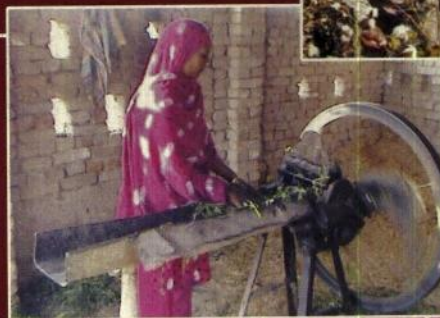
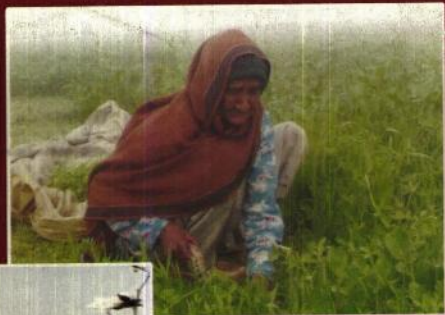


# DIARY 2013



**Women of Pakistan:** The Unsung,  
Unrecognized Heroes in Agriculture



Concept & Research

Tasneem Ahmar

Research Team

Shaista Yasmeen, Sundus Hamid,  
Nida Naseem, Shujaat Ali,  
Hina Imam, Zulqarnain Naqvi,  
Syed Ahsan

Sources

Newspaper, Magazines, Books,  
Journals, Newsletters and the Internet

Cover & Layout

Gulfam Gull & Syed Ahsan

Editing

Tahira Abdullah

Published by

Uks-A Research, Resource and  
Publication Centre on Women  
and Media

Address

House No 51-A, Street No 63,  
Sector F-8/4, Islamabad

Tel

# 7/1 C, 1st Floor Stadium Lane 1,  
Khadda Market, DHA, Karachi

(+92-51) 2850906

(+92-51) 2850908

Fax

(+92-51) 2850908

E-mail

Info@uksresearch.com

Date of Publication

January, 2013

www.uksresearch.com

# DIARY 2013

www.uksresearch.com

## Women of Pakistan: The Unsung, Unrecognized Heroes in Agriculture



Uks - A Research, Resource & Publication Centre



It was in 1989 that I visited a village called Khijrarai in Tharparkar in connection with an ethnographic research project for my Master's thesis. The research required me to observe, discuss, and explore the role of 'development campaigns' on health, education, and agriculture run by the government in the media.

During the course of my research, I continually interacted with the women of the village. This was my first serious interaction with rural women and I observed them as they went about their work. They worked very hard to simply make ends meet; the level of daily work, the sheer labour that went into completing their tasks is something unimaginable to most urban folk. The village women would be up by the first light of dawn. They would begin their day by feeding their animals, after which it would be time to prepare breakfast for their family members, husbands, brothers, children and so on. Thereafter they would begin cutting the fodder for the animals, and follow up with household chores related to cleaning, washing, fetching water, cooking etc. Then they would go out to work in the fields.

Although both men and women in the village worked, I discerned an important difference between the men and women so far as their workload was concerned, and in the distribution of labour between them. The women clearly seemed to play a more important role through the caring and grazing of animals, fodder collection, cleaning of animal sheds and processing of milk, whereas the men appeared to be responsible for fodder production. It was the month of June, and at the height of the summer season the mercury was at its most ruthless; by noon the temperature soared so high that it was impossible to remain outdoors. And yet these women continued with the cotton and chili picking. I remember how I once insisted on joining them as I wanted to try cotton picking myself, probably romanticizing the process. The women in the fields tried to talk me out of it saying it was not something I was 'cut out for', but they finally gave in at my insistence. So, very proudly I adjusted the '*jhola*' (sack) on my side and started to pick the cotton and deposit it in the sack. This task had to be performed all in one go while bending all the time. Believe me, I could not continue for more than fifteen

minutes. The work was so strenuous, and so totally back breaking that I had to concede defeat. I realized I was not 'cut out' for this work, something that millions of my fellow women do every single day of their lives, without complaint and without acknowledgment, leave alone appreciation and reward. All this time, with the sun high in the sky, the men of the village relaxed, smoking away and chatting. Their work was limited to preparing the fields while these women, who also had the added responsibility of looking after and caring for their families, did the rest. That was when it dawned upon me how my country, and my own daily existence, was so dependent on the hard work of these rural women.

Until now, my knowledge so far as the contribution of these rural women was concerned had been dependent upon what I had read. I knew that women made up half the rural population and that they constitute more than half the agricultural labour force. I also was aware that rural women in particular are responsible for half of the world's food production and produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food in most developing countries. Yet, their real problems dawned upon me when I personally interacted with them. That is when I realized how, despite their hard work and full contribution in agricultural production, these women remain the most underestimated and overlooked in development studies and schemes.

Since my experience in Khijrari, I realized what a tough life our rural women lead. Actively and extensively participating in the production of major crops and other farming operations, they contribute to household income through farm and non-farm activities, particularly through cottage industry. And yet, women's work as family labour is not only underreported, ironically they also suffer domestic violence. I remember asking a woman why she did not protest or try to stop her husband from beating her, and her reply was, 'but this is what all of us (women) go through all our lives, so why complain?'

This year's desk diary is a tribute to the millions of rural women who give their sweat and blood to keep the agricultural economy running, who enjoy few, if any, privileges and freedoms, and who are particularly vulnerable

to discrimination, exploitation, and violence. The diary may not in any way change their lives for the better, but it is imperative that the sheer hard work these women undertake on a daily basis, throughout their lives, is recognized and honoured, and their contribution to the national economy highlighted. The diary also indicates the various problems faced by the rural women of Pakistan. It is high time that the contribution made by these unsung heroes in agriculture is duly acknowledged in the forthcoming national agricultural policy, as also in the area of rural development planning and strategy.

Wishing you a peaceful and productive new year!

*Tasneem Ahmar*

Tasneem Ahmar

Director, Uks Research Centre





## Recognize Women as the Backbone of Pakistan's Agriculture and Food Security

Imagine what would happen if all the rural women working in agriculture, in the cotton growing areas of Pakistan, were to go on strike for just one week at the height of the cotton harvesting season. It is mind-boggling. Consider this:

The entire cotton cash crop – traditionally by far the largest export income earner for Pakistan – would go unpicked, as men do not deign to do this back-breaking, painful and health-hazardous task; Pakistan would lose billions of rupees/dollars worth of exports, foreign exchange earnings, international credibility and stature as a world cotton exporter; there would be a huge hole in the pockets of the rich feudal landlords, tribal chieftains and politico-“spiritual” dynastic families of the cotton belt, and their peasant serfs (haarees and mazaraas) would get beaten up or worse, the women would most likely get abducted/kidnapped, sexually assaulted, publicly disrobed, gang-raped, acid-disfigured, or even be falsely accused of dishonouring their tribes and clans by illegal injustice councils – the banned but still-functional village Jirgas and Panchayats – and be sentenced to death in “honour” killings (sic).

Further, children, the elderly and the sick would go untended; entire families of landless peasants would go hungry and thirsty, since it is women who fetch water for domestic use and fuelwood for cooking, do the cooking, grow and cut fodder for tending the livestock, and process livestock manure for bio-energy; cows and buffaloes would go unfed and un milked, goats and poultry would go untended; milk, cream, butter and yoghurt would go unprocessed and unsold; fields and kitchen gardens of vegetables and herbs (both medicinal and food) would fester and die; waste disposal and sanitation would not get done. Urban populations would start to feel the pinch within a few days, as fresh milk (which is also the base for UHT carton milk), dairy products, fresh produce of vegetables and herbs would start disappearing from markets in nearby cities, causing a widening ripple or domino effect of demand vs. supply across the country.

In short, the rural backbone of the economy would come to a screeching, grinding halt. Mind-boggling indeed. And what

would the consequences be? They would unite to go on strike for the basic human right to be recognized as WORKERS; for agricultural workers to be included in the official definition of LABOUR in the Pakistan Labour Force Survey statistics; for women working in agriculture to not be termed “family helpers” and thus remain unremunerated for their labour; for women to receive a just, decent and living wage for their work in agriculture and livestock; for women to be registered and to be eligible for social protection and social security benefits, especially education and health for themselves and their children, through the Employees Social Security Institutions (ESSIs), Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), Employees Old-Age Benefit Institution (EOBI) and others; for the right to be protected from exposure to hazardous labour (OSH rules) such as cotton-picking and processing; for the right to equal wages for equal work as per ILO Conventions to which Pakistan is a State Party; for the right to education and skills training through women agricultural extension workers; for the right to cheap agricultural credit without inaccessible collateral; for the right to unionize and organize and CBAs; for the right and the means to form women's farming and livestock cooperatives; for the right and the NEED to be counted in official labour statistics and women's economic productivity and contribution included in the GDP; for the right not to be corporatized; for the right to be free of Monsanto seeds, BT cotton, chemical fertilizers and pesticides; for the right to organic farming; for the fundamental right to identity through the CNIC and other official documentation; for the basic right to be recognized as a Woman-Headed Household wherever applicable; and, ABOVE ALL, FOR THE RIGHT TO LAND TITLE OWNERSHIP OF A MINIMUM OF ONE ACRE (PREFERABLY MORE) OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN A WOMAN'S OWN NAME.

This is not much to ask for; it is not revolutionary, it is not inconceivable, it is not unreasonable, it is not illegal, it is not unjust; but it IS mind-boggling in the current deplorable situation of rural women working in agriculture in Pakistan. That is not to ignore the plight of landless men farmers who work as exploited haarees and mazaraas of the big feudal landlords, with negligible remuneration or a few sacks of



grain instead. However, it is still the responsibility of the women to ensure food security for their children and for a minimum of three generations of extended joint families living together in abject poverty and injustice.

Both poverty and hunger have a female face in Pakistan, primarily in agricultural rural areas. It is a silent face, as it is far away from the urban lights, secluded, segregated and without mobility or access to either callous government authorities in provincial capitals – or even district headquarters – and sadly, also without access to most of the popular media to expose their plight, or to most of the civil society activists and non-government organizations. Those CSOs and NGOs and activists who have been and continue to speak up on behalf of the exploited rural agricultural women are few and far between.

We need many many more rights activists, CSOs/NGOs and media stalwarts to confront Governments to tackle the mind-boggling statistics: absolute poverty: 54%; transient poverty: 73%; feminization of poverty: 3:1 f/m ratio; food insecurity: 52% (conservative estimate); food inflation: 25%pa; unemployment rising alarmingly but statistically incorrect and unacknowledged due to official mis-definitions of “labour”, and of agricultural women in the labour force.

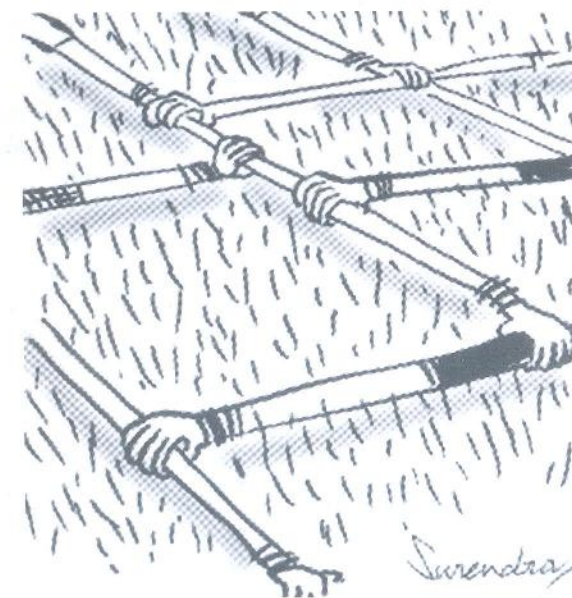
It is important to acknowledge friends and veteran activists on behalf of the rural agricultural poor (especially rural women), like Najma Sadeque, who has been in the vanguard of writing, filming and speaking up; and Nigar Ahmad, who organized the very first Peasant Women's conference way back decades ago. I thank them for opening my eyes to the silent tragedy of Pakistani rural agricultural women, to food security issues, to rural poverty, to the feminization of poverty in Pakistan and its inextricable linkage with VAWG. I thank Tasneem Ahmar for taking up this vitally important but neglected subject for this year's Uks Diary. The mistakes of omission and commission that I have made along my journey of discovery through my three decades of research and travels across the length and breadth of Pakistan are, however, my own...

