensured and small land holders, tail end farmers and marginalized farming communities should have special protective water rights.
- **Democratic / Participatory Water Governance:** Water Governance in Sindh/ Punjab needs to be streamlined with modern management practices, participatory approach and inclusion of all major stockholders in the decision making process by examining and inclusion the success stories from the developed and under developed countries . The continuity of reforms in water sector is crucial for sustainability of our system .Strengthen of Farmers Bodies, their empowerment, capacity building, and their role in management at primary level is quite important and fundamental. The missing link between irrigation bureaucracy and Farmers Bodies needs to be established and strengthened



Figure 15: Policy Recommendations Presented to Secretary Irrigation, Sindh

- **Conjunctive Water Use:** Pakistan has a limited pocket of fresh water aquifers, constant monitoring of ground water quantity and quality can add significantly to the water reserves of the Province and the concept of conjunctive water use needs to be introduced in fresh water zones.
- **Water Harvesting and Conservation:** Sindh/ Punjab need to develop a strategy for rain water harvesting in arid areas, and in water scarce irrigated areas. Natural depressions, lakes and water bodies' needs to be interlinked with canal network so that surplus water could be diverted to reuse. Promoting concept of small dams, water conservation technologies and introduction of low water consuming crops.
- **Research and Development:** Irrigation, water use, water efficiency needs to be constantly researched and developed as a policy of the government. Closer coordination with research institutions , academia and industry may be taken up on priority basis.
- **Re- arranging Cropping Zones:** With constant change in cropping patron due to socio economic changes , climate change , water scarcity and demographic pressures, the traditional cropping zones in Sindh/ Punjab needs to be re defined as per current / future land water use.
- **Drainage and natural water ways:** Ill planned drainage and encroachments of natural water ways had brought more devastation for the economy and people of Sindh. Being as flat topographic area Sindh needs drainage infrastructure keeping in view the sound engineering principals supplemented by local knowledge , folk wisdom and nature/ environment friendly alignments.
- **Efficient irrigation infrastructure:** With decaying infrastructure of Barrages, main Canal Head works , head regulators of channels and controlling structures our system cannot deliver efficiently , compete , and sustain . It is urgently needed to revamp the irrigation infrastructure by re visiting the investment priorities.
- **Coordination between Irrigation / Agriculture and RD:** For viable irrigated agricultural practices a closer coordination between Irrigation , Agriculture and RD D is needed at provincial , district and tahseel level to realize the economic potentials with better planning strategy as per agronomic practices and integrated development model
- **Water Budget:** Sindh/ Punjab need a balanced water budget with reliable data of water availability at our Barrage heads and its diversion to canals, GW pumpage, our actual requirements in different cropping zones and our distribution patron for Guddo Sukkar and Kotri Barrage commands.

The detailed reports of both the water conferences are attached as [annexure X and XI](#).

2.2.9 Cultural Sufi Nights – Bridging Social Capital

The capacity building is not merely confined to the trainings only. It is the enhancement of the competency of the individuals, communities and the organizations.

Improving Water Governance project and alliance building has promoted the social bonding between the farmers of the area and bridging the social capital between the farmers of the two provinces of Sindh and Punjab. The project beneficiaries are in nearby different villages which were scattered. This



Figure 16: Cultural Night, Lahore

initiative has offered a joint platform for them for their mutual issue of water shortage at tail end. It has enforced the unity in the area, encouraged the atmosphere of peace and helped them in building new levels of mutual trust between them. Similarly, in Punjab the communities of two districts of Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur have developed their friendship ties between them.

On 12 October, one day before the provincial water conference a reception was organized in the honor of farmers of Dajal and Rangpur at Karachi, Sindh and similarly on 11 November 2015 similar gathering was organized for the farmers of Akram Wah in Lahore, Punjab. The famous Sindhi Ajrak gifts presented to guests of Punjab by the community leaders from Sindh . The farmers of Punjab presented Faridi Rumal to Sindh’s farmers and expresses solidarity on water issues. Famous sufi local artists sung the poetry of Khawaj Gulam Fareed, Bulle shah, Shah lateef , Sachal Sarmast and other Sufi poets of Pakistan.

2.2.10 Proposal Development Training

A six - week course conducted on Project Proposal Writing for the Oxfam and Indus Consortium partners held in Murree and Islamabad, Pakistan from September 28 to November 5, 2015. Community World Service Asia - regional non-governmental organization- facilitated the course and Mr. Waqar Haider Awan was the resource person.

