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SPRING NEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

An Interview with Ms. ROSHAN ARA

Development Advisor, Trade and Economic Cooperation
European Union Delegation to Pakistan

How have you found SWITCH-Asia SPRING team working on this project as compared to other teams/projects working under EU?

SWITCH-Asia team is really working hard. Although the project is not completed yet, so far by looking at the efforts of entire team, I hope we will get the desired outputs. Immediate adoption of better practices, involvement of farmers, BCI and all other stakeholders show that the team is well organized and committed to their professional tasks.

What do you find most interesting or significant about SWITCH-Asia SPRING project?

All projects are significant but SWITCH-Asia SPRING's Project shifting towards sustainability is worth appreciation. Their concept about green economy, awareness creation, energy saving and sustainable production & consumption is remarkable.

What is your personal philosophy on what should be done in the context of socio-economic issues of Pakistan?

If I talk about ginning industry particularly the ginners should keep up their hard work and spirits high, they will be more on ground to bring considerable change after the project ends.

What is the level of commitment of EU to continue its support with WWF on issue like conservation and for agriculture sector of Pakistan?

In general EU is very much committed. It is also focusing on vocational trainings and energy conservation. Our strategic plan is made keeping in view the much needed requirements of Pakistan. In order to meet the EU standards we ensure transparency. Whenever a call is open, everybody gets a chance to come up with their proposals. Whenever we will find a need to work on an environmental issue, we would definitely prefer WWF-Pakistan as they are well aware of EU rules, procedures and strategies.

Recently you had a visit to Sukkur how was that experience?

It was quite busy but very well organized. Presence of PCGA chairman and the international brands like Levi's and IKEA showed that there is a team work, well established network and everybody is equally involved. The credit goes to the good mangament of Arif H. Makhdum. It was good to see the focus on things like Decent work, time saving and changes in the equipment. Most of the projects just show the paper work but I have seen the practical implementation.

SWITCH-Asia Network Event Held in Kathmandu, Nepal

Networking events are one of the key activities to be organized by the SWITCH- Asia Network Facility.



Capacity Building Workshop for Decent Work Awareness

Recently training workshops on Decent Work awareness were carried out by the team of SWITCH Asia SPRING's Project.



SWITCH-Asia SPRING Team Exploring New Ways to Use Cotton Gin Waste

- >> Mushroom Cultivation
- >> Sun Dried Board
- >> Recycling/ & Income generation



Mahesh Kumar, Chairman PCGA experience of interacting with WWF-Pakistan

A meeting was arranged with Mahesh Kumar, chairman PCGA regarding his experience of interacting with WWF-P in its SWITCH-Asia SPRING project.



Training of Step-1 Ginners in collaboration with Cleaner Production Institute (CPI)

WWF Pakistan under SPRING project joined hands with Cleaner Production Institute (CPI) to share environmental knowledge



SPRING Team Launches Ginning Machinery Maintenance Toolkit

An effective equipment maintenance and calibration ensures that ginning machinery works consistently and as intended



SWITCH -Asia Network Event

Held in Kathmandu, Nepal

Networking events are one of the key activities to be organized by the SWITCH- Asia Network Facility. They have been recognized by the European Union as well as projects and their beneficiaries as an effective mean to address common issues in project implementation and to share experiences and best practices. The SWITCH-Asia Network Facility has been deploying this useful approach via organization of at least one networking meeting annually since the start of the programme, for successful implementation of the projects. Furthermore, the networking events are implemented to maximize knowledge sharing, creating synergy and enhance programme impacts on changing consumption and production patterns. SWITCH-Asia Network Facility arranged its annual SWITCH-Asia Networking Meeting 18-20 June, 2013, in Kathmandu, Nepal. Asad Imran, Sr. Programme Manager SAP & Ghulam Abbas, Project Coordinator represented WWF-Pakistan SWITCH-Asia SPRING project. The overall objective of this 5th Networking meeting was to continue strengthening the synergies and knowledge sharing between projects at regional level, and provided a platform where the project partners presented their current progress to important stakeholders, such as Asian policy-makers, and the EU. As several projects now are in the final phases, this upcoming annual networking event was also a good opportunity to discuss final impact of the project results with the SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Components. The event will also follow-up on the BAZAAR concept, which was implemented for the first time at the Networking Event in Bangkok (2012), as well as the up-scaling studies written by the Network Facility, which are to be concluded in 2013.