Hunger does not recognize economic downturns or recessions, or WTO Agreements (e.g. Agreement on Agriculture; or TRIPS being applied to our heritage of, *inter*

*alia*, Haldi, Neem and Basmati), or outmoded definitions of who is to be counted as “labour” – whether organized or unorganized. Hunger lies down and quietly dies an unlamented death... without candlelight vigils, without dharnaas over unburied coffins, without demonstrations, without marches (long or short), without banners, placards and posters. It is simply a blot on our collective conscience. But is anyone out there? Listening? Watching? Doing anything? Or even concerned one iota?

**Tahira Abdullah**

Socio-economic development worker,  
peace activist & rights defender  
Islamabad, January 2013





## An acre for every woman

In his famous essay "Poverty and Famine", the Nobel Laureate for Economics, Amartya Sen, writes that contrary to popular belief, famines are not caused by food shortages.

He adds, "Harvest failures, reductions in food imports, droughts, etc, are often contributing factors, but far more important are the social systems that determine how a society's food is distributed. Absolute scarcity, insufficient food to feed everyone, is extraordinarily rare. Vastly more common is for an adequate supply of food to be beyond the reach of those who need it most."

In other words, people starve not because there is not enough food to feed them but because food is unaffordable. It is also important to note that starvation is not the extreme condition of going without food. It also implies insufficient food intake so as to cause malnourishment.

Where does Pakistan stand today in this context? According to the World Food Programme's data of 2008, 77 million Pakistanis suffer from food insecurity. Food security is said to exist when people have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food at all times.

The plight of these 77 million hungry people, including young children, should be a blot on our collective conscience. We have seen this happen a number of times - remember the sugar crisis, the wheat crisis, the onion crisis? But nothing causes a stir in government circles whose duty it is to ensure an adequate supply of affordable food to the people.

Against this backdrop, I found the move by the Green Economics Initiative of ShirkatGah to launch a campaign for 'an acre for every woman' extremely inspiring.

Najma Sadeque, the head of the Green Economics Initiative, is firmly of the belief that if women are given the title to a little land they will grow enough food to feed their family and sell

the surplus they produce. Thus they will meet their other needs. The idea is not far-fetched because at present 80 per cent of the work on farms is performed by women in the form of unpaid female labour. It receives no formal recognition.

To provide an acre to every woman would call for some kind of land reforms which amounts to asking for the moon in Pakistan today. Hence ShirkatGah's slogan 'an acre for every woman' also offers an alternative, 'or at least 16 square feet'. What use will 16 square feet be for agriculture, one may ask.

The answer came in the daylong workshop to mark the launch of the campaign. Experts who have spent a lifetime growing vegetables, flowers and trees gave very practical and simple step-by-step instructions on how very limited space even flowerpots, bins and crates can be used to grow various plants. It seemed doable and offered many advantages.

Mahmood Fatehally, whose experience and skills in growing flowers and plants have made him a leading practitioner of organic farming in Pakistan, made a claim that doesn't appear to be exaggerated. He said at the workshop where his talk focused on composting, "If people take to growing vegetables in their gardens, balconies and other open spaces available to them, the food situation in Pakistan will be transformed within a year."

His Sohana farm that fell victim to the Lyari Expressway in Karachi and was badly truncated provides ample testimony to the validity of his claim. Demonstrations by Rahat Haq, an ardent devotee of farming and gardening, made the process of growing and nurturing plants appear to be simple. Rahat's lively personality is enough to motivate people to take to gardening.

Another inspiring presentation came from Naweel Mangi who is seeking to set up a model village in Khairpur under the aegis of the Ali Hasan Memorial Trust she has set up to honour her grandfather. With less than Rs.1,000,000 this young volunteer has set up a sewerage system that has



transformed the sanitation in her village while providing extra water for irrigation.

These initiatives should be encouraged for several reasons.

First, they show the way to people to seek a solution to their problems through strategies that are based on the principle of self-reliance by seeking indigenous approaches.

Second, they are low-cost and can be undertaken by the people themselves with minimal financial assistance and support.

Third, they are feasible and do not call for radical changes in the status quo or high-tech machinery. It is likely that a campaign to get people to grow their vegetables in their home gardens would act as a catalyst and reduce food inflation in the country.

As for the human impact of this campaign, it would be tangible. As Rahat Haq pointed out, the vegetables that will be grown and consumed will be organic and fresh and will therefore have a positive effect on human health. The women growing vegetables will feel a visible impact on their self-esteem and dignity as they will gain control over their lives and will be empowered. Vegetable farming by wives of small cultivators would loosen the grip of the landowners on the peasants.

If the campaign is to really take off ShirkatGah must take more people on board. Above all, it must enlist the involvement of community-based organisations and perhaps some government agencies too. The idea is not just to disburse financial assistance. The need is also to disseminate the idea. Technical guidance and assistance can also be provided by using the electronic media to mobilise women.

**Zubeida Mustafa, Dawn, March 09, 2011**

## **'An acre for every woman' launched**

Lahore: A campaign was launched by Shirkat Gah called "An Acre for Every Woman" on Wednesday. The idea behind this campaign is that if women are given adequate land, not to own but to use for their lifetime, they can grow enough for their families. "This area is estimated to be about one acre for each woman and one of the concepts behind Shirkat Gah's Green Economics Initiative," said Nimra Amjad-Archer, Environment Officer at Shirkat Gah and Founding Director at Pakistan Sustainability Network. Khawar Mumtaz, CEO Shirkat Gah introduced the aims of the Green Economics Initiative at Shirkat Gah. "The Green Economics Initiative focuses on globalisation, environment, agriculture, food sovereignty and livelihoods, especially from the women's perspective," she said. "It looks for answers towards equitable social and economic policies and their genuine implementation." She said the launching programme had first been initiated in Karachi by the Green Economics Initiative with its focus on land-access for peasant women towards household food security and women's farming entrepreneurship, as well as better micro-land use by urban women.

"It aims for solutions to various social, economic, political and legal obstacles coming in the way of its objectives," she explained. Najma Sadeque, head of Green Economics Initiative, spoke about the need to bring back the concept of "commons" where the community could grow food for their own needs. She introduced the concepts of Matka Gardening, Seed Bombing, organic gardening and showed films on how



## کھیتی باڑی کرنے والی خواتین زراعت کے شعبے میں انہیں خود انحصاری دی جائے

خشک پہاڑوں اور کچی بستیوں کے گرد و نواح میں لہراتی ہوئی سنہری باجرہ کی فصلیں کاٹتے ہوئے یہ نازک چوڑیوں والے دو ہاتھ سوچ رہے ہیں کہ گھر میں بچے اور گھر والے بھوکے ہیں اور مویشیوں کو بھی چارہ ڈالنا ہے مگر سب کا خیال رکھنے والے یہ دو نازک ہاتھ بھول رہے ہیں کہ صبح سے وہ بھی اب تک بھوکے ہیں۔

جی ہاں!! آپ بالکل صحیح سمجھ رہے ہیں یہ ان خواتین کی بات ہو رہی ہے جنکی زندگی کا بڑا حصہ گھریلو کام کاج کے بعد کھیتی باڑی کرتے گزر جاتا ہے اور وہ بھی بغیر کسی صلے کے گھر میں موجود تمام افراد کے کھانے پینے اور مال مویشیوں کی دیکھ بھال کرتی ہیں، یہاں تک کہ کھیتی باڑی میں مردوں کے برابر کام کرتی ہیں۔ مگر ہم دیہات میں رہنے والی ان اہم ہستیوں کو نظر انداز کئے بیٹھے ہیں۔

اگر ہم اپنے ملک میں رہنے والی خواتین کو فراہم کی جانے والی سہولیات کا احاطہ کریں تو پتہ چلتا ہے کہ آج اکیسویں صدی کی خواتین اتنی ہی ضروریات زندگی و وسائل سے محروم ہیں جیسے آج سے پہلے تھیں۔ دیہی علاقوں میں خواتین کی صحت کا خیال ہر گز نہیں رکھا جاتا اور نہ ہی ان کی صحت کے مسائل کو اہمیت دی جاتی ہے جس سے بڑی پیچیدگیاں پیدا ہوتی ہیں جو اکثر اوقات ان کی اموات کا سبب بن جاتی ہیں۔ لمحہ فکریہ ہے کہ سب کی صحت کا خیال رکھنے والی ان خواتین کی صحت کا خیال رکھنے والا کوئی نہیں۔ نہ ہی ان کے کام کو سراہا جاتا ہے بلکہ کھیتی باڑی کے مشقت بھرے کام کو سرے سے شمار ہی نہیں کیا جاتا حالانکہ حقیقت یہ ہے کہ اگر دیہی خواتین کھیتی باڑی کرنا چھوڑ دیں تو زراعت کا شعبہ روبہ زوال ہو جائے گا کیونکہ زراعت میں پاکستانی خواتین کا ساٹھ سے ستر فیصد کردار ہوتا ہے۔

دیہی خواتین کھیتی باڑی کرنے کے باوجود مخدوش حالات اور پست معیار زندگی کی وجہ اس کا کم پڑھ لکھے ہونا یا ان پڑھ ہونا ہے جس کی وجہ سے وہ اپنے حقوق نہیں پہچان سکتی اور بے زبان جانور کی طرح ساری زندگی مشقت کرتی رہتی ہے اور پھل دوسرے کھاتے ہیں۔ ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ کھیتی باڑی کرنے والی خواتین کو معاشرے کا اہم حصہ گردانا جائے اور ان کو کھیتی باڑی کے کام میں خود انحصار بنایا جائے تاکہ دوسرے شعبوں کی طرح زراعت کے شعبے میں بھی وہ اپنی الگ پہچان بنائیں اور اپنا معیار زندگی بلند کر سکیں۔ ان کی صلاحیتیں تسلیم کرنے سے زراعت کا شعبہ مزید ترقی کرے گا اور ملکی معیشت مضبوط تر ہوگی۔

روزنامہ اوصاف - ۰۹ ستمبر ۲۰۱۲



مقام: کسان خواتین کی خدمت میں کسان خواتین ہیں

Jang\_12-13-02

## Do Women really feed the world?

Despite their contributions to food security, women tend to be invisible actors in development.

Do women really feed the world? Let us consider the evidence. On a global scale, women produce more than half of all the food that is grown. In sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, they produce up to 80 per cent of basic foodstuffs. In Asia, they provide from 50 to 90 per cent of the labour for rice cultivation. And in Southeast Asia and the Pacific as well as Latin America, women's home gardens represent some of the most complex agricultural systems known. In countries in transition, the percentage of rural women working in agriculture comprise about a third in Bosnia and Herzegovina to more than half in Poland. Across much of the developing world, rural women provide most of the labour for farming, from soil preparation to harvest. After the harvest, they are almost entirely responsible for operations such as storage, handling, stocking, marketing and processing.