Objectives: This Training aimed to give participants the knowledge, techniques and tools used for writing winning project proposals. The course was aimed at allowing participants to gain analytical and practical skills on project proposal writing.

The main objectives of the trainings are to:

- Understand proposal contents
- Understand the role of project and the key activities to be undertaken at each stage
- Write quality proposals to solicit fund from available donors.
- Understand logical sequence of project activities, its output and rationale etc.
- Monitor and evaluate their Project
- Forecast risks in their program/project.

Participants: The training was joined by 17 participants (13 Men & 4 Women)

Methodology: A salient feature of the training was that it demanded active participation of all participants, making the learning a two way process. All the participants were gone through proposal writing stages practically and made to play vital role in success of projects.

Essential and regular feature of the training was trainer's evaluation by the participants. These exercises were aimed to judge the understanding level of participants and their needs, monitoring the sessions, maintaining a regular feedback and to gauge the level of learning taking place. A special effort was made to introduce new methods and tools of evaluation and warm up exercises (ice breakers and energizers) to keep the interest of the

participants alive and to familiarize them to the maximum number of methods and tools.

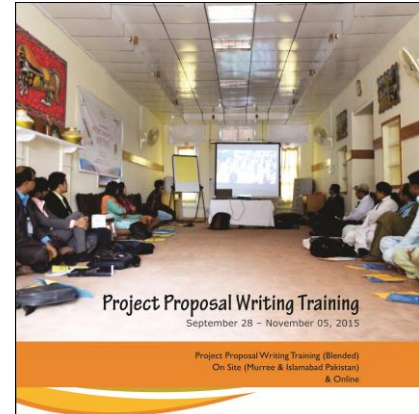


Figure 17: Project Proposal Writing Training

On Line Support to Training Participants: The second part of this course was the provision of technical support to all training participants. In the first part four groups were formed to develop their proposals. And in the second part they were provided with an opportunity to seek technical support from Resource Person i.e. Waqar Haider Awan. All groups finalized their proposals with the technical on line consultation.

The detailed report is attached as **annexure- XII**

2.2.11 MoUs with Universities

The Memorandums of Understanding are signed with Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam and Mehran University of Engineering and Technology under the project. Indus Consortium has already MoUs with Bahauddin Zakarya University Multan, Sindh University Jamshoro and Punjab University Lahore. The faculty members and the students of these above universities as well as Pishawar University have remained part and parcel of all the major activities of the project from first phase of

the project. The representatives of these universities participated in the provincial water conferences and other discussions and meetings of the project regarding water policy.



Figure 18: Project Team & LHDP Management Meeting with Sindh Agriculture University TandoJam

2.2.12 National Water Internship

National Water Internship has given under Improving Water Governance project to the university students to enhance their learning about water and development and emerge as future water leaders and change makers.

Objectives: Following were the objectives of the internship

- Enable students to generate an insight into the interaction between water, environment , society and poverty nexus;
- Create awareness about water governance issues at local level and inspire sustainable solutions;
- Broaden scope as responsible custodians of valuable natural resources;
- Skill development;
- Provide an opportunity to become an official ambassador of Indus Consortium



Figure 19: An Intern Collecting Data for his Research Paper in the Field, Dajal Canal

Activities: The interns did the following activities during the internship:

- Conduct research on water issues
- Develop one research paper on water issue at local level with the supervision of IC's water experts
- At least one write up a month on Indus blog on water and development issues
- Support in events organizing
- Participate in exposure visits
- Exposure with other universities and media
- Report writing

Nine male and female students of Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro; Bahauddin Zakarya University, Multan and Peshawar University joined the water project as paid interns at field level at all the three canals. All the interns have submitted their following research papers on the relevant topics of the water at the end of the project duration. Now there is need to publish these researches at

field level in a booklet form. Indus Consortium has given certificates upon successful completion of the internship with an honorarium of PKR.45,000 to each candidate on successful completion of the internship.



