

Developing a Learning Chain among Female Farmers: Vegetable Production at Household Level

Ask any person in Pakistani village today what the participation level of female in agriculture and the typical answer is: “looking after the livestock and helping men in harvesting”. Same case witnessed at the pilot site of project in 86 DB Bahawalpur.

During the collaborative problem solving workshop, project facilitator Ms. Muzamil figured out the local problems facing the community and urged them to think about the solution. One of the problems was not having access to market where women of that village could get vegetables themselves. They were highly dependent on their male-counterparts to bring vegetables from far away market.

After mutual discussion among women, an active woman Manzooran Bibi with the consent of her husband volunteered the plot for the experiment of Kitchen Gardening. She worked under the supervision of project team,

“I am so happy that I can get fresh vegetables anytime at door step and saving money” Manzooran Bibi

attended hands on training and was involved in growing vegetables from site selection to harvesting. She also participated in the demonstration of cultivation of pulses experiment.



Before that she was only supporting her husband in crop management and storage of cereals. She now has knowledge of growing vegetables, **irrigation** and disease control. She got total 130 kg vegetables including radish, carrot, coriander, beetroot, spinach, turnip, fenugreek and garlic in her 5 Marla plot during



Manzooran Bibi and Irshad Bibi working in the field
PC-Ms Muzamil Nov-2017, 86 DB, Bahawalpur

November 2017 to March 2018. She is now able to produce fresh vegetables, manage the pest and diseases, prepare organic fertilizer (compost) by utilizing the green consumed vegetable's peels, livestock waste and **irrigating land at the proper time that she learned by using chameleon sensors**. Due to the **new way of learning** and practicing Kitchen Gardening, Manzooran Bibi is feeling **empowered** now. She is able to support her family (husband and six children) in a meaningful way.

The story didn't end here, Manzooran Bibi become an inspiration for the other women in her neighbourhood. She motivated other female friends to visit her field and shared all the new way of learning and techniques of

taking care of their own vegetable gardens. Irshad Bibi, one of the follower of Manzooran Bibi named her experiment "**Kehi Kuni**" (local term which defines involvement from site selection to till cooking of food). Interestingly, she got 156 Kg of vegetables at her 5 Marla plot during summer season 2018 and is planning to increase the size of her vegetable field to sell vegetables to other families of the village. During the 2.5 years of project inception, now there are total 10 females in 86 DB maintaining their own vegetable gardens and helping out their families.



Irshad Bibi introducing Learning Steps of **Kehi Kuni** to other women
PC-Mr Sajid 21-Feb-18, 86 DB, Bahawalpur

*"I cashed my efforts and feel happy to save money from vegetables of my own garden. I am feeling happy and more confident to grow vegetables at broader level".....
Irshad Bibi*

This continuous chain of learning is improving the livelihood of the community and especially developing a sense of empowerment among women.

Project: LWR/074

"Developing Approaches to Enhance Farmer Water Management Skills in Punjab Sindh and Blochistan in Pakistan"

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