Women in rural areas generally bear primary responsibility for the nutrition of their children, from gestation through weaning and throughout the critical period of growth. In addition, they are the principal food producers and preparers for the rest of the family.

Despite their contributions to food security, women tend to be invisible actors in development. All too often, their work is not recorded in statistics or mentioned in reports. As a result, their contribution is poorly understood and often underestimated. There are many reasons for this. Work in the



households is often considered to be part of a woman's duties as wife and mother, rather than an occupation to be accounted for in both the household and the national economy. Outside the household a great deal of rural women's labour-whether regular or seasonal-goes unpaid and is, therefore, rarely taken into account in official statistics.

In most countries, women do not own the land they cultivate. Discriminatory laws and practices for inheritance of, and access and ownership to land are still widespread. Land that women do own tends to consist of smaller, less valuable plots that are also frequently overlooked in statistics. Furthermore, women are usually responsible for the food crops destined for immediate consumption by the household, that is, for subsistence crops rather than cash crops. Also, when data is collected for national statistics, gender is often ignored or the data is biased in the sense that it is collected only from males, who are assumed to be the heads of households.

These handicaps have contributed to an increasing feminisation of poverty. Since the 1970s, the number of women living below the poverty line has increased by 50 per cent, in comparison with 30 percent for their male counterparts. Women may feed the world today, but, given this formidable lists of obstacles placed in their path, will they be able to produce the additional food needed for a world population expected to grow by three billion by 2030?

**Dawn – October 18, 1998**

## 'Women Feed the World'

ISLAMABAD - The World Food Day will be celebrated the world over on October 16. The theme chosen by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is "Women Feed the World". It has been specifically selected to highlight the significant contribution women make in this field whether at home or for the national cause. There is no denying the fact that women work very hard to produce food and so contribute towards food security. However, it is unfortunate that their labour and hard work goes unrecognised. Since it is more often unpaid work, their contribution is not counted in the national statistics. Like other work, women's work in food production is taken for granted.

Studies indicate that women produce more than half the food that is grown. This contradicts the stereotype of the farmer as a man. According to data provided in a recent report of the FAO, in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, women produce up to 80 percent of basic food stuffs. In Asia, between 50 and 90 percent of the work in the rice fields is done by women. After the harvest, rural women in developing countries are almost entirely responsible for storage, handling, stocking, marketing and processing. They also play a major role in handling the livestock. In Pakistan for instance, when the cotton crop is ready for picking, it is the women who tend to this chore. There is hardly a man in sight at this time of the season. Further, they perform 60 to 80 per cent of cattle cleaning, feeding and milking activities. Globally, women raise poultry and small animals such as sheep, goats, chickens, etc.

This year's event will be commemorated to give recognition to these women. The theme will also highlight FAO's Tele-food hunger awareness and fund-raising event during which public awareness of world hunger and appeal for global solidarity and support to those who are still denied essential food will be focused.

Whether it is a rural area or an urban one, food preparation,



feeding the children and elderly and other family members is primarily the duty of the woman. Besides the time spent in food preparation at home, women also take the responsibility of working in the fields. There is more and more trend towards feminisation of agriculture in large parts of the developing world and it is being widely recognized. The phenomenon is one of the repercussions of urbanisation. This is happening in areas where men have moved to cities in search of work while women have taken over agricultural production.

Like in other countries, in Pakistan the work of a woman towards food production remains invisible. Neither does her contribution feature economically nor statistically. Her work remains unpaid and the credit is taken by the man even in cases where he is not present in the home and is working elsewhere. "When data is collected for national statistics, gender is often ignored or information is only collected from men, who are presumed to be the household heads. In addition to this, most women do not own the land they cultivate," points out the FAO report.

Feminisation of agriculture also brings with it feminisation of poverty. Studies indicate that women reinvest much more of their money than do men in feeding the household and to meet other household expenses.

In Pakistan, there is a need to make agricultural policies that take into account women's role in food production. For example, labour saving techniques may be introduced to ease their work and so help in increasing production. That would also improve the quality of life. Whenever agricultural research is being conducted, it is usually the men who are taken into account. It would certainly be a step forward to come up with training programmes for women where they can learn to adapt to modern technology and practices, and so lighten their workload and increase production.

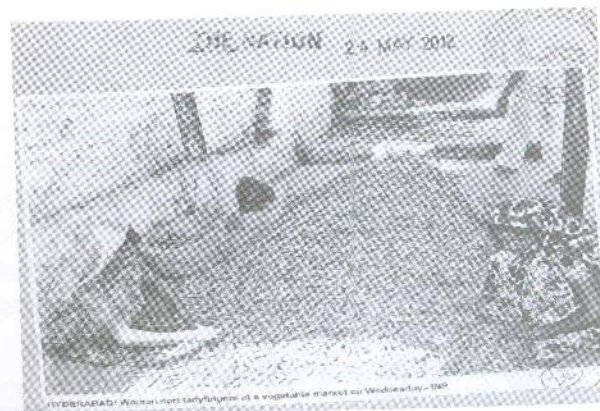
Moreover, access to education is another means of improving agricultural production. Studies show that four years of primary education increases farmers' productivity by up to 10

percent, especially more so in case of females. Investment efforts need to be geared towards education for all, for it will not only improve agricultural production but also improve their status, quality of life, health, nutrition, etc. besides opening up more job opportunities.

In South Asia unfortunately the school dropout rate is very high and the level of school attendance by girls is 60 per cent of that of boys. A poor family is usually more keen to keep the girls at home so that they can help in cleaning, cooking, collecting wood, bringing water, looking after younger siblings, and performing similar other household chores. The practice is reinforced by traditions and prejudice with boys given more priority over girls.

All this can change with a change in people's attitudes concerning social, political and cultural rights. The constraints limiting human welfare and the scope of women's development within Pakistan and other developing countries have to be overcome. It is necessary for sustainable human development, peace and prosperity. It is no longer possible to ignore the 48 per cent of Pakistan's human capital.

**"Gender Matters" by Uzma T. Haroon, The Nation**  
**October 10, 1998**



## **Rural Women**

The Government allocates a very meagre amount for the health of rural women, who already suffer because of a subordinate status in the family, and have limited access to the facilities provided. Other than scarcity of potable water, which coupled with poverty, has a direct bearing on their health, the situation is further exacerbated by the fact that government services are located at a distance from village communities and are of poor quality. As women's reliance is on these services, lack of mobility due to absence of transport makes it difficult for them to access health services. The MMR rate is considerably higher among rural women as compared to urban women (Pakistan, Millennium Development Goals Report 2010, p. 36).

Attention should be given to identifying specific strategies to address these priority areas, and relevant sections of the government should adopt an inter-sectoral approach so that effective and coordinated interventions based on community participation and principles of inclusion can be implemented.

**Pakistan, NGO Alternative Report on CEDAW 2012**  
**Maliha Zia, Riffat Butt (Aurat Foundation) 2012**

Despite agriculture being the most common source of work for rural women in most developing regions, they have less access than men to assets, inputs and complementary services - for example just 20 percent of landholders in developing countries are women, and their landholdings are smaller than those of men.

**FAO, The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011.**



## Protection to women Haaris sought

HYDERABAD, Nov 20: The Aurat Foundation on Friday organised a seminar at the Hyderabad Press Club on the "problems of women Haaris and legal protection to them in respect of joint ownership of land".

The representative of the Aurat Foundation, Ms. Mehnaz Rehman and coordinator of the function, Mohammad Yaqoob, explained in detail the aims and objects of the seminar.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Mushtaq Meerani, Jam Sagi, Professor M. Parkash, Sajjad Bhatti and others dwelt at length on the plight of Haari women in Sindh.

They said that the Haari women were being treated like animals and they were even denied basic human rights.

They said that since their fate was linked with their husband and the elder male members of the family, they had no alternative but to work alongside their men on the farms without any wages.

They said that although the Haari women performed manual work as their male partners yet they were taken for granted and even their existence was not acknowledged.

They regretted that the Haari women enjoyed no legal protection under the law of the land.

At the end of the seminar, several resolutions were adopted demanding legal protection to the rights of Haari women through amendments in the tenancy and revenue laws.

It was further demanded that Haari women should be given protection against the excesses of the landlords and they should be given due share in the crops.

The seminar recommended joint ownership in land allotted to their male partners.

The seminar also recommended that special health centres should be established for Haari women.

Dawn November 21, 1998

## Women's Contribution to Agri Development Stressed

PESHAWAR: The participation of women in agriculture development and making progress was essential and no one could ignore this reality in any forward looking society, said Chief Planning Officer, Gul Sadbarg.

"The training of women in different fields will help explore the potential of the province and people which could be used for the uplift of the society as a whole," Gul Sadbarg said while speaking to participants on the concluding day of the week-long training course for women here on Saturday. The Chief Planning Officer was the chief guest on the occasion which was also addressed by the acting Managing Director of Fruit and Vegetables Development Board, Muhammad Iqbal and Nilofar Sami, President, Association of Business, Professional and Agricultural Women.

The week-long training course on kitchen gardening and preservation, which was attended by 30 female participants was jointly organized by the Fruit and Vegetable Board and the Association of Business, Professional and Agricultural Women and funded by the IUCN.

The chief guest complained that agriculture sector was not getting the desired attention and funding and all the workable projects face difficulties in execution in a proper way. He said that training courses could not be carried out regularly because of paucity of funds.

The Managing Director of the Board on this occasion said that organizations meant for women should be expanded to the village and town level to involve the community, specially women. He said that women were better managers and could run the budget of the house in a more efficient way than men. He also distributed certificates among the participants and called on them to share their experience and knowledge with others and motivate them for self-sustenance.

Nilofar Sami highlighted the role and activities of her association and said that ABPA was working on a self-help basis providing training and other help to women.

Bureau Report, TheNews January 28, 2001



## Women's Role in Agriculture Underlined

FAISALABAD - The role of women in agriculture is invisible and unrecognised. This was a unanimous view among the speakers at a seminar on World Food Day held at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Faisalabad. The topic of the seminar was "Women feed the world".

The speakers dilated upon the contribution of women in the field of agriculture particularly in the developing countries. Women feed the man from birth till death in the form of breast feeding and cooking food in the kitchen. It was also emphasized that despite immense contribution of women in this sector, the level of appreciation leaves much to be desired. From the seed preparation to the harvesting of crops, vegetables and fruits, in post-harvest handling of vegetables and fruits and animal husbandry, food processing and food preparation, women contribute significantly. The speakers also highlighted the rights of women in Islamic society and said that in Islam women are not discriminated against men and their participation in economic activity is well recognized and fully appreciated. Dr. Muhammad Hussain, director Horticulture Research Institute Faisalabad, was the chief guest on the occasion and Dr. Aaqil Khan, Director Vegetables, Dr. Noor-ul-Islam oilseed botanist and Dr. Ijaz Ahmed Gill from Post-Harvest Research Institute, AARI, Faisalabad, addressed the participants.

