

# LEAD UPDATE

December, 2012

## Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) development and consultation workshop in Thatta

15th-17th December, Thatta, Sindh



### Need for Adaptation

Climate Leadership for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (CLEAR), an initiative of LEAD Pakistan, is designed to address the growing threat of climate change to poor and vulnerable communities in Punjab and Sindh provinces of Pakistan.

The long-term goal of the project is to empower these communities to effectively articulate demand for an enabling policy environment for adaptation to climate change.

This will be achieved by a series of trainings and micro-projects, informed by rigorous research, to build capacity and raise awareness among communities on their rights in relation to climate change. In this process, the project will also design and implement localised models and plans for climate change adaptation in Pakistan.

### Where we stand now

The project team piloted a Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) development process in Thatta, a district of Sindh, during a three-day workshop in December.

The LAPA workshop was a logical culmination of a series of trainings and research activities. The training phase had started with a Training of Trainers, for 45 Civil Society Organisations (Partner Organisations for the CLEAR Project through whom additional LAPAs will be developed as well as implemented in the field), wherein basic knowledge of climate change was imparted. Each of the Master Trainers representing their organisations then replicated the training with 100 community members.

In the research phase, the project team carried out a vulnerability assessment in some of the major target districts (including Thatta). This was followed by Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), three each by the local partner organisations.

To ensure that views of a cross-section of community members are incorporated in the LAPA development framework, FGDs were carried out with farmers, labourers/fishermen and women.

### The LAPA development process

Farmers training on multiple cropping and developing new cropping calendars due to temperature rise

Farmers training on multiple cropping and shifting cultivation and harvest timings were the core components of the Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) developed in a three-day workshop to cope with climate change-related vulnerabilities in Thatta district.

The training will be based upon crops' calendars for commonly cultivated crops, customised for changing cultivation and harvest timings in the district. The calendar will be developed by the project team in consultation with farmers' representatives, local government departments and agriculture experts.

In order to incentivise multiple cropping, seeds will be provided to the farmers for the second crop under a cost-sharing arrangement among stakeholders.

The workshop was attended by members from the farming, fisherfolk and labour communities and representatives of the local government. Adequate representation of women and youth was ensured to incorporate their opinion in the LAPA. There were 29 people, of whom 20 were community members, three district government employees and six non-governmental organisations' (NGOs) workers, including CLEAR master trainers from Sindh Radiant Organisation (SRO); Sustainable Environment and Development Foundation and Sindh Rural Support Programme (SRSP).

Eight of the 15 male community members were associated with agriculture sector – two

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owned small landholdings, one was a sharecropper and the remaining five farm labourers. Of the remaining seven, two identified themselves as social workers and one each as a fisherfolk, a barber, a university student and a primary school teacher.

Three of the five women community members were household workers, who assisted their families with farm work besides the major job of fetching drinking water and firewood. One of the remaining two ran a sewing school and the other was a tailor.

Local govt support assured

District Officer (Social Welfare) Khuda Bakhsh assured the project team of the local government's support for implementation of the LAPA. He said the government could subsidise seed and other crop inputs and agreed to provide a liaison between the Agriculture Department and Partner Organisations in this regard.

Identification of key issue and its solutions

Earlier, CLEAR project manager Haseeb Kiyani had briefed the district officer (social welfare) and other participants on the LAPA developed in consultation with community members during the first two days of the workshop.

Farmers' training on updated crops' calendars and multiple cropping was one of the two solutions identified during the workshop to cope with reduction in crop yields as a result of more intense summers and changes in arrival of summer and winter seasons and subsequent changes in crop cultivation and harvest timings. The other solution, a d v o c a c y c a m p a i g n f o r government-led training program, was dropped on the basis of field force, resources, socio-economic impact and risks analyses of both solutions (toolkit developed to design LAPA Framework by LEAD Pakistan).

Hanif Mallah, a farmer, said in his view ideal cultivation and harvest timings had moved forward by two months in the past couple of decades. He recalled sowing wheat crop in between October and November in his youth and said that

the cultivation had now moved to between mid December and mid January in some areas.

He said that while some farmers had been capable of adjusting to changed cultivation and harvest timings, this was not the general trend. He identified prolonged spells of monsoon rains and floods, intense summers and debt trap as some of the factors leading to untimely sowing and harvest of crops, which caused lower than average crop yields.

Mallah, now in his 50s, recalled that per acre yield of rice on his family farm was up to 50 maunds during his youth. He said 40 maunds per acre was currently his best bet with the use of fertilisers and pesticides.

The participants agreed that loss of yields could be significantly reduced if farmers were trained on new cultivation and harvest timings, incentivised to adopt multiple cropping and regularly updated on flood hazards during monsoon. They agreed to mobilise support among farmers for a nominal sharing in the cost of seeds for the second crop. "They [farmers] will never agree to multiple cropping if they are asked to incurring all of the additional costs on their own. This will leave them extremely vulnerable in case of loss of crop due to disease or a natural disaster," they said.

Other issues

Besides the changes in seasonal patterns and subsequent fall in crop yields, sea intrusion, loss of fish population in Indus delta and lack of drainage of flood water were also shortlisted by the community and project team as major climate change issues of the district. These issues were finalised on the basis of the findings of a vulnerability assessment and nine focused group discussions (FGDs) earlier carried in the district. The latter three issues were dropped after the application of the LAPA toolkit, which computed the issue with highest probability of success at the local level on the basis of its intensity, support and causes of each issue. While sea intrusion and loss of fish population were identified as equally intense issues, the support available at local level was too limited and the causes beyond the scope of communities,

government and NGOs to tackle them.

Way forward

LAPA findings will form the basis of micro-projects which will be designed and implemented by partner organisations and community stakeholders in consultation with Government departments and supported by LEAD project team in the coming phase of the project.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Master trainers

- ↗Nasrullah Thaheem , SEDF
- ↗Rukhsana Abro, SRSP
- ↗Noor Serai, SRO

Community members

- ↗Allah Dino Burfat
- ↗Asad Yousaf
- ↗Faiz Muhammad
- ↗Ghulam Abbas Khatri
- ↗Hanif Mallah
- ↗Imam Bakhsh Khaskheli
- ↗Ijaz Khan
- ↗Irfan Somro
- ↗Inayat Ullah
- ↗Khan Muhammad Burfat
- ↗Marvi Bibi
- ↗Masoomat Jannat
- ↗Muhammad Yousaf
- ↗Muhammad Sharif
- ↗Razia Bibi
- ↗Raheema Bibi
- ↗Rizwan Brohi
- ↗Shamshad Ali
- ↗Shahida Akhtar
- ↗Shaharyar Shafi
- ↗Wazir Ahmed Khaskheli
- ↗Yousaf Ahmed
- ↗Zebunisa Bibi

Government officials

- ↗Khuda Bakhsh Brohi –district officer (social welfare)
- ↗Raja Dahar – Pakistan Steel Mills
- ↗Shaikh Noshaba – district government

Facilitated by

- ↗Haseeb Kiani
- ↗Umair Rasheed