Figure 20: An Intern Collecting Data for his Research Paper in the Field, Rangpur Canal

S#	Student's Name	Affiliated University	Research Topic
1	Muhammad Shahid Mushtaq	Peshawar University	Impacts Of Flash Floods on Canal Irrigation System and Socio-economic Life of small farmers of Canal Command Area in District Rajanpur (Punjab)
2	Muhammad Tahir	Bahauddin Zakarya University, Mutan	Situational Analysis of the Irrigation Line Departments
3	Ms. Khalida Bibi	Bahauddin Zakarya University, Mutan	Women and Water at Dajal Canal
4	Aamir Mushtaq	Mehran University of Engineering and Technology , Jamshoro, Sindh	Assessment of soil quality apply on irrigation water of AliWah , Badin
5	Mian Noor Hussain Ashghar	Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam	Performance evaluation of unlined and lined water courses at tail end of Ali Wah Badin
6	Ms Sobia Baby	Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam	Water Quality Assessment of Ali Wah of District Badin for irrigation
7	Ms.Shan-e-Zahra	Bhauddin Zakaria University (BZU) , Gender Studies Department	Water and Female Farmer of Rangpur Canal
8	Ms. Uroosa Mahreen	BZU, Sociology Department	Impacts of Irrigation Water Shortage on the Lives of Tail End Farmers Rangpur Canal Muzaffargarh
9	Mahtab Anjum	BZU, Agriculture department	Effects Of Innovative Irrigation Water Management Technologies for Food Security

All the research reports by interns are attached as **annexure- XIII**

2.2.13 Field Monitoring Visits

To ensure the quality and to assess the gaps and field related challenges Indus Consortium management prefers to visit the field as and when possible. 13 day long (from September 6 to September 18) by road field visit of Punjab and Sindh was carried out by the team of National Coordinator and the National Project Coordinator. They visited all the three canal sites to assess the water theft situation, visited few project villages, and conducted detailed meetings with women at Rangpur canal and Akram Wah. Due to

the cultural barriers and strong feudal system, the women at Dajal canal is not yet accessed by the project team.

Detailed meetings have been done with the alliances and relevant government officials at district level. During the field visit, the team members attended the CSOs trainings which were planned in those days and facilitated a few sessions also to discuss the real time issues CSOs are facing and to integrate the water governance program with the other programs as

well. The team visited the water centre of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology and the head office of SIDA at Hyderabad to ensure their input in the policy drafts and their participation in the provincial water conferences. The future collaboration and cooperation were also discussed during such meetings.



Figure 21: Meeting with Farmers Alliance at Rangpur Canal

2.2.14 Water Mapping Study

A water mapping study of Akram wah Badin (focus Sher Wah large, Audu Wah and Ali Wah), as a pilot , to be carried out by the consultant through carrying specific tools including cameras, smart phones and GPS to get the data of:

- Illegally redesigned watercourses;
- Illegal pumping through pumping machines;
- Barriers raised in the centre of distributaries;
- Direct outlets;
- De-silting of canals and distributaries;



Figure 22: A Bird Eye View of the Canal

Study Objectives: The overall objective of this mapping is to strengthen the case of tail end farmers regarding the water theft and water shortage. The data would discuss total allocation of water on these canals and total area under cultivation. It is describing how much water is drawn illegally by taking record of the land, which is not receiving water because of over drawing of water by the influential landlords. This data would be helpful in the meetings with the officials to show them the real picture on the ground. Through this data, an interactive map would be designed that could be used for future discussions and references.

Findings: The consultant's team comprising of five persons surveyed 100 percent watercourses on Sher Wah Large, only one watercourse remained out of survey on Audu Wah while there was difficulty on Ali Wah as inspection paths on this wah were mostly damaged and watercourses were not reachable. Thus, only 34 water courses out of 114 watercourses were surveyed and mapped.

The water mapping study shows that:

- There is need to clear inspection paths on both the sides of Ali Wah in order to measure the watercourse sizes. Otherwise, managing to install a wood bridge close to the watercourse on the other side will help the irrigation officials to have close look.
- There is need to install iron gates on all watercourses of Ali Wah and Audu Wah that will restrict the head growers from using water share of the tail enders. Inspection paths of Sher Wah Large and its iron gates of watercourse can be used as a model.
- The mapping of all watercourses surveyed on these three canals/wahs is publicly available on <https://akramwahwatercourses.crowdmap.com> showing different categories of water courses that include widened watercourses, narrowed watercourses, unclear watercourses and those watercourse that are using water according to the original design.