Bureau Report, The Frontier Post, October 19, 1998

زری ترقیاتی بینک نے قرضوں میں خواتین کا حصہ 20 فیصد کر دیا۔

قرضوں تک خواتین کی رسائی آسان بنانے کیلئے قرضوں کا خصوصی پروگرام شروع کیا گیا ہے۔  
قرضوں کی واپسی میں خواتین قرضداروں کا رویہ بہت حوصلہ افزا ہے: حکومتی ذرائع

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) زرعی ترقیاتی بینک پاکستان نے اپنے قرضہ جات میں خواتین کا حصہ آئندہ پانچ سالوں میں بتدریج 20 فیصد کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں 48 فیصد خواتین ہیں اور وہ ملک میں زراعت کی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہیں۔ خواتین کی قرضوں تک رسائی کو آسان بنانے کیلئے زرعی ترقیاتی بینک نے خواتین کیلئے قرضہ جات کا خصوصی پروگرام شروع کیا ہے جس کے تحت بینک نے اپنے 17 ریجنوں کی 20 برانچوں میں 23 خواتین موبائل کریڈٹ افسر تعینات کی ہیں جو خواتین کو ان کے گھروں پر قرضے فراہم کر رہی ہیں۔ موجودہ مالی سال میں 31 مئی 2002 تک بارہ ہزار چھ سو ستاون خواتین کو ایک ارب تیرہ کروڑ اسی لاکھ ایکسٹھ ہزار روپے کے قرضے دیئے گئے جس میں سے تقریباً چار کروڑ ستر لاکھ روپے خواتین موبائل کریڈٹ افسروں کے ذریعے مہیا کئے گئے۔

روزنامہ نوائے وقت ۲۲ جون ۲۰۰۲



With their skills, perspectives and experiences, women are already responding to the impacts of climate change. It is time to involve them as equal partners. When we do, our world as a whole will benefit.  
- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon



## 52 فیصد عورتیں زرعی شعبے سے منسلک ہیں، زرعی ماہر ڈاکٹر فوزیہ ترین

لاہور (زرعی رپورٹر) زراعت کے شعبہ سے منسلک خواتین کو کاشتکار ہی نہیں سمجھا جاتا کیونکہ بیشتر علاقوں میں خصوصاً شمالی بلوچستان میں خواتین زمینوں پر کام کرتی نظر نہیں آتیں جبکہ زمین داری کے کاموں میں مردوں کے شانہ بشانہ مصروف عمل رہتی ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار بلوچستان سے تعلق رکھنے والی کاشتکارہ ڈاکٹر فوزیہ ترین نے خبریں سے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا ملک میں 70 فیصد آبادی کا تعلق زراعت سے ہے جن میں 52 فیصد عورتیں زرعی شعبے سے منسلک ہیں۔

روزنامہ خبریں۔ ۱۹ جنوری ۲۰۰۱ء





## مردوں کیساتھ ساتھ خواتین بھی دیہی معیشت کو استحکام دیں: ڈاکٹر نعیم ہاشمی

زرعی خود کفالت حاصل کرنے کیلئے خواتین کا جدید زرعی علوم سے لیس ہونا ضروری ہے، تقریب سے خطاب

راولپنڈی (سٹاف رپورٹر) قومی زرعی تحقیقاتی مرکز کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ڈاکٹر نعیم اقبال ہاشمی نے کہا ہے کہ ملک کی زرعی خود کفالت کیلئے ضروری ہے کہ مردوں کے ساتھ ساتھ خواتین بھی جدید زرعی علوم سے لیس ہو کر زرعی معیشت کے استحکام میں اپنا کردار ادا کریں۔ یہ بات انہوں نے یورپی یونین کے پراجیکٹ ”منصوبہ بحالی و ترقی بالائی علاقہ جات“ کے تعاون سے زراعت اور جنگلات کے جدید علوم کے بارے میں خواتین توسیعی کارکنان کے چھ روزہ تربیتی کورس کے اختتام پر منعقدہ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ اس موقع پر این اے آر سی، ٹی ٹی آئی کے ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر ایم اشرف صاحبزادہ، محمد اعظم خان ترین، ڈاکٹر پرویز اختر، ڈاکٹر سلیم ضیا طور، احمد حسن شیخ، راجہ محمد صغیر اور خواتین کی بڑی تعداد موجود تھی۔ اس موقع پر ڈاکٹر ایم اشرف صاحبزادہ اور محمد اعظم ترین نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ ڈاکٹر نعیم اقبال ہاشمی اور ڈاکٹر ایم اشرف صاحبزادہ نے کورس مکمل کرنے والی ۷۰ سے زائد خواتین کو سرٹیفکیٹس دیئے۔



## زراعت اور لائیو سٹاک کی ترقی کیلئے دیہی خواتین کی تربیت ضروری ہے

زرعی معیشت اور لائیو سٹاک کی پیداوار میں ۷۰ فیصد سے زائد خواتین کام کر رہی ہیں۔ پہاڑی علاقوں کی رہائشی خواتین کو جدید تحقیق اور علوم سے آگاہ کیا جائیگا، تربیتی ورکشاپ سے شرکاء کا خطاب۔

راولپنڈی (این این آئی) پاکستان کی زرعی معیشت بلخصوص لائیو سٹاک کی پیداوار میں بنیادی سطح پر کام کرنے والوں میں 70 فیصد سے زائد تعداد خواتین کی ہے مگر یہ امر نہایت افسوسناک ہے کہ اس حوالے سے انکی تربیت نہ ہونے کے برابر ہے۔ جس کے نتیجے میں زراعت و لائیو سٹاک کے شعبے میں ہونے والی جدید تحقیق اور علوم سے عملی استفادہ نہیں اٹھایا جا رہا۔ یہ بات یورپی یونین آئی یو سی این ریسورس پونٹ کے ڈائریکٹر محمد اختر چیمہ نے امور حیوانات کے بارے میں ضلع راولپنڈی کی پہاڑی تحصیلوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے خواتین توسیعی کارکنان کے چھ روزہ تربیتی کورس کی تکمیل پر منعقد تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ کورس کا اہتمام منصوبہ بحالی و ترقی بالائی علاقہ جات، مری، کہوڑہ، کوٹلی ستیاں اور قومی زرعی تحقیقاتی مرکز ٹی ٹی آئی نے مربوط زرعی تحقیقی و توسیعی سرگرمیوں کے پہلے تین سالہ منصوبہ کے تحت مشترکہ طور پر کیا تھا۔ جس میں مری، کہوڑہ، کوٹلی ستیاں کی تحصیلوں سے چالیس خواتین توسیعی کارکنان نے شرکت کی۔ اختتامی تقریب کے موقع پر این اے آئی ٹی کے ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر ایم اشرف ساجزادہ، یورپی یونین کے نمائندہ مسٹر مزینی، پروگرام منیجر یو آر ڈی پی راجہ عطاء اللہ خان، پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر یو آر ڈی پی راجہ طارق محمود اعظم خان ترین، ڈاکٹر طاہر اسماعیل اور احمد حسن شیخ کے علاوہ کورس میں شریک خواتین موجود تھیں۔ محمود اختر چیمہ نے کہا کہ اس کورس کا مقصد خواتین کو جدید علوم سے آراستہ کرنا ہے۔ اور اس طرح کے مزید کورس کروائے جائیں گے۔



## **Role of agricultural universities underscored for ensuring women's rights**

ISLAMABAD - Women's right to land is essential for promoting sustainable agriculture and the agricultural universities in Pakistan have a bigger role to play in terms of initiating research studies on the issues of women farmers who produce more than 60 percent of the food but own merely 2 percent of farm land.

While addressing a seminar on 'Women's Right to Land and Sustainable Agriculture: Role of Agricultural Universities' held on Monday by ActionAid Pakistan, in collaboration with Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, speakers including agricultural economists, media, students and development specialists highlighted the role of women farmers in ensuring food security across the globe and particularly in Pakistan. They lamented that it was pure injustice that women farmers were not allowed to own or have access to land.

Uzma Tahir, ActionAid Pakistan manager policy, advocacy and research unit, said that students being future leaders of the nation, needed to understand social issues and causes of injustice, discrimination and poverty.

She said that more than 44 percent of the population was dependent on agriculture as a major source of livelihood and women constituted more than half of that group. "More than 40 percent of rural land is owned by merely 2.5 percent of the population of the country, which shows the extent of injustice and discrimination prevalent in the country," she added "Inequality and injustice towards women start from the household where male members of the family dominate their female counterparts in decision making and ownership of land and livelihood resources", adding that there was a dire need to acknowledge the role of women farmers in food production and food security and to introduce gender responsive agricultural policies and frameworks. She invited students to collaborate with the development sector to conduct women-focused research studies. She observed that not a single woman in Pakistan had ever been recruited as a Patwari (land revenue officer), hence women faced discrimination at all levels.

## Land for Landless Women in Pakistan

The PPP-led Sindh government is granting over 212,864 acres of government-owned agriculture land to landless peasants in the province.

Over half of the farm land being given is prime nehri (land irrigated by canals) farm land, and the rest being barani or rain-dependent. About 70 percent of the 5,800 beneficiaries of this grant are women. Other provincial governments, especially the Punjab government have also announced land allotment for women, for which initial surveys are underway.

The initiative includes various RSPs (Rural Support Programs) to develop support packages for availability of water and other inputs such as seed and fertilizer. Depending on geographic contiguity, the beneficiaries will be organized in cooperative mode for enabling them to access agricultural implements, farm machinery and microcredit on collective basis. The government will provide support for at least a period of two years through an institutional support mechanism for enabling each household to move to a level where they are able to generate sustainable living.

**Riaz Haq, [www.riazhaq.com](http://www.riazhaq.com) - July 8, 2011**



Women in agriculture0003



## Lok Virsa celebrates International Rural Women's Day

ISLAMABAD: To mark International Day of Rural Women, a two-day festival-cum-conference was arranged at Lok Virsa Complex, Garden Avenue, Shakarparian on Sunday under the aegis of National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage and Potohar Organisation for Development Advocacy (PODA).

The festivities included women artisans-at-work featuring female master artisans from different parts of the country with their tools, finished and semi-finished products, promotional stalls by NGOs working towards the empowerment of women in Pakistan, a seminar to focus on women's issues; audio/visual presentations on women's issues and a folk musical show.

The opening ceremony was held at Lok Virsa Media Studios, which was attended by a large number of people, in particular women, artisans, artists and personalities related to art and culture. During the first day of the event (14 October), besides opening ceremony and inauguration of artisans and partner organisations' stalls, the efforts remained on consultation on rural women, their economic rights and preparation of rural women manifesto.

The session of the conference concluded with a folk musical show wherein folk artists and musicians entertained audience and participants with their thrilling performances. The organisations that have set up their promotional stalls include PODA, the European Union, ABKT, Strengthening Participatory Organisation, Sindh Women's Welfare Association, Matiari, Shirkatgah, Rural Support Programme Network, Children's Global Network, Bacha Khan Trust for Education Foundation, Benazir Welfare Trust, Bedari, Pak-Women, IRADA, Rozan, Women Shade (Quetta), Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources, Acid Survivors Foundation, Awaz Foundation Pakistan, Silk Route (Hunza), Sungi Development Foundation, South Asia Partnership Pakistan, Catholic Women's Organisation, Women's Organisation for Rights and Development, and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN.

The participants who took part in the conference included Rehana Hashmi from Sisters Trust Pakistan, Adviser to Punjab Chief Minister Begum Zakia Shahnawaz, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Women Development Sitara Ayaz and others. Explaining the role of his organisation, Lok Virsa Executive Director Khalid Javaid told media, "We were the first cultural organisation in Pakistan that stood behind PODA and supported them in organising a number of cultural and promotional activities to mark the International Rural Women's Day. This joint strategy has resulted in highlighting achievements of rural women in the development of the country not only at national, but at international level, too. In this regard, contribution of media promoting initiatives aimed at empowerment of rural women is also very encouraging and we are thankful to them for this patronage."

He also thanked his own Ministry of National Heritage and Integration, in particular Minister Samina Khalid Gurki and Secretary Asaf Ghafoor, for enabling Lok Virsa to undertake such important projects aiming to benefit the rural folk. PODA Chairperson Samina Nazir and representatives of other partner organisations also spoke on the occasion and apprised the audience about their plans and projects.