In continuation of the Big Bazaar organized at the Networking Meeting in Bangkok 2012, the meeting also focused on linking with the SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Components and to facilitate exchange of ideas and contacts with national policy-makers. The meeting was attended by 140-150 participants, who were representing project beneficiaries of the SWITCH-Asia programme, representatives from the European Union, representatives of the regional Policy Support Component and the four National Policy Support Components, and selected experts and key note speakers in the field of SCP. In line with the last annual networking meeting, specific workshop sessions were allocated to two rounds of three parallel sessions, the first round envisioning to focus on thematic topics / sectors within the SWITCH-Asia programme (such as poverty alleviation, food, textiles, buildings etc.), while the second round focused more on specific tools (such as the use of standards, eco-design, effective training methods etc.). Asad Imran gave the presentation on, "Rural Sourcing for Socio-economic Development & Poverty Alleviation; a case of Better Cotton" in thematic session on Textiles which was much appreciated due to its innovative & practical approach.

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Capacity Building Workshops for Decent Work Awareness in Ginning SME's of BWP, RYK & Sukkur



Training workshops on Decent Work awareness were carried out by the team of SWITCH-Asia SPRING's Project. First training session was held on 18 to 20 June 2013 with gin owners followed by training on 23rd and 24th of July 2013 with managerial staff. A total of 45 Step-1 Ginners and their managerial staff participated and an encouraging response was received as the participants highly appreciated the team efforts and made commitments to come up to the considerations of Decent Work awareness program. They assured that actions regarding Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) would be implemented to the maximum.

The workshops were conducted by Decent Work Specialist Mr. Noor Khan, Prof. Tariq Sultan Pasha who is working as an occupational hygienist, Mr. Mureed Abbas, Instructor Civil Defence, Government of the Punjab and Dr. Aleem Majid, Disaster Management Officer Red Crescent, Government of the Punjab.

Ginners found the training program very productive as it included knowledge about the probabilities of fire and accidental injuries at work places along with the use of first aid box for minor injuries. The most positive aspect of this seminar was the complementary timing as the peak season started from August and managerial staff had acquired training in advance, the execution of the plan could be performed feasibly. They pledged to take all the possible and required precautionary measures and were looking forward to conditions in the factories which were quite an accomplishment for SWITCH-Asia team.



SWITCH-Asia SPRING Team Exploring New Ways to Use Cotton Gin Waste



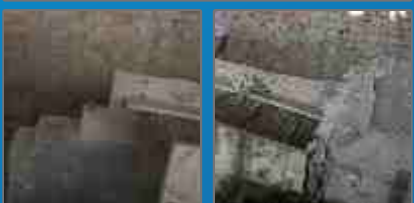
1- MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

Mushroom cultivation using cotton gin waste as medium is an income-generating activity. This, on one hand, will develop self-reliance among the rural women and save them from tiring manual labor, and on the other hand, will provide them with more opportunities for cultural, societal, and technical education in improving the quality of family and community life by income generation.



2- SUN DRIED BOARD

Using Cotton Gin Waste as a raw material for making sun dried board. A mixture of 60% cotton gin waste, 30% wood particles and 10%, wood fibers is 80% stronger and 60% stiffer than commercial insulation boards.





3- Recycling/Income generation for rural women by utilizing using cotton gin waste for house hold articles.





