

PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

28th March 2022 – 3rd April 2022



IN THIS ISSUE

- [COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [Tackling Drought-Building Resilience Success Stories of SKALA Project](#)
[Badin - A Story By Action Against Hunger \(ACF\)](#)
- [Community For Learners - UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Buzz of the Week](#)
- [Opportunities/Training](#)
- [Publications and Resources](#)

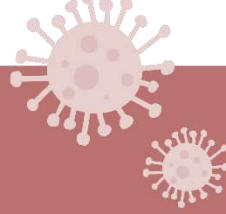
Click on the links to go directly to the section





COVID-19

Situation Report



UPDATE

Since the COVID-19 peak is over as the government and all the relevant institutions including non-governmental organizations took several measures in sensitizing and vaccinating half of the population, now it is high time to shift our focus towards other aspects. In this context, PHF has decided to discontinue the updates on COVID-19 in the PHF weekly bulletin onwards.

Sharing the COVID-19 interventions of PHF member's organization





Setting Trend of Guava Cultivation in Water Scarce Areas

Tackling Drought-Building Resilience Success Stories of SKALA Project Badin

By ACF

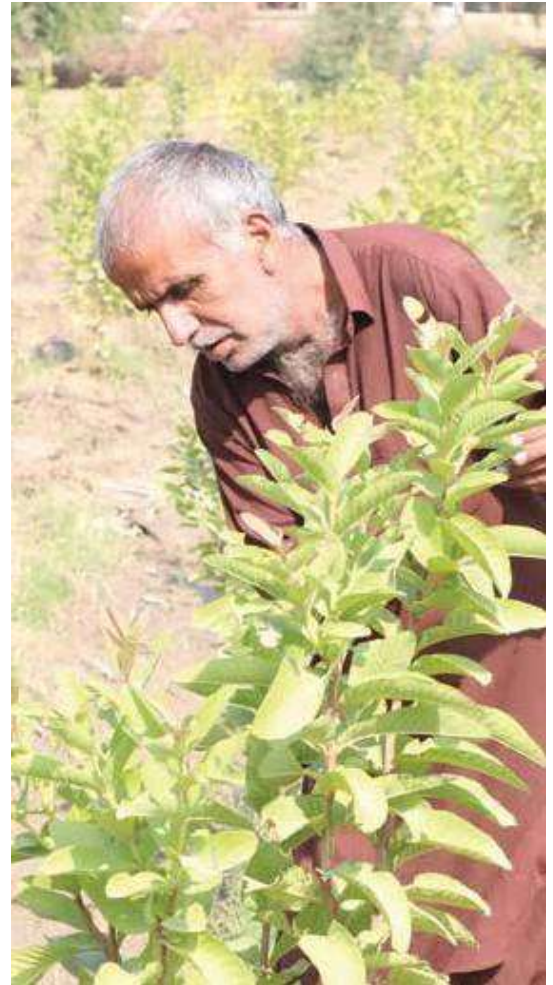


Mr. Punhal Khoso, a 50 years old man of village Ali Muhammad Khoso district Badin, has first time grown Guava on his land to curtail impacts of water shortages. Water scarcity has become phenomenon in the area, the district is itself disaster prone, though. His village is located in tail end area in Taluka Talhar, where 'Sultani Wah' canal irrigates the fields. Earlier this irrigation distributary was famous with the name of 'Moolchand Wah' around 4 decades ago.

Before the project intervention, he used to cultivate some fodder grasses, legumes and rice crops on his land, but due to water scarcity since couple of years, he left his land uncultivated. Punhal has only a land of 2.5 acres, two buffalos and three goats. It is the only asset he has. According to Punhal, climate change has further aggravated the farming in the area.

“We are left with a few options to grow fodder and some vegetables”, says Punhal.”

“For last three years, there have been acute water shortages in our area, and we are uncertain of getting required water in future too”, he added. Amid this uncertainty of water and heat stresses, they have found efficient irrigation, and improved soil and crop management techniques and practices.



“ Thanks to ACF and LHDP, who educated us of practicing agriculture innovatively. Previously, we never knew about growing guava in this area”, said Punhal

while thanking ACF and LHDP. Accustomed with conventional agricultural practices, Punhal and one of his neighbours were found happiest to have lush green trees of guava in their fields, which they have grown with the technical assistance of SKALA project of ACF and LHDP.