The festival-cum-conference will conclude on Monday with finalisation of manifesto for rural women, passing a resolution suggesting necessary steps for empowerment of rural women and presentation of awards.

**Staff report, Daily Times, October 15, 2012**



## خواتین کی شرکت کے بغیر زرعی خود کفالت ممکن نہیں۔

ملکی معیشت کے استحکام میں سب سے اہم رول زراعت کا ہے، پیداوار بڑھائی جائے، عشرت اشرف

راولپنڈی (پاکستان نیوز) وزیراعظم کی خصوصی مشیر برائے خواتین بیگم عشرت اشرف نے کہا ہے کہ ملکی معیشت میں سب سے اہم رول زراعت کا ہے۔ زراعت سے متعلقہ ادارے ملک کو زرعی خود کفالت کی منزل سے ہمکنار کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کریں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ خواتین بھی جدید تعلیم کے ساتھ ساتھ زرعی شعبے میں مزید محنت کریں، کیونکہ ان کی شرکت کے بغیر زرعی خود کفالت اور ملکی ترقی ممکن نہیں۔ ڈاکٹر محمد اعظم، وائس چانسلر زرعی یونیورسٹی نے کہا کہ زرعی یونیورسٹی میں ۵۰ فیصد خواتین زیر تعلیم ہیں اور زراعت کے ساتھ دیگر شعبوں میں بھی تعلیم کا سلسلہ جاری ہے۔

روزنامہ پاکستان۔ ۱۰ جون ۱۹۹۸





## سرحد کی دیہی خواتین کو 543 ملین روپے کے زرعی قرضوں کا اجراء

قرضوں کی واپسی کی حد 18 ماہ ہے، 17 مختلف مدوں میں جاری کئے گئے ہیں۔  
سود کی شرح 14 سے 18 فیصد ہے، موبائل کریڈٹ آفیسر تھینہ گل کی ”خبریں“ پشاور سے گفتگو

پشاور (زرعی رپورٹر) صوبہ سرحد کی دیہی خواتین کو اس سال 543 ملین روپے کے زرعی قرضے جاری کئے گئے تاکہ وہ مردوں کے شانہ بشانہ ملکی تعمیر و ترقی میں اپنا کردار ادا کر سکیں۔ زرعی ترقیاتی بینک کی واحد موبائل کریڈٹ آفیسر تھینہ گل نے روزنامہ خبریں پشاور سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ قرضوں کی واپسی کی حد 18 ماہ ہے اور یہ 17 مختلف مدوں میں جاری کئے گئے ہیں ان قرضوں پر سود کی شرح 14 فیصد سے لے کر 18 فیصد تک ہے، جو کہ موجودہ مالی صورتحال کے پیش نظر زیادہ ہے لیکن اس کے باوجود واپسی کی شرح تسلی بخش ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ قرضہ جات ان خواتین کو مہیا کئے جاتے ہیں جو کہ کسی خاص شعبے میں مہارت کی حامل ہوتی ہیں اور ان قرضوں کا بنیادی مقصد ملک سے غربت کا خاتمہ اور غریب کسان کی حالت زار کو بہتر بنانا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی آبادی کا تقریباً نصف حصہ خواتین پر مشتمل ہے اور اس قسم کے قرضہ جات کی فراہمی سے نہ صرف دیہی خواتین کو متحرک کیا گیا ہے بلکہ اس سے قومی مجموعی آمدنی میں بھی اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ زرعی ترقیاتی بینک پشاور کی شاخ میں 33 مرد موبائل کریڈٹ آفیسر ہیں جبکہ واحد خاتون افسر کام کر رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ یہ پروگرام زرعی ترقیاتی بینک کے 17 علاقائی آفس سرانجام دے رہے ہیں اور ملک بھر میں بینک کی 30 شاخوں میں 25 خواتین موبائل کریڈٹ آفیسر زفر انص سرانجام دے رہی ہیں۔

روزنامہ خبریں، ۱۵ فروری، ۲۰۰۳

## 75 فیصد خواتین زرعی پیداوار کے کاموں میں سرگرم عمل ہیں، ورلڈ بینک سروے

کراچی (لیڈی رپورٹر) ورلڈ بینک کے سروے کے مطابق پاکستان کی 75 فیصد خواتین زرعی پیداوار کے کاموں میں سرگرم عمل ہیں۔ تاہم افسوسناک عمل یہ ہے کہ خواتین جو دیگر گھریلو کام کا جج، بچوں اور جانوروں کی نگہداشت جیسے عوامل کے علاوہ یہ خدمات انجام دیتی ہیں۔ ان کی زرعی کاموں یا دیگر ایسی سرگرمیوں کو جو آمدنی بڑھانے میں معاون ثابت ہوتی ہے ابھی تک مکمل طور پر تسلیم نہیں کیا گیا۔ کسان عورتوں کے مسائل کے حوالے سے عورت فاؤنڈیشن نے ایک تحقیق کی۔ اس تحقیقی رپورٹ کے مطابق کسان عورتوں کے مسائل کا ایک بڑا سبب یہ ہے کہ زمین کی ملکیت میں مرد کو اولیت حاصل ہے جبکہ قدرتی وسائل اور قرض کی سہولت حاصل کرنے کیلئے خواتین کا زمین کی ملکیت حاصل کرنا ضروری ہے، جبکہ دیہی علاقوں میں تقریباً ۳۰ فیصد گھرانوں میں عورتیں کنبے کی سربراہ ہیں۔ چنانچہ ماحول کو تبدیل کرنے کیلئے ضروری ہے کہ حکومت ترجیحی بنیادوں پر زمین پر عورتوں کی مشترکہ یا انفرادی ملکیت کی ضمانت دے۔

روزنامہ جنگ، ۳ مئی ۱۹۹۹





## وزیراعظم بے زمین کسان خواتین میں بھی اراضی تقسیم کریں گے، تہینہ دولتانہ

جو خاتون کسان اپنے گھر کی سربراہ ہے سے مکمل خاندان کا درجہ دیکر مرد کے برابر زمین دی جائیگی  
سری تیار کی جارہی ہے، حجاب آرڈیننس کی خبریں بے بنیاد ہیں، صحافیوں سے گفتگو

لاہور (این این آئی) وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف نے بے زمین کاشت کاروں میں سرکاری زمین تقسیم کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ خواتین کاشت کاروں میں بھی مرحلہ وار زمینیں تقسیم کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ جس پر بہت جلد عمل درآمد ہوگا، یہ بات وفاقی وزیر بہبود خواتین و خصوصی تعلیم، بیگم تہینہ دولتانہ نے یہاں فاطمہ میموریل ہسپتال میں کمیٹی فار سیٹری ہیلتھ کے زیر اہتمام خواتین صحت کے حوالے سے منعقدہ سیمینار کے اختتام پر اخبار نویسوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے بتائی، انہوں نے کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت عورت و مرد کے لئے کسی قسم کا کوئی غیر مساویانہ یا امتیاز برتنے کا تصور نہیں رکھتی، بلکہ زندگی کے تمام شعبوں میں حکومت کی ترجیحات مساویانہ ہیں۔ اس لئے وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف نے ملک بھر میں بے زمین کسانوں میں تقسیم کرنے کے لئے خواتین کو بھی برابر کا حصہ دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اب اس کے لئے سری تیار کی جارہی ہے، پہلے مرحلے میں بے زمین کسانوں میں زمین تقسیم کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ ان کی بیویوں اور بیٹیوں میں زمین تقسیم کی جائے گی اور اگر کوئی خاتون کسان اپنے گھر کی سربراہ ہے تو اس کو علیحدہ خاندان کا درجہ دیکر انہیں بھی مرد کسان کے برابر حصہ دیا جائے گا، ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے اس تاثر کو بالکل بے بنیاد اور شرانگیز قرار دیا کہ حکومت ”حجاب آرڈیننس“ لانا چاہ رہی ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ مسترد شدہ سیاسی عناصر عوام میں مایوسی پھیلانے کے لئے اسی طرح کی بے بنیاد باتیں پھیلا رہے ہیں، نفاذ شریعت سے خواتین سمیت ملک کے تمام طبقوں کے حقوق کا تحفظ ہو سکے گا، اسلام میں خواتین کو برابر کے حقوق دیئے گئے ہیں جہاں تک حجاب آرڈیننس کا تعلق ہے ہماری خواتین اسلام کی تعلیمات کے دائرے میں رہتے ہوئے زندگی کے ہر شعبے میں بھرپور انداز میں اپنے اپنے فرائض انجام دے رہی ہیں، ان سے پوچھا گیا کہ موجودہ حکومت پارلیمنٹ میں خواتین کی نشستوں کے وعدے کے باوجود بحال کیوں نہیں ہو رہیں؟ انہوں نے اس کا جواب دینے سے گریز کیا۔ ایک سوال کو جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ جو

این جی اور حکومت کے ساتھ ملکر پوری دیانت داری سے کام کر رہی ہیں ان کے ساتھ بھرپور تعاون کیا جائے گا۔ ایک اور سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ جو وفاقی حکومت ملک بھر میں خواتین کو ٹرانسپورٹ کی خصوصی سہولتیں مہیا کرنے کے لئے مختلف منصوبوں پر غور کر رہی ہے۔ اس حوالے سے خواتین کے لئے خصوصی ٹرانسپورٹ سروس چلانے کے لئے نجی اداروں کی حوصلہ افزائی اور بھرپور تعاون کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ ایک اور سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ معذور بچوں کی خصوصی تعلیم فراہم کرنے کے لئے ۳۶ ماڈل انسٹیٹیوٹ بنائے جائیں گے اور وہاں ترقی یافتہ ممالک کی طرح جدید ٹیکنالوجی سے تعلیم دی جائے گی، ایک اور سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ خواتین کو اپنے کاروبار کے لئے قرضے کے نظام کو مزید آسان بنا دیا گیا ہے۔ لاہور میں ایک ماہ کے اندر اندر ایکسپورٹ ہاؤس کھل جائے گا۔ قبل ازیں سمیٹار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ شہری اور دیہی علاقوں میں غربت کی وجہ سے صحت کی بنیادی سہولتوں سے خواتین محروم رہی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ معاشرے کے پڑھے لکھے افراد آگے بڑھ کر عوام میں شعور کی بیداری کے لئے بڑھ چڑھ کر کام کریں اور انہیں صحت کے متعلق تمام مسائل سے آگاہ کریں۔

روزنامہ نوائے وقت، ۲۷ ستمبر، ۱۹۹۸۔



Daily Times, 30-09-2010

## پاکستان میں خواتین کاشتکاروں کی تعداد میں اضافہ

دیہی محنت کش خواتین کے حقوق کیلئے قانون سازی کرنے کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔

اقوام متحدہ کی رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ترقی پزیر ممالک میں زراعت سے وابستہ خواتین کی تعداد ۴۳ فیصد ہے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ وسائل تک رسائی میں کمی کی وجہ سے دنیا بھر میں مردوں کی نسبت خواتین کے زیر کاشت رقبے سے حاصل ہونے والی پیداوار ۳۰ فیصد کم ہوئی ہے۔ دی اسٹیٹ آف فوڈ اینڈ ایگریکلچر یا خوراک اور زراعت کی حالت زار کے عنوان سے اس رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ 1980 سے پاکستان کے کھیتوں میں کام کرنے والی عورتوں کی تعداد میں ۳۰ فیصد تک اضافہ ہوا جبکہ بھارت اور بنگلہ دیش میں بھی یہ تعداد بتدریج ۳۰ سے ۵۰ فیصد ہے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ دنیا بھر میں غذائی قلت کے شکار افراد کی تعداد ۹۲ کروڑ ۵۰ لاکھ ہے اور جنس کی بنیاد پر وسائل کی فراہمی میں فرق کو ختم کر کے اس تعداد میں ۷۱ فیصد تک کمی لائی جاسکتی ہے۔ کسان عورتوں کے بارے میں کہا گیا ہے کہ انہیں زمین، جدید زرعی پیداواری معلومات، قرضوں اور جدید زرعی آلات تک رسائی جیسی دشواریوں کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے جبکہ بیشتر علاقوں میں مال مویشیوں سے حاصل ہونے والی آمدن پر بھی عورتوں کا اختیار نہیں ہوتا۔ عالمی تنظیم کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق دنیا بھر میں ۲۰ فیصد سے کم خواتین کسان اپنے کھیتوں کی مالک ہیں۔ اس اعتبار سے لاطینی امریکہ سرفہرست ہے جہاں ۱۸ فیصد کسان خواتین اپنے کھیتوں میں کاشتکاری کرتی ہیں۔ رپورٹ میں پاکستان، بنگلہ دیش اور ایکواڈور کو ایسے ممالک بتایا گیا ہے جہاں جنس کی بنیاد پر غیر مساوی زرعی زمین کی ملکیت کا معاملہ انتہائی سنگین ہے اور عورتوں کے مقابلے میں مردوں کے پاس زمین دو گنا سے بھی زیادہ ہے۔ دیہاتوں میں خواتین کاشتکاری میں اپنے مردوں کے شانہ بشانہ کام کرتی ہیں۔ جانوروں کیلئے چارہ کاٹنا، دودھ دوھنا، فصلوں کی کاشت کرنا، فصلیں کاٹنا اور اپنے مردوں کے شانہ بشانہ زراعت میں انکا ہاتھ بٹانا شامل ہے ان کے علاوہ دیہی علاقوں میں غریب گھرانوں کی کروڑوں خواتین کھیتوں میں محنت مزدوری کر کے اپنے بچوں کا پیٹ پالتی



ہیں۔ دیہاتوں میں خواتین مزدوروں کو مردوں سے آدھی اجرت دی جاتی ہے اور ان سے سولہ سولہ گھنٹے کام لیا جاتا ہے۔ خواتین کے حقوق کیلئے کام کرنے والی پوش علاقوں کی پوش خواتین کی نام نہاد تنظیموں نے کبھی بھی ملک کے ستر فیصد دیہی علاقوں کی خواتین کے بارے میں کچھ نہیں کیا۔ یہ نام نہاد تنظیمیں بیرونی ممالک اور اپنے ملک کے خزانے سے فنڈ لیتی ہیں اور ایگزیکٹو ہونٹوں میں چند ماڈرن خواتین کو اکٹھا کر کے ان کے حقوق کیلئے جدوجہد کرنے کا ڈرامہ رچا کر اربوں روپے ہڑپ کر جاتی ہیں مگر ان نام نہاد تنظیموں نے کبھی بھی ستر فیصد دیہی علاقے کی خواتین کی حالت زار پر توجہ نہیں دی۔ کسان بورڈ پاکستان جہاں ملک کی ستر فیصد آبادی کے حقوق کیلئے جدوجہد کرتا ہے وہاں کسان بورڈ کے منشور میں دیہی آبادی میں کام کرنے والے کھیت مزدور، محنت کش، دیہی خواتین کے حقوق اور کاشتکاروں کیلئے آلات کشاوری تیار کرنے والے اور دیگر کام کرنے والے دستکار اور ہنرمند لوہار، ترکھان، جام، موچی، کمہار وغیرہ کے حقوق کیلئے جدوجہد کرنا سب شامل ہے۔ حقیقی معنوں میں کسان بورڈ دیہی خواتین کے حقوق کیلئے جدوجہد کرنے والی سب سے بڑی این جی او ہے اور خواتین کو شامل ہو کر اپنے اور اپنے مردوں کے حقوق کیلئے جدوجہد کرنا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے مطالبہ کیا کہ دیہی محنت کش خواتین کو محنت کش مردوں کے برابر مزدوری دی جائے اور ان سے بھی مردوں کی طرح آٹھ گھنٹے کام لیا جائے۔ انہوں نے حکومت پر زور دیا کہ دیہی محنت کش خواتین کے حقوق کیلئے قانون سازی کرے۔ انہوں نے خواتین کی عالمی تنظیموں سے بھی مطالبہ کیا کہ وہ دیہی محنت کش خواتین کے حقیقی مسائل کی طرف توجہ دیں۔

روزنامہ جناح۔ ۱۷ اکتوبر ۲۰۱۲ء۔

## Women Farmers' Conferences on Food Sovereignty

### Back ground

With the introduction of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) and hybrid seeds by different Multinational Corporations (MNCs), the bio-diversity has gradually been lost. As a result the rural communities have no more choices for food and control over production resources. They have become dependent on the markets, which has badly affected the rural communities and especially the women folk. Now they strongly feel that loss of traditional system means not only the loss of their control over the production resources but also the displacement of women from the control of a crucial technology and a decrease of women power in household decision making.

To cater to these problems, the main work of the Lok Sanjh is to mobilize the farming communities towards the regeneration of biodiversity and to follow the techniques of organic agriculture. For this purpose, the organization frequently organizes workshops, seminars, festivals and conferences to sensitize farmers and to encourage the women farmers for regeneration of local economies for their livelihood.

Lok Sanjh organizes Women Farmers' Conferences on issues like food sovereignty and food security to sensitize farmers and to encourage the women farmers for regeneration of local economies for their livelihood. Objectives of women farmers' conferences are to raise awareness among rural women about participatory resource management, which will lead to build a more balanced and socially just society and to highlight the women's role and contributions in agriculture and food sovereignty. Till now three conferences have been organized in Northern Punjab under the platform of Lok Sanjh. Each year about 1000-1200 women from different villages of Lok Sanjh work area participate.

### Objectives

- To raise awareness among rural women about participatory resource management, which will lead to build a more balanced and socially just society.

- Highlight the women's role and contributions in food sovereignty.

### Strategy

To achieve the objectives, speakers with a variety of experiences are invited. Experiences in food production in rain fed, rice production zones are shared. The linkages of food production with food sovereignty are also discussed.

Parallel to this conference, cooking festival, youth festival and village of hope festivals are also organized.

### Cooking Festival

Hunger and poverty is increasing day by day in many regions of the world. Corporate farming is destroying people's access to nutritious and safe food by producing more poisonous sprays and hybrid varieties of seeds and forcing farmers' varieties out of the system. The impact of this profit making agricultural development is making the lives of food producers miserable, especially the women and indigenous people with traditional skills.

This is also true that with the development of agricultural technologies more people should get food and not be hungry. But surprisingly, in the Third World, the number of underprivileged people starving and dying of hunger is increasing rapidly.

The living conditions of rural Pakistan are very hard, especially for rural women. Their livelihood depends mainly on agriculture. Almost 90 percent families do not have any land or have very little land to produce food. Therefore they work as sharecroppers and are able to get only 50 percent of the total food produce. In the dry years their food security is more vulnerable, as they sell their assets and livestock for provision of food to the families.

Current figures show that there are 800 million people in the world who suffer chronic hunger, of which most are women and children. It is largely a result of gender inequality and lack of economic and political rights. According to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, twice is the number of girls who die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases than boys. This type of situation where there is a lack of access to food and the lack of adequate

nutrition is called food insecurity.

Therefore the food sovereignty is more important to the women than any other in the food production system. They are central to the selection, breeding, cultivation, preparation and harvesting food. They possess the traditional knowledge of agriculture, like they know how the different parts of a plant can be used for food, medicine and animal feed. They play a key role in protecting and saving seeds for food production with their specialized knowledge about genetic resources, which makes them custodians of biodiversity.

These women sow, weed, harvest, thresh, and apply fertilizer and pesticide. They are extensively involved in post-harvesting activities like storing, handling, stocking, processing and marketing the crops. In the livestock management they feed, milk and raise poultry. In a poverty situation, it is again the women who create survival mechanisms at the expense of their own health and well being. Thus, food security and food sovereignty are crucial concerns for women.

In developing countries, the women are the main producers of staple food rice, maize, and wheat. Across the developing world, women produce 60 to 80 per cent of staple food crops. For secondary crop productions such as legumes and vegetables - their contribution is even greater. They work longer hours than men in producing food on average women work 13 hours a day.

But unfortunately, neither their work is recognized in the national statistics nor any technology is developed to ease out their workloads. Rather, new technologies displace the women from their farms and further exacerbate their economic conditions. So they always remain invisible, unrecognized and not integrated into development strategies or technology development processes.

Women lose control over the resources, particularly the farm seeds. This marginalization of women has drastic impact on farming systems and the household strategies for food security. In most of the cases, it makes women more food insecure.

In this context the Lok Sanjh organization promotes strategies



for socially and environmentally sound agriculture through focused research, policy advice and advocacy. It promotes networking and linkages with a wide range of institutions and individuals through seminars, workshops and experience sharing and exchange visits.

The WADA program, under the umbrella of Lok Sanjh, aims at supporting women in regaining their control over food production and expands choices for food security. It is right to determine their food and agricultural policies. It is their right to have access and control of their means of production. It is their right to safe culturally appropriate foods and sustainable food production.

Food Sovereignty or people's control of food and agriculture is a general aspiration of the people on the issue of food and agriculture.

In this context an international "Women Farmers's conference on food sovereignty" is organized from Lok Sanjh platform to celebrate the international women's day each year. A cooking festival is also organized parallel to the conference to celebrate local biodiversity.

This Cooking festival basically aims at revival and dissemination of rural traditional knowledge for community production systems. This is to protect and respect indigenous knowledge and bio-diversity in the production systems and to make these systems more dynamic through sharing experiences and local technologies. The specific objectives are the following:

#### **Objectives**

1. Recognition of the role and contribution of women in the production of food and agriculture
2. To improve livelihood security through the re-generation of traditional food varieties
3. To encourage communities on bio-diversity and organic agriculture
4. To revive traditional food practices and promotion of shared experiences at the local level.
5. To build awareness and ensure that rural communities

are motivated to produce safe and nutritious food for rural communities.

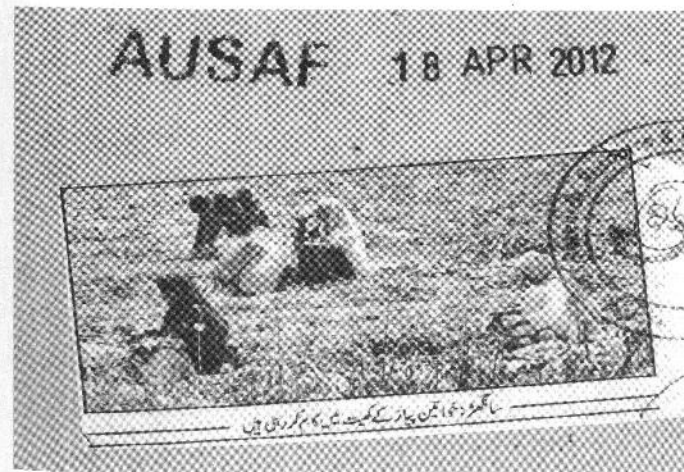
#### **Village of Hope**

Farmers are encouraged to set up a small village of hope where farmers, particularly the women farmers showcase good examples and demonstrate alternative development techniques and models. These villages of hope festivals have proved to be very powerful tools of mobilization and to trigger new opportunities and help farmers make some collective decisions and thus organize themselves. The activity helps in mobilizing women farmers.

#### **Youth Festival**

Lok Sanjh is working with youth to raise awareness about ecological friendly practices and to involve youth in environment friendly activities. Lok Sanjh has engaged youth in agricultural and rural development. In the process, we cultivate ecological thinking in young minds. They discuss, analyze and plan to improve local environment. The member schools participate in the Youth Festival. Students present tableaux, songs and speeches on different issues related to environment, health and education.

#### **Women Farmers' Conference on Food Sovereignty, Lok Sanjh Foundation**



## Role of Rural Women in Agricultural Development and Their Constraints

In the scenario of Economic Survey of Pakistan, the total population in Pakistan is 163.76 million in 2008-09.

Out of total population, an overwhelming majority of the population depends directly or indirectly on income streams generated by the agriculture sector. The agriculture sector remained the leading sector with its job absorption ability and it still absorbs 44% of the country's labour force.

Agriculture and agro-based industry is the back bone of the Pakistan economy. Rural women are involved in agricultural operations to a greater extent; they need assistance from Government, private or any other agency for newest information sources related to crop production, livestock and especially poultry production. There are no specific information sources and training facilities for rural women. Rural women farmers play a vital role in food production and food security. Mijindadi (1993) shows that women are responsible for 70% of actual farm work and constitute up to 60% of the farming population in Nigeria. The involvement of women in the family and to the national economy has been grossly under estimated and even unrecognized.

The report on Human Development (UNDP 1995) reveals that woman's economic contributions are undervalued to the tune of US\$11 trillion a year internationally. In both rural and urban areas of developing countries, women are important sharers in the economic support of their households through intensive involvement in agricultural activities. Rural women face a number of constraints on agricultural productivity. However in many parts of the world, women in agriculture operate under greater constraints than men (Hassan, 1987; Olawoye, 1993; World Bank, 1995).

Women are the majority of the world's agricultural producers, playing important roles in agriculture sector and as well as in fisheries and livestock management. FAO (1997) reported that women make a significant contribution to food production, particularly in horticulture and small livestock at

Latin America. Although their contribution is very much high in all the farming activities but they face so many problems and constraints in performing these actions and access to extension services as reported by Chase (1988) that limited capital 100%, inadequate markets 94%, unavailability of inputs 91% and lack of agricultural extension services 82% were the major constraints faced by the rural women in farming activities.

Rural women play a key role in agricultural sector production by working with full passion in production of crops right from the soil preparation till post-harvest and food security activities (Habib, 1996; ESCAP, 1996; Ahmed & Hussain, 2004). Poultry farming is also one of the major sources of rural economy in agriculture. The rate of rural women in poultry farming at household level is the central in poultry industry. Even though rural women are not using modern management techniques, such as vaccination and improved feed, but their poultry enterprise is impressive.

Although women participation and involvement in agriculture sector is active but they are very far from agricultural extension education services throughout the world.

In rural areas of Pakistan, women participate in all operations related to crop production such as sowing, transplanting, weeding and harvesting, as well as in post-harvest operations such as threshing, drying, and storage.

Rural Women in Pakistan carry out these farm duties in addition to their normal domestic chores of cooking; cleaning and maintaining the house as well as some of its construction.

Agricultural extension education services in Pakistan are responsible to enhance and accelerate the process of agricultural development to meet the food needs of rapidly growing population. The aim of agricultural extension education are to provide farmers with information that enables them to make good assessment/decision in farming, to transfer suitable technologies from research and other sources and ultimately to abolish poverty and hunger by



improving their production and food security. Rural women face more problems and difficulties than men in gaining access to credit and extension education services related to agriculture, livestock management and food security (Achamyelesh, 2000).

Therefore the present study was carried out to assess the role, contribution of rural women farmers in agricultural development and their constraints in Depalpur, district Okara, Pakistan.

### Role of Rural Women in Agricultural Development and Their Constraints, Tahir Munir Butt, Zakaria Yousaf Hassan, Khalid Mehmood and Sher Muhammad - 2010



## کسان عورت کا زندگی نامہ

شب : صبح بے چراغ راتوں میں رات کی سیاہی میں بے خواب آنکھوں میں آنکھ غیند سے بوجھل درد دل میں اٹھتا ہے گائیوں سے ، مار سے جیوں اس عذاب سے دن بھر کے کام سے جسم پھوڑ ہوتا ہے بے مزہ زیست کا بوجھ جو اٹھایا ہے کمر میری ڈھری ہے کیا حساب دن کا کیا حساب رات کا پیٹ بھی سدا خالی نہ ہاتھ میں کوئی پونجی کہاں تن پہ لباس ہے سردیوں کے چارے میں نہ کوئی بھی لحاف ہے گرمیوں کا سورج بھی میرا گھر جلاتا ہے ہو اگر کوئی بارش میری چھت ٹپکتی ہے

شب بھوک گھر میں پلٹی ہے عمر ایسے کتنی ہے بھوک سے بلکتے ہیں بچے جب بھی روتے ہیں اچندا ماں دور کے یا کسی بہلاوے سے کب وہ پہنچتے ہیں میری ہنڈیا سے کبھی پیٹ کیوں نہیں بھرتا گندم ہو ، کپاس ہو بارشیں سیلاب ہو کھیت مزدوری سے بھی میں کبھی نہیں بھاگی جی تک جلا یا ہے جب فصل کوئی بوٹی ہے میری ہاتھ محنت سے فصل اچھی ہوتی ہے سال بھر کی محنت سے فصل جب اترتی ہے بھوک تیز ہوتی ہے ساتھ چند گنا شے چودھری بھی آتا ہے بارش و سیلاب سے قدرتی آفات سے کھیت میرے آج سے ہیں

اس میری مزدوری کا کوئی حساب نہیں ہوتا کھاتے میں میرے جاتے ہیں قدرتی آفات بھی بارش و سیلاب بھی دھوٹ لینے کے لیے چودھری نے بنوایا تھا اپنی میری شناخت کا وہ کارڈ میرے پاس ہے ، وہ کارڈ ہاتھ میں لیے اعداد کے اعلان پہ اک قطار میری بھی اس پولیس سپاہی سے ڈر بھی بہت لگتا ہے اس بھیڑ و ہجوم میں دھکا خوب لگتا ہے میری باری کب لگے دن سے رات ہوتی ہے صبح شام ہوتی ہے پھر کبھی اچانک جب ، اس پولیس سپاہی کی لالچی خوب چلتی ہے میرا سر ہی پھٹتا ہے کوئی نصیب کو خالی ہاتھ شام کو

## Biogas: a miracle in village life

THATTA, Dec 30: "At the first sight, I could not believe it. It was a like a miracle the buffalo dung had helped produce a gas flame," said Qadir Bakhsh smilingly as he recalled how he first reacted when the first biogas unit was successfully launched in his village six months back.

The rural settlement called Ramzan Hajib is part of Chatto Jin union council of Thatta district where a non-governmental organisation has set up 150 biogas plants under a project funded by the United Nations Development Program and the Japanese government for the rehabilitation of the people affected by 2010 floods.

"We could have never imagined that dung could be of so much benefit. The biogas has made our lives a lot convenient," he added.

Although the cost-efficient technology has affected people in many positive ways, its impact on women's lives is remarkable.

"We used to burn wood for cooking that was not only costly and time-consuming, but also harming our health as wood produced a lot of smoke in burning, besides blackening our utensils," Naseema told Dawn.

Earlier the villagers were spending between Rs5,000 and Rs6,000 on buying and transporting wood every month to their homes.

This money is now being saved by the villagers while they are also experiencing improvement in crop productivity with the use of slurry, a by-product of biogas. "The slurry has replaced urea to a great extent as it is comparatively much cheaper and a lot more beneficial in terms of crop productivity. It has not only helped improve the quality of crop, but also reduced its harvesting period," said Munawar Ali of the same village.

The villagers lost all their crops in the 2010 floods, but fortunately enough their houses did not face much damage as they were made on a higher ground.

However, this was not the case in Allah Dino Khaskheli

village located in the same union council of Thatta district. The entire hamlet was flooded and people had to take refuge in relief camps from where they returned after about three to four months.

A total of 27 biogas units had been installed in the village.

"Earlier, we used at least three to four bags of urea for one acre of crop that could either be banana, wheat or sorghum. The price of urea has increased but a few months ago it cost Rs1,700 a bag. So you can well imagine how much we are benefiting even from the by-product of biogas," said Wahid Dino, adding that banana plants grown with the help of slurry had matured 10 to 15 days earlier as compared to those given urea.

"Even their leaves are bigger and greener," said Uma Baksh, another villager.

Sharing the country-wide experience of the NGO in setting up biogas plants, Dr Ijaz Ahmed representing the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-P) said that the organisation had achieved the target of setting up 2,000 biogas units in 13 districts of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"The purpose was to help improve lives shattered by the floods in a way that is not only sustainable but also eco-friendly. We have provided one biogas unit to one household as our experience has shown that the involvement of multiple families could create conflict and result in project's failure."

The biogas unit could be run by a family even if it has only one buffalo. One unit of an average size of six to 15 cubic metres costs from Rs 70,000 to Rs 80,000, according to Dr Ahmed.

Quoting the experience of a farmer in Punjab, he said he was using one bag of dried slurry where he was earlier using nine bags of urea. "We have not determined scientifically the reasons behind the slurry's awesome advantages, but what one could say is that it is perhaps because of the decomposition of the organic matter in isolation."

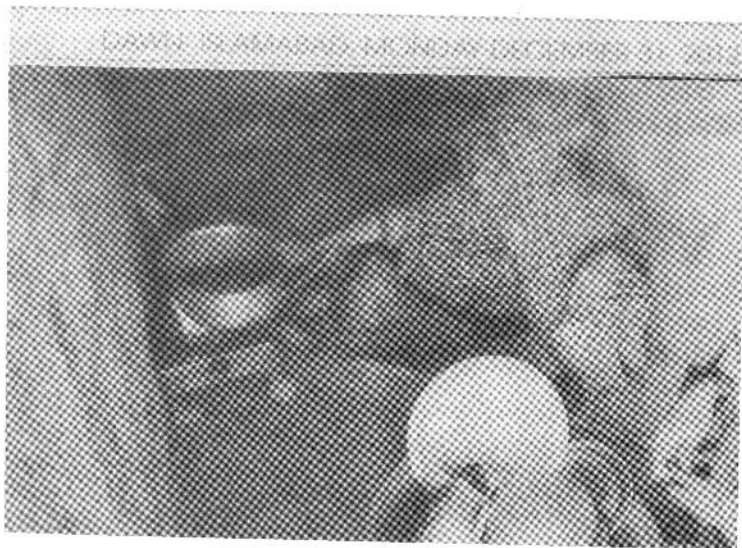
"Local people have been involved in its construction so that they could handle any problem in repair later. We visit them once in two months and are open to offer any technical



expertise if more people are interested in setting up these units," he added.

"It is a long-term investment as a biogas unit, a Chinese-make, had a life of 25 to 30 years. A few people in villages in Punjab were running generators on biogas after making changes in its design on a self-help basis," Dr Ahmed concluded.

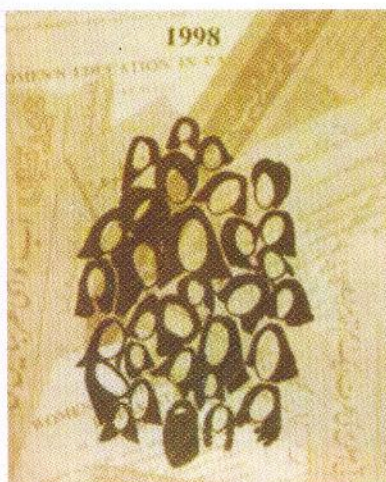
**Faiza Ilyas, Dawn - December 31, 2012**



Uks - A Research, Resource & Publication Centre

# 2014

## Uks diaries Over the Years



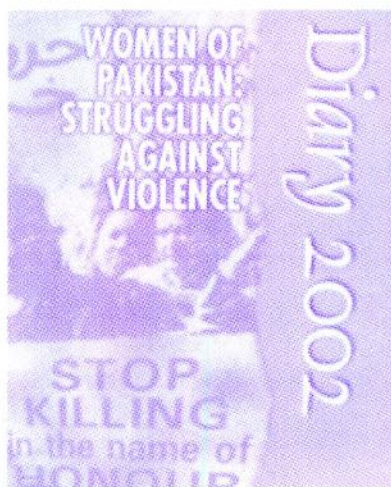
*Diary 2000*



**WOMEN OF PAKISTAN:  
LOOKING TOWARDS  
THE NEW  
MILLENNIUM**

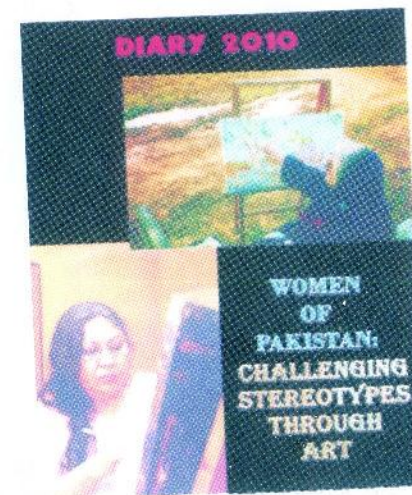
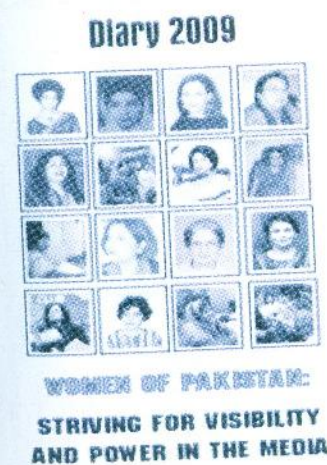
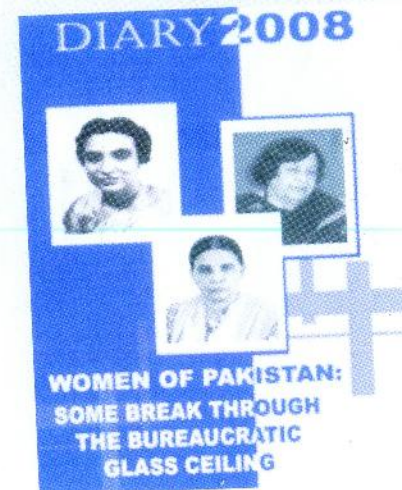
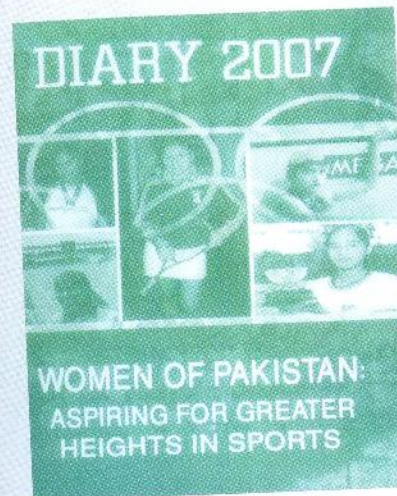
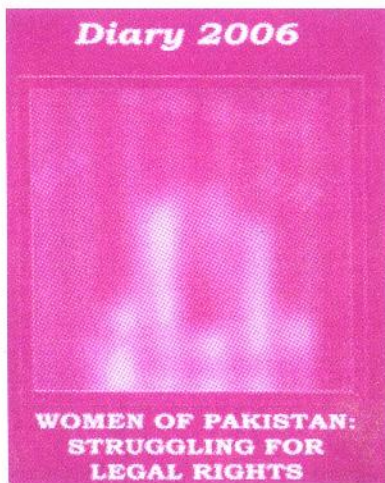
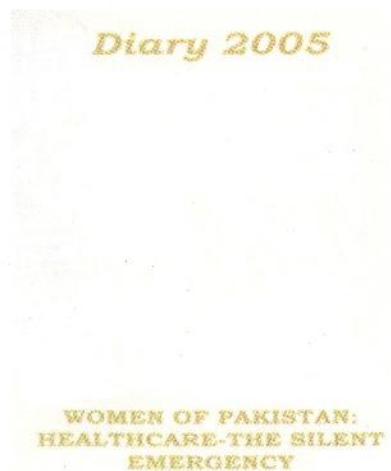
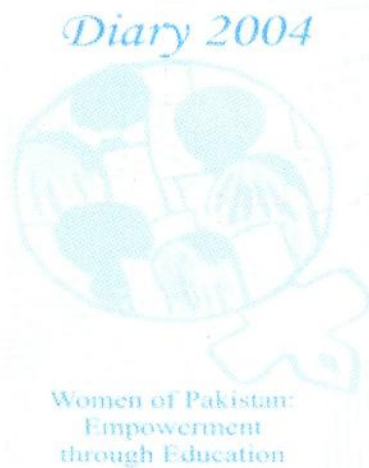
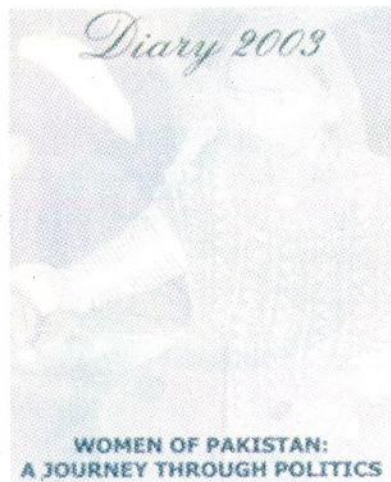


*Diary 2001*

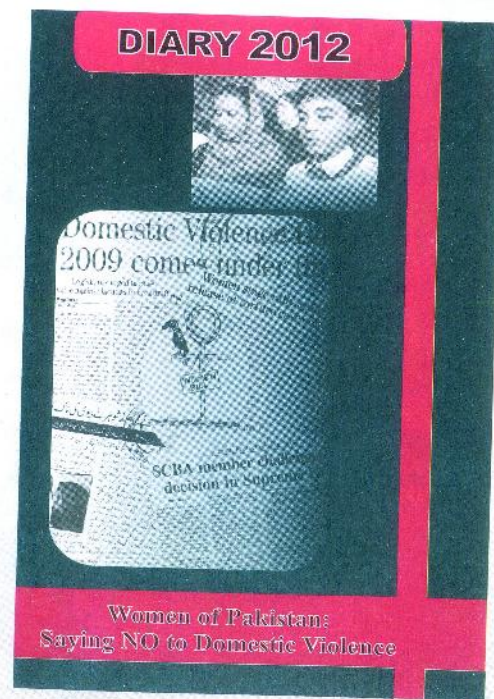
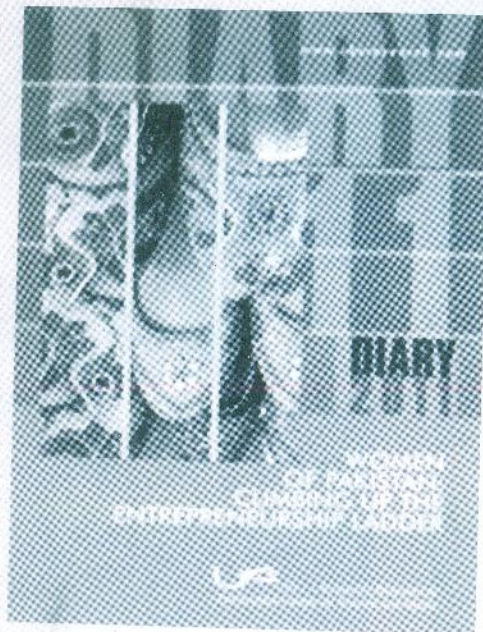


**STOP  
KILLING  
in the name of  
HONOUR**









# 2014

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

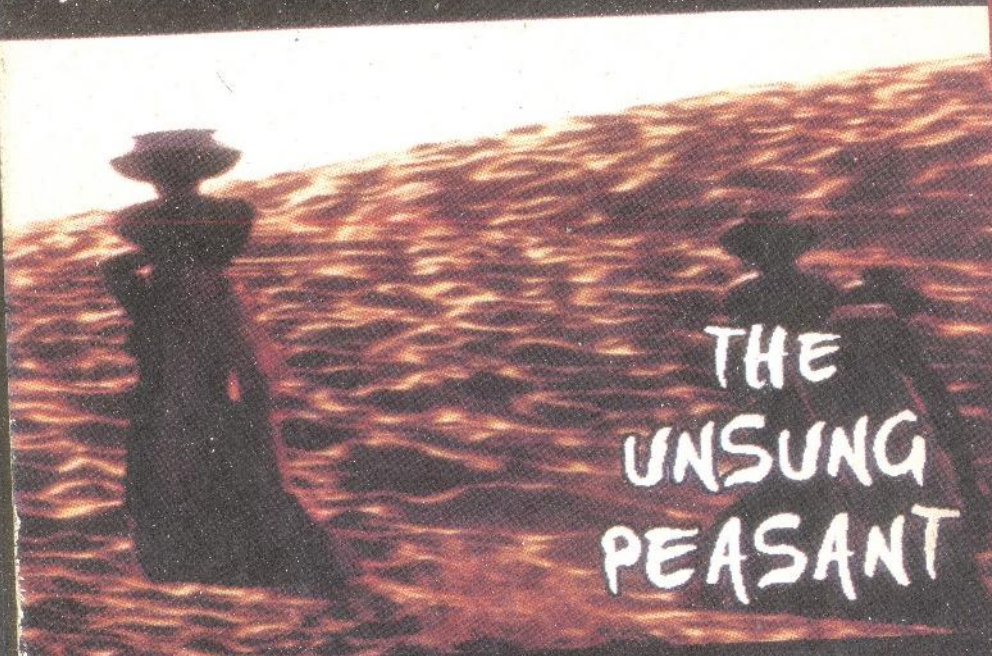
## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					





*Conceived and written by  
NAJMA SADEQUE  
Translated by ZAHIDA HINA  
Directed by SHIREEN PASHA  
With the voice of UZMA GILANI  
as*



# THE UNSUNG PEASANT

A woman peasant of the ages leaves behind  
a legacy of knowledge to keep nature fruitful  
as she mourns the disappearance of her world  
under modern chemical agriculture.

**INFO-FEATURE 30 min.**

*A production of  
The Green Economics &  
Globalisation Initiative  
SHIRKAT GAH 2003*



UKS - A Research, Resource & Publication Centre

**Islamabad Office**

# 51-A, Street 63,

F-8/4, Islamabad - Pakistan

Tel: +92 51 2850906, +92 51 8365900

Fax: +92 51 2850908

**Karachi Office**

# 7/1 C, 1st Floor, Stadium Lane 1,  
Khadda Market, DHA, Karachi

E-mail: [info@uksresearch.com](mailto:info@uksresearch.com) URL: [www.uksresearch.com](http://www.uksresearch.com)