The detailed narrative report of the study is attached as **annexure - XIV**

2.3 Objective #2: Progress of Activities

2.3.1 Initiation of Policy Discourse

Indus Consortium under the water governance project has always emphasized the importance of the provincial water policy. In the first phase of the project, the consultant carried a set of Focused group discussions with Farmers and Community representatives; Water experts and members of civil society organizations and the representatives of irrigation department, on farm water management and Area Water Boards at all the three project locations. In the second round, the consultative workshops were held at the district headquarter level. The objectives of these FGDs and workshops were to take the relevant stakeholders on board in the intensive process of formulation of policy paper at provincial level and to ensure the transparency and the effectiveness of the process by starting it from the grass root level i.e., from framers to the district level officials of the relevant departments and the local civil society organizations, academia and the media. By the end of the first phase, the consultant developed two policy papers each for Sindh and Punjab provinces, which were presented to the relevant secretaries of the provinces during the provincial water conferences.

2.3.2 Coordination & Consultations with ID and PIDA/SIDA

A regular coordination and a number of consultative meetings have been done with PIDA at Lahore, SIDA at Badin and Hyderabad and Irrigation Department at Karachi to work together on provincial water policies. From such meetings, it was assessed that PIDA has already taken initiative to work on the policy draft of Punjab Province. Hence it was decided to focus on Sindh water policy.

2.3.3 Preparation of Draft Policy Framework

Dr. Shahid Ahmed, the consultant conducted meetings with Secretary Irrigation Sindh at Karachi , who nominated a focal person of the department to produce the relevant data to Dr. Shahid Ahmad. Such data and the data from the field staff have supported to draft three documents on policy issues and policy framework. The CDs of the document were shared with the relevant stake holders during the

provincial water conference Karachi on one hand and presented to secretary irrigation in person on the other for his review.

The draft of policy issues and policy frame work are attached as **annexure – XV** respectively.

2.3.4 Consultative Workshop on Policy Framework

A one day consultative workshop on draft policy framework was organized in Karachi on 23 December 2015. The workshop was attended by 11 representatives of Irrigation Department, SIDA and WSIP from Badin, Hyderabad and Karachi. Dr. Shahid Ahmed gave detailed presentation on the draft as well as integrated with National Water policy, which is under hot discussion now-a-days. The participants shared their feedback on the draft as well as their suggestions to improve the draft.

Now draft is in revision by the consultant. After the revised draft, it will once again shared with the all relevant stakeholders and another consultative workshop will be organized on behalf of the irrigation department. This whole process needs an intensive coordination with the irrigation department and SIDA and requires atleast one year time. After the finalization and acknowledgement by the department, the process of policy advocacy and lobbying will be started with the parliamentarians.



Figure 23: Group Photo of Consultative Workshop

2.4 Media Engagement

Media engagement has not only remained as the part and parcel of each and every activity but the project team tried to plan the media related activities with the integration of other activities in order to maximize their impact. For example, one day before of the Provincial Water Conference at Karachi, two TV talk shows on local TV channels were recorded and on aired within couple of days. Similarly, a live radio talk show in Rajanpur was on aired when the training of CSOs was going on and IC management was on the visit who also participated in the talk show. The arrangements were made so that the participants of the training also listen the talk show during the training and discussed further on it. Moreover, when the other Alliance members visited Rajanpur, at that time they also arranged to have a mix live radio talk show having the representation of all three alliances. It strengthened the water cooperation objective of the project.

2.4.1 Radio/ Newspaper Messages

Alliance members on three project sites developed radio messages along with District Campaign Coordinators. They



Figure 24: Live Radio Talk Show XEn Irrigation Rajanpur and National Project Coordinator

took considerable interest in this activity. In total 20 (12 in Badin, 05 messages in Rajapur, 03 Muzaffargarh) messages in an innovative manner are developed and on aired on FM 105 Badin, Awaz FM 104 in Rajanpur, FM 98.6 in Muzaffargarh (F.M Jazaba can be visited on <http://ilynxfm.com/>). Six (06) talk shows (2 in Badin, 3 in Rajanpur,01 in Muzaffargarh) are on aired. Some catchy messages are also promoted through local news papers under title of *dhiyan talab* i.e., Attention Needed.

The radio messages and radio talk shows are attached as **annexure - XVI**

2.4.2 Poetry & Video Song

The project team has owned the project. It was not merely taken as the source of the job only but a cause and service to the communities. Ms. Deeba , the District Campaign Coordinator Muzaffargarh wrote a poetry in local language Siraiiki which is the depiction of all the issues of tail end farmers. It was then composed and sung by a local vocalist. She and the alliance members together developed the idea for its video recording and the alliance members played the role in the song's video recording.