Mahesh Kumar, chairman PCGA experience of interacting with WWF-Pakistan in SWITCH-Asia SPRING project.

An interview session was arranged with Mahesh Kumar, chairman PCGA regarding his experience of interacting with WWF-Pakistan in SWITCH-Asia SPRING project. Mahesh Kumar, when asked about the current issues related to Pakistan cotton Ginning Industry said “, the most important issue the 2nd buyer, which is the Textile industry. It is actually not fair in dealing with the ginners and that is why cotton quality is not being improved. Secondly, we are also facing problems due to the energy crisis which is one of the major problems these days. And the implementation of extra taxes by FBR is another issue that is being faced by the ginning industry.”

He highly appreciated the endeavors of Switch-Asia team on working with CPI and CIWCE in order to identify the issues regarding ginning industry and showing an energetic response towards upgrading the ginning industry. He also believes that if SWITCH-Asia project team keeps moving at the same pace regardless of any hindrances, then it would be known as a pioneer project in up gradation of ginning processes. As previously SMEDA and other organizations funded by USAID could not be successful in similar initiatives, the reason being the emphasis on a complete renovation & replacement of ginning machinery which was not appraised by the ginners. Whereas SWITCH-Asia SPRING project team is working towards improving efficiency within the existing resources & machinery. The team has worked hard to identify issues & now are coming up with cost effective solutions that will lead to productivity improvement. Describing his achievements as a chairman of PCGA, Mr. Mahesh Kumar revealed that he has taken a strong stand against child labour in ginning industries. He has also been working on resolving the FBR issues regarding 213 with 220 SRO's in ginning. In addition he focused on the cancellation of unnecessary taxes as there is already 1% tax on the Ginning Gross Sale. Such steps are his biggest achievements.

Mahesh Kumar is appreciative of the collaboration between WWF-Pakistan & PCGA for a sustained growth & development of Pakistan's cotton ginning industry.

He concluded the conversation by describing that if textile industry begins to offer a price, based on the quality of lint produced by the ginners , PCGA would work hard to achieve the level of clean cotton which is actually “the contamination free cotton” he added. It is to be noted that, “8% of contamination is allowed in the raw cotton that is sold to the textile industry. If the level of contamination exceeds this limit then ginner is asked to pay for that. But if the contamination is lower than this, then Textile industry is not ready to pay any extra amount for the better quality raw material provided to them. If they start doing this then surely ginners will focus on providing cleaner & better quality cotton.”

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Training of Step-1 Ginners in Collaboration with **Cleaner Production Institute (CPI)**

WWF-Pakistan under SPRING project joined hands with Cleaner Production Institute (CPI) to share environmental knowledge and technology to ginning industry intending to devise a greener environment along with the sustained industrial development of Pakistan. Around 45 training sessions for Step-1 Ginners were organized in all three regions of project area (Sukkur, RahimYar Khan & Bahawalpur). Out of these 45 Sessions, 30 were facilitated by CPI experts and 15 were carried out by SPRING team which comprised of ginning specialist Muhammad Ilyas Sarwar, Masood Akhtar, Toheed Ghani Mahesar, Ghulam Abbas, Muhammad Abdullah, Muhammad Irfan and Muhammad Sajid.

Training had been designed to build the capacities of the gin management staff on three thematic areas namely Production Management, Environment, Health & Safety Management and Energy Management.

The trainers briefed the participants regarding optimization of lint production through maintaining proper moisture level, seed cotton feed rate & use of proper saws. The participants were also introduced to various methods of energy conservation in various sections of lint production such as electrical motors, pneumatic delivery system & bale pressing units. Last section of these trainings dealt with Environmental & Occupational Health & Safety in which trainers provided the ginners with practical recommendations for improving working environment & safety standards within ginning facilities.

Training teams received a very supportive response as participants considered contents of the training to be practically feasible, technically valid, economically beneficial and genuine. Factory owners realized that the issues discