

Sustainable Agricultural Development

Takhleeq Foundation underwent various projects in collaboration with different donors and partners to effectively influence on politics, laws for Sustainable agriculture development implementation and build the capacities of farming communities for the reduction of poverty and to sustain agriculture as back bone of development.

A.) Farmer's Training & Sustainable Agriculture Development

Takhleeq Foundation in collaboration with SAP-PK initiated Farmer's Rights Training & Sustainable Agriculture Development with farming communities / small farmers in four districts of Sindh i.e. Mirpur khas, Sanghar & Hyderabad and Nawab Shah for awareness raising, training and capacity building of small farmers on socio economic issues. This was initiated through formation & reactivation of Hari committees and provided them organizational support to form a network for advocacy on policies / planning at different levels & link it up with concerned departments for technology transfer. Through training & practical demonstration on sustainable agriculture, a pilot initiative to reinforce the united movement of small farmers was strategize.

Outcomes

This process was completed in 2 years from April 2000- December 2002 and small farmers groups from all over the four districts united to form a network SHAN (Sindh Hari Abadghar Network) with clear role and objectivities. Different Soil & Water protection and conservation techniques have been used to combat erosion, compaction, salinization and other forms of degradation. The organic means & IPM used by the farmers for sustainable agriculture.

B.) Dhall Research, Taxation System in Sindh

Takhleeq Foundation executed research on 'dhal system' in four districts of Sindh, i.e. Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Mirpur Khas and Sanghar and filled 240 questionnaires from the haris / small farmers of Hyderabad, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar and Nawabshah and in addition to that PRA method, focus group discussions, personal profiles were also employed to extract more information and secondary data was also extensively consulted on this issue to make the report more comprehensive.

C.) Small Farmers Training & Capacity Building Program

Takhleeq Foundation in collaboration with IDRF in March 2002–Dec2007 initiated "Small Farmers' Training and Advocacy Program" in five districts of Sindh viz. Thatta, Hyderabad, Naushero Feroz, Sukkur and Ghotki. The programs aimed at organizing the farmers through the formation of farmers' groups & build their capacity through training workshops, seminars/discussion dialogues, follow up meetings, publications and exposure visits. In addition to that farmers' communities were organized to build their capacities to advocate for their rights and issues at local and provincial level. During these training programs alternate means for economic development and skills for women were also

introduced. During this follow up duration, Takhleeq Foundation developed very supportive technical knowledge and information based and distributed among the farming community.

Small grants program was also initiated under this project to the group members in order to reduce poverty among the farming community and to make them self sufficient. This activity can improve farming methods and also income generating initiative will reduce their poverty and uplift their life standard. A concept of matching grant was introduced by T F. For this purpose, all groups (Male and Female) were saving money by their members and Takhleeq Foundation matched the same amount to each group under certain TORs fixed by groups and the Foundation. This amount was not only used for income generating projects and profit was shared on equal basis among the group members and if disbursed among the group members for some specific period of time.

Achievements

- Farmers community rely on FYM and Neem compost instead of fertilizer
- Farmers have been utilizing Neem pesticides instead of chemical pesticides
- Improvement of saline soils and farmers save their own seeds
- Farmers are utilizing their available natural resources for the Improvements of soil fertility, bio-diversity and natural resources management
- Cultivate medicinal plants, green manuring crops, trees & mushrooms for income generation
- Farmers executed income generation projects for reducing poverty, through matching grant initiatives i.e. SEED BANKS, LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY FARMING, GOAT RARING, MINI SUGAR MILL UNITS, FISIH FARMING, and POLUTRY FARMING
- Farmers managed crops in the light of IPM techniques and reduce input costs, protect their environment and saved females from -ve impacts of pesticides.

D.) Research Study on Economics of Ecological Agriculture Awarded by South Asia Network on Food Ecology & Culture (SANFEC)

South Asia Network on Food, Ecology & Culture (SANFEC) supported by International Development Research Center, Canada granted a research award to Takhleeq Foundation for conducting the research on economics of ecological agriculture for promotion of sustainable agriculture.

Takhleeq Foundation involved small farmers as a researcher with the prime objectives to assess & compile the information, wisdom and indigenous practices. In a border sense it is planned to collect–consolidate–compile the knowledge base of cost effectiveness to recognize the importance of farmers' knowledge and their findings on bio diversity and sustainability of genetic resources and maintenance of biodiversity at gross root level. Takhleeq Foundation conducted in four ecological regions to assess the economics of ecological agriculture with the comparison of existing practices. In addition Government officials were also involved in this research for

sharing of information. Questionnaires, FGD, PRA and interviews followed the process of research in each district. After data collection, data assessed the economics of ecological agriculture, data tabulation (through coding – decoding methods) with relativity to overall production of crops. Then data was analyzed through SPSS properly.