Figure 25: Live Radio Talk Show on air in Muzaffargarh

The video of the song is attached as **annexure - XVII**

2.4.3 Press Conferences

Day before of the provincial water conference, a press conference was conducted by the farmers alliance Akram Wah Badin at National Press Club, Karachi to highlight their issues regarding water shortage, water theft, lacking of pro farmer provincial policy and outdated laws and regulations. Its news coverage can be accessed on the following links:

Growers' Press Conference Coverage: The News

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-3-345229-Govt-asked-to-take-action-against-water-theft>

Business Recorder October 13, 2015

<http://epaper.brecorder.com/2015/10/13/8-page/698862-news.html>

Soon afterwards, the Badin alliance decided to conduct same kind of press conference at local level to give the reference of water conference in which irrigation secretary took notice of their issues especially of water theft.



Figure 26: TV Channel Anchor Interviewing Farmers during Water Conference

2.4.3 TV Talk Shows

Three main TV channels of Sindh province i.e., KTN, Sindh TV and Awaz TV on aired the talk shows on the issue of tail end farmers having the representation of male and female farmers from Badin, while five TV channels made the packages of the conference which were on aired during the prime time.

The copies of the talk shows are attached as **annexure XVIII, XIX and XX**.



Figure 27: TV Talk Show at Awaz TV Channel

2.4.4 Coverage in Newspapers

Around 20 mainstream English, Urdu and Sindhi newspapers i.e., Daily Dawn, Daily The News, Daily The Nation, Daily Times, Daily Business Recorder, Daily Jung, Daily Kawish etc gave the considerable coverage to the events of provincial water conferences, press conferences and the exposure visits. These can be access on the following links:

The News October 14, 2015

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-3-345469-Sindh-government-World-Bank-rehabilitating-Guddu-Barrage>

Daily Times

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/14-Oct-2015/sindh-govt-world-bank-rehabilitating-guddu-barrage>

The Nation

<http://nation.com.pk/business/14-Oct-2015/sindh-govt-world-bank-rehabilitating-guddu-barrage>

The lead story under title “Badin: Growers of Badin are cheering up as water in its Ali Wah Minor’s tail has reached after 15 years following the struggle of water users’ alliance.” was published in Daily the News which has covered the success story of getting water till the last watercourse of AkramWah Badin after 15 years. The published success story can be access at <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-343777-Badin-growers-get-water-after-15-years>. This lead story and some other coverage is attached as an **annexure- XXI** to this report.

2.4.5 Documentary Film

A documentary film is prepared to highlight the success stories of the project, which was screened during the provincial water conferences at Karachi and Lahore. The 400 documentary CDs were distributed to the conferences’ participants. It can be accessed on Indus Consortium’s website. The copy of the documentary is attached as **annexure- XXII**.



Figure 28: Documentary Film Shooting in the Field

2.4.6 Linkages with Local Journalists and Press Clubs

In the first phase of the project, a workshop on water governance was organized for the local male and female journalists of Badin, Hyderabad, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Jampur and Rajanpur. They developed their action plan at the end of the workshop. Soon after the workshop, one local journalist from Badin developed a detailed documentary on tail end farmers issues of Badin, which was on aired on local TV channel KTN (which has the highest viewership in rural areas of Sindh) in prime time. Some other journalists developed the stories, wrote articles, and conducted interviews with the tail end farmers in their related newspapers and TV channels. It was a good start of linkages building of alliances and the team with journalists who have remained the supporters of the cause. When the IC management team visited the field , they also visited the press clubs. A vibrant group of water journalists in Pakistan is developed around the cause, who have linkages with each other through social media supporting the water cooperation between the two provinces.

3. Best Practices & Achievements

As all the projects, IWG has also taken its course with the natural pace of time, which is the pre requisite of advocacy projects. Improving Water Governance is one of the mega issues and having many micro level requirements to be addressed. A 19-month duration is insufficient to address all its aspects satisfactorily. Here the achievements are highlighted by discussing the lessons learnt , the best practices and strategies adopted by the team.

3.1 Tail end of Badin has Received Water after 15 Years

As discussed earlier, the last water course of Akram Wah Badin has received the water after 15 years,



Figure 29: Water availability has made women's life easier at tail end of Akram Wah Badin after 15 years

which is also highlighted by the Daily Dawn Newspaper in its leading story. The active alliance of farmers, the linkages with line departments at local level, coordination with ID and SIDA officials at their headquarter level has helped in the confidence building between the line departments and the growers. Previously, the farmers directly go for the sit ins or the protest in front of press clubs due to which the government officials became reluctant to heard them. The IWG project team assessed this issue and changed the

strategy to seek the support of government officials. Thus, the team invited them in various activities including trainings, FGDs, consultative workshops and conferences of the project, where there direct interaction with the farmers has increased. Slowly gradually the alliance has also learnt to make their different committees to resolve different issues. Those committee members have started visiting the line department offices and start discussing the issues with the government officials. The higher officials of the department also visited the tail end water courses at the request of alliance in a meeting. Such efforts resulted in the timely cleaning of water courses , actions against water theft and thus the availability of water till the last water course of Akram Wah Badin after 15 years. The farmers have grown the peddy crop this year, which was almost stopped sowing by them due to water shortage. Many households stopped migration to other water available areas. Women are very happy because the prosperity of the area is not only regained but they feel relax from fetching water for their household chores and drinking purpose. Now the sustainability of the situation is very important to cover the loss of previous years from health and nutrition as well as economical point of view.

3.2 Maintenance & Development Work

The IWG's dedicated staff and farmers themselves took tremendous efforts to make it a successful model, which was initially appeared very challenging to them as it was based on advocacy and there was no service delivery component in it. With the passage of time we all learnt that effective advocacy tools and strategies can make it possible to get hard component schemes passed by the relevant departments. The installation of gauges and the mogas rehabilitation at the tail end of Rangpur Canal, the cleaning of tail end of Akram wah well in time (which is also one of the reasons to reach the water till end) and the development of concrete water course of kousar minor over the bridge at Dajal Canal are some successful examples, whose impacts are major.

Case Study(Use of Help Line, Installation of Guages & Rehabilitation of Minors, Rangpur Canal): Kisan Alliance, Rangpur Canal started their efforts regarding the installation of gauges. They submitted their applications to SDCO (SDO) Irrigation 18Hazari Jhang and on 22-04-2015 they also registered their complaint on free complaint cell of Director Irrigation Punjab. Now 100pc gauges are installed on all miners (2R/3L, 4R, 4L, 5R, 5L) and more than 80pc mogas are rehabilitated. The remaining 20pc are pending due to farmer's personal disputes and issues, on which the alliance is also working. With the help of these Gages now farmers are able to pursue their water theft and water shortage issues to line departments with strong reference and proof. The Mogas of all target miners are rehabilitated, and some are newly constructed with the efforts of Kissan Rangpur canal. Through these rehabilitated Mogas now water wastage decreased which is one of the major problems regarding water shortage.



Figure 30: Gauge Installation

With the efforts of kissan Itehad Rangpur canal Irrigation department has allocated budget for the miner's rehabilitation. And now work is ongoing on miners. Last time budget was spend on these miners in 2007 period of President Parvez Musharaf .

Now the Rangpur Alliance is striving for Canal's cleaning and the Akram Wah Alliance for continuing of the canal maintenance every year so that they can get their due share of water every year well in time.

Case Study (Concrete Water Course of Kousar Minor): During flood 2010, Canal Bridge cracked with Rod-Kohi heavy flood. It needed to be repaired because it is a common way of local population and it may become the cause of incident at any time. Auspiciously a project started in the end month of 2014 by district government through which Rod-kohi channels had been rehabilitated/excavated (increase in water carrying capacity size) and damaged/cracked bridges also been renewed.

Alliance members write an application with detail and approach to PIDA office D. G. Khan on 27, May 2015. Here as per S. E



Figure 31: Concrete Water Course of Kousar Minor

instructions Alliance members submit application to S. E complaint box and got a complaint number. Superintendent engineer (Naeem-ul-Hassan) assure his fully cooperation. Alliance members got a number for follow-up against proceeding application.

Alliance members proper follow-up bring success. Construction Company received notification by concerned department to increase the width size of concrete water course of kousar minor over Canal Bridge. Alliance members go to the site and visit the constructed work. It is good to see that size of concrete water course over the bridge is more than the size of kousar minor

3.2 Self Help Initiatives

The regular meetings of Alliances have made them realized that they cannot rely on the government only but they have to be pro active and need to take some self help initiatives. For example Akram Wah Badin, the farmers of two water courses 33 BR and 28R took initiative of de silting the water course at self help basis in April 2015.

Case Study: Left side/bank of kousar disty breach 8 months ago, because of sudden increase in water level. This breach damaged a lot like crops, houses and animals. Local formers doesn't response against it, even they never inform or approach to the irrigation department and neither relevant department visited the site. After that when water came to the Disty it put some loses at local level.