The SKALA project directly supports around 10,000 poverty and drought stricken households in three Tehsils of district Badin. Promoting resilient agriculture practices in the area is one of the project strategies to enable farmers withstand water scarcity and earn the dignified livelihoods. The project is in progress since 2019. Punhal was provided with healthy tree saplings of 'China Golo' variety of guava by the SKALA project together with training in crop management.

Tackling Drought-Building Resilience Success Stories of SKALA Project Badin

By ACF



The soil samples collected from his land were analysed in a soil laboratory in Government and as per soil quality, he was educated to apply required quantity of water and fertilizer on the Guava crops.

Guava is a subtropical fruit, common in Pakistan. In Sindh, Larkana, Dadu, Shikarpur and Hyderabad districts are famous for good quality guava production, where excellent pear shaped guava with smaller seed core is grown on large scale. Though Badin is not the belt for guava production, but SKALA project has chosen some agri-pockets of district for guava production based on the technical surveys and soil analysis. This has so far proven successful.



Guava is a nutritious local fruit. In addition to its high Vitamin C content, one whole guava contains 37 calories, 1 gram fat, 1 milligram sodium, 8 grams carbohydrates, 3 grams fiber, 5 grams sugar and 1 gram protein

The SKALA Project planted total 1000 tree saplings in one acre, out of that, more than 900 survived. It is highly successful rate of survival in the area where trees fail to survive after the planting season generally due to lack or poor post-planting care and proper watering. Farmer led farm management approach was quite evident. “We applied the high-density plantation method (HDP) and maintained the row to row distance of 6 feet and tree to tree distance of 4 feet as per standards”, says Mr. Zahoor Palijo, Project Manager of SKALA project, who himself is an agriculturist. “All together, ACF and LHDP has demonstrated guava on 15 acres in various water scarce areas of Badin”, he added. High- density plantation would result in maximizing unit area yield.

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) belongs to the Myrtaceae family; it has more than 80 genera and 3000 species dispersed throughout the tropics and subtropics, mostly in the America, Asia and Australia (Nakasone and Paull, 1998). Guava tolerates a wide range of climates, provided they are frost-free (Menzel, 1995).

Among the major fruits of Pakistan, guava occupies the third position after Citrus and Mango in terms of area. 1,94,700 hectares are under Citrus, 90,900 hectares under Mango and 56,800 hectares under guava. Area-wise it is more than the combined area under Apples, and Peaches (49,000 ha) . The reason for covering huge area throughout the country lays in the fact that guava is the hardiest, drought tolerant and with stands the pH ranging from 4.5 to 8.5 (Singh, 1990). Production-wise, it ranks fourth after Citrus, Mango and Bananas in Pakistan. A mature tree gives production of 20-24 kg of fruit in the season. So Punhal and his other fellow farmer are confident to get maximum production of around 20,000 kg in a season from one acre land.

This strategy of growing drought resilient orchards in water scarce areas is widely appreciated by the Agriculture Department officials and farmers of Badin, because guavas can survive dry summers with no water, although they do best with regular deep watering.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (University of Copenhagen)

The 17 UN SDGs were created in 2015 to achieve a better and more sustainable future for everyone. They address global challenges including hunger, poverty, inequality, climate action, clean energy, and economic growth. University of Copenhagen's course introduces the history, scope, and development of the UN SDGs. Learners will examine multiple key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the SDGs and discuss climate action (SDG 17) more thoroughly. The course is facilitated by Professor Katherine Richardson, who was a member of the panel appointed by the UN Secretary General to write the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report. Multiple other experts are featured throughout the learning experience.



What you will learn (excerpt)

- Describe the history, development, and scope of specific UN SDGs
- Outline the causes and mechanisms of climate change
- Discuss human inequality as central obstacle to achieving the SDGs
- Explain the role of key stakeholders in the realization of the UN SDGs

Free Course

UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN



How you will learn

Rated 4.8 out of 5 by previous learners, the course takes around 10 hours to complete. To receive a passing grade, learners must complete three quizzes and answer 80% correctly. Each week of the course consists of video lectures, readings, quizzes and discussion prompts.



Flexible deadlines

Reset deadlines in accordance to your schedule.



Shareable Certificate

Earn a Certificate upon completion



100% online

Start instantly and learn at your own schedule.



Beginner Level



Approx. 10 hours to complete



English

Subtitles: Arabic, French, Portuguese (European), Italian, Portuguese (Brazilian), Vietnamese, German, Russian, English, Spanish



HOW TO
REGISTER

CLICK HERE





The public sector Korea International Cooperation Agency and the United Nations Office have agreed to enhance the capacity of the Pakistani government for the supply of safe drinking water. Under the project, the KOICA and UNOPS will help the Government of Pakistan make progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 6: “clean water and sanitation for all” [Read more](#)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD) has included Pakistan in the list of five countries around the globe that are facing a high degree of pressure on the balance of payment vulnerabilities including escalating public and publicly guaranteed (PPG) debt. The report says Pakistan is among the countries for which the bond yield rose sharply, while bond yields for developing countries have been on the rise since September 2021, [Read more](#)

Pakistan is likely to face an acute shortage of water by 2025, according to a report by the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR). It is shocking that no government has taken serious steps to deal with this problem. A major chunk of the country’s revenues is spent on repaying loans. It is regrettable that Pakistan is unable to spend the required amount to tackle environment problems. [Read more](#)

Serving and retired employees of Pakistan Railways as well as passengers will be provided with top quality healthcare under an agreement signed by Pakistan Railways and Sehat Kahani. Sehat Kahani will provide round-the-clock access to qualified healthcare professionals through its network of over 7,000 doctors to all current and retired employees of Pakistan Railways and their families. [Read more](#)

The Consul General of United Arab Emirates Consul General Consul General Bakheet Al Remeithi said on Sunday his country was endeavoring to construct more healthcare units in Pakistan, especially in Sindh. He referred to hospitals in Karachi and Khairpur where Hilal-i-Ahmar health facility was set up and the staff was busy providing healthcare services to ailing humanity. [Read more](#)

With the advancement of medical science, modern research, timely diagnosis and availability of effective medicines, TB is curable; however, in the third world countries including Pakistan, tuberculosis is spreading fast due to various reason including not completing treatment process. [Read more](#)

Research by a non-profit has revealed the biggest portion of Pakistan’s public money is being spent on the education sector, which is greater than the national defence budget. However, the number of out-of-school children in the country is still 22 million. “The data compiled by our interns is completely verifiable and collected from the most authentic sources,” said the GCT, CEO, Zahid Saeed, who presented the findings of the research at the annual fundraiser of his non-profit. [Read more](#)

Stakeholder Engagement Assistant- Tearfund

tearfund

Deadline: April 10, 2022.

The Stakeholder engagement Assistant is responsible for maintaining and developing a good relationship with the key stakeholders including local and district government and support in managing stakeholders' expectations and relationships in order to ensure that the project and its activities receive consistent support, ownership, participation, contribution and facilitation.

For more information, please [click here](#).

Social Mobilizer- Tearfund

tearfund

Deadline: April 10, 2022.

The Social Mobilizer is mainly responsible for community mobilization activities including awareness raising sessions and rolling out the remote social mobilization campaign on solid waste management. The Social Mobilizer is a field-based position and responsible to directly engage with community's groups identification and mobilize the community groups, volunteers and influential on sustainable solid waste management.

For more information, please [click here](#).



Relief International monthly newsletter

This issue highlights the RI work in Pakistan. [Read more.](#)



Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub

UN Women, in collaboration with the Australian Government just launched the WRD Knowledge Hub, which includes:

- Searchable [Library](#) and [Toolbox](#) for accessing tools, guidance and publications
- [WRD Policy Tracker](#) to monitor national and regional progress on achieving gender-responsive and inclusive DRR laws, policies, strategies and plans
- [WRD Expert Register](#) to help identify experts on women's leadership and gender equality in disaster and climate risk reduction and resilience from different regions

[Read more](#)

OCHA Internal Humanitarian Update 31 (March 19 - 26 Mar 2022)

Key highlights

- A charter to establish a Humanitarian Trust Fund for Afghanistan was signed by the Secretary General Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Head of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), as stated by the Pakistan Foreign Office. The bank will serve as a vehicle to channel humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, including in partnership with other international actors. This development was followed by the 48th OIC Foreign Ministers conference on 22 – 23 March.
- From various parts of the country ruling and opposition parties are convening in Islamabad to hold rallies leading up to the vote of no confidence on 28 March. The federal government has decided to completely seal the Red Zone area and tightened security in Islamabad ahead of the processions. Majority of business activities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi remained suspended. Alternate open routes have been notified to the motorists by the police.



Gender Responsive Conflict Analysis (GRCA)

Gender Responsive Conflict Analysis guidance note was developed simultaneously to an extensively GRCA process conducted by United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and for the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on the behalf of United Nations Country team (UNCT).

The guidance note can be accessed [here](#)



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