A training session conducted by the Indus Consortium in Multan on Right to Information (RTI), where members of Alliance Group participated. In training session awareness given to the participants about how to approach the line department in any issue or how to get your rights and what would be the way. First of all write an application to the head of relevant department, contact to the department and deliver the application and make follow-ups. This session briefly explain with demonstration. Training session concluded and participants came back to their areas.

Alliance member focused on breach fulfillment of kousar disty and decided to follow the training learning (RTI). They call a meeting in which a brief application written with mutual understanding and signed by all members and nominate 5 members as a committee who will submit the application and also make follow-ups.

Alliance members succeeded and finally work started on 3rd February 2015. Breach fulfillment completed after 6 days continuous work, Alliance members look after the work and also take the responsibility to take care of working labor (Meal).

3.3 Confidence & Skills Building

Capacity building is not merely the trainings but the confidence and skills building people are acquiring and practicing from the whole process. The trainings on farmers guide book to claim their water rights, RTI and organizational development has increased the confidence level of farmers and has enhanced their communication and analytical skills. Through different (RTI, RBI, FGB, CSO) trainings, capacity of local farmers enhanced in confidence, behavioral change, ownership and leadership. People from other

minors taking interest in Alliance building, they want to become the part of this group. According to them tail portion of each minor facing crises, and this issue highlighted for the first time by the civil society.

Case Study: Provincial governments as per their policy give the seed to farmers as per their land occupation. Alliance member of Rangpur Canal Shah Muhammad said “Bar Dana is a burning issue of the days and farmer is facing many stumbling blocks to get the Bar Dana from government centers.” On Friday May 1, 2015 when he went to get his as well as physically disabled brother’s share of Bar Dana , the government officer denied to give him his brother’s share even . During their trainings, the complaint mechanism and use of complaint cells and numbers were discussed. He called on Toll Free Help Line number and told the whole story. “She listen my complaint with full concentration and said to wait for 5 minutes there. I was surprised when within five minutes the same officer called my name and handed over me my brother’s share of Bar Dana” said Shah Muhammad. He added that the knowledge and the relevant information is power, which gives the confidence. If the farmers become aware of such services, utilize them consistently, they can resolve their several issues, I hope.”

3.4 Conflicts Resolution & Water Cooperation

Conflicts are the potential area under water. It could be between the tail end big farmers and small farmers, between head growers and the tail end growers of the canal, between SIDA and Irrigation Department, between two districts, provinces and the countries where there is the matter of water sharing. The laws of the land talk about the due share of water, water rights and the water entitlements but the party in power try to grab the more by hook or crook. This situation creates the risk of conflicts because water is a political matter. IWG Project addressed this aspect at local level between the head growers and tail end growers and between the powerful and the poor growers through the strategy of developing friendly relations and negotiations.



Figure 32: Alliance Members Showing their Unity

The alliance building of the tail end small farmers, their activities, capacity building, linkages development with line departments and the media coverage and support has empowered the marginalized tail end farmers of Akram Wah, Rangpur Canal and Dajal Canal. The tail end farmers of Akram Wah formally invited the head growers and the powerful big growers of their area in a meeting, where they sensitized them regarding their issues in case of water unavailability. They convinced them that if the tail end poor farmer is not receiving the due share of water then the issue is converted into food insecurity and lack of nutritional values of their families specially children. If a big grower is getting low quantity of water then his less land will be cultivated but if the tail end small farmer is not getting the water then he became unable to provide food to the family.

Another potential area of conflict addressed under this project was the conflict between SIDA and Irrigation Department due to power sharing at local level. The irrigation department was managing all the canals since very beginning thus it appears difficult for the rigid bureaucracy to accept the participatory approach defined in SIDA reforms on one hand and the parallel system in the shape of SIDA on the other. The farmers are facing several issues on the ground due to their conflicts. Farmers are not clear that which issue is resolved by under which jurisdiction. Under IWG project alliance has highlighted this issue and brought it to the notice of all relevant authorities.

3.5 Women Empowerment

Women have remained at the heart of the project from staff hiring to the field level activities. The project is headed by a female as National Project Coordinator with two females out of three District Campaign Coordinators. Similarly special efforts were made to ensure women journalists in the journalists' water group. The internship students have almost the equal gender balance so that the females could be encouraged to take the water sector as their career.

Under SIDA/PIDA the FOs have the membership of the persons having land entitlements and most of the females are devoid of such entitlements due to cultural norms, taboos and

lack of education. The women in rural areas of Pakistan have vital role in agricultural development but due to such policies they are excluded from the mainstream. Although IWG didn't formed the new WCAs but it considered the women farmers' participation in the alliance as trend settler initiative at Badin. On the other two sites in South Punjab, the cultural and religious barriers don't allow their



Figure 34: Participation of Female Youth in Alliance Meetings, Badin

women to be in the mainstream. At Badin, women are the active members of the alliance and taking part in all activities including trainings, exposure visits and regular meetings. They have become very vocal for their rights now. The women at Badin has also developed their theatre group and prepared a theatre on the issues of water unavailability and the women issues in their area.

After the exposure visit to the other two canals in Punjab, these women visited the houses and met the women of those areas. The female project staff had also did some meetings with the females of those areas before the exposure visit. Now the men and women at Rangpur Canal are willing for women participation in the Rangpur Kissan Alliance.



Figure 33: Mai Hawa and Mai Basheera, Badin talking about the project achievements

After the exposure visit to the other two canals in Punjab, these women visited the houses and met the women of those areas. The female project staff had also did some meetings with the females of those areas before the exposure visit. Now the men and women at Rangpur Canal are willing for women participation in the Rangpur Kissan Alliance.

3.6 Strengthened Government Initiatives

SIDA is an initiative of the government to strengthen the participatory water management at water course level. SIDA is facing several issues regarding the proper implementation of its objectives due to strong bureaucracy of irrigation department and political influence of head and powerful growers. Due to such reasons, the FOs are not the true representatives of the small and poor farmers but the tool in the hands of some powerful landlords.

The IWG project has strengthened the two objectives out of four of the objectives of SIDA i.e., ensure equitable distribution of irrigation water and promote farmers' participation. After the 2 years continuous efforts, the SIDA and the farmers on Ali wah large took the initiative of FO's re- election and have elected their true representatives.

Senior General Manager (Transition) SIDA said during the provincial water conference that “ Infact Indus Consortium and Oxfam are doing the work of SIDA under this project. They have strengthened us.”

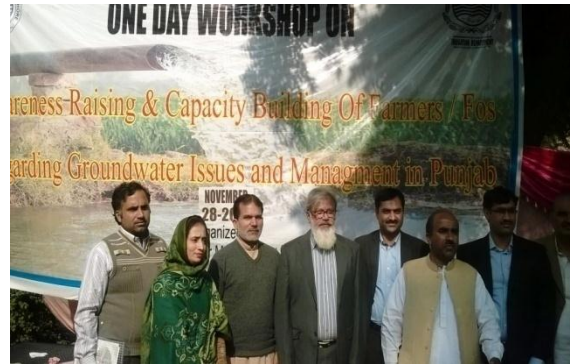


Figure 34: Participation of Alliance Members in Government Initiatives

4. Conclusion

The Improving Water Governance and Promoting Water Cooperation Project proved to be a successful project model as a step forward for “Improved Water Governance at Local level for Equitable Distribution and Better Management of Water and Enhanced Productivity” which is the overall objective of the project. Under its first specific objective it has strengthened the marginalized tail end farmers communities at water course level for their water rights and has taken the initiatives of promoting water cooperation by bridging the social capital between the farmer communities including males and females as well as the journalists of three canals and two provinces.

Under its second specific objective, it has worked as catalyst for the provincial water policy of Sindh. The document on policy issues is developed in which the viewpoint of tail end farmers is incorporated. In the light of the document, the draft policy framework is prepared, shared with the relevant stakeholders and the feedback of ID and SIDA as primary stakeholders and in future the owners of the document is sought in a day long consultative workshop.

Way Forward: The policy formulation is a time taking process. In 19 months duration of the project, the preparation of a draft policy framework after the intense consultation of all stakeholders and the beneficiaries is an achievement itself. For its finalization and acknowledgement by the Irrigation department, it further needs at least one year time and the required funds to carry on the coordination and consultation with the stakeholders and provide facilitation to the department.

For project sustainability at field level, a meager amount of funds and human resource is required so that the alliances do not feel abundant at once because the first year of the project was consumed in researches and alliance building. Nine months seems insufficient for inputs against the deprivations the poor communities are suffering from since decades. There is need to keep regular coordination with them so that their pace and speed should not be interrupted and the regular participation in the monthly meetings is needed to provide them the required guidance and facilitation. They also need some training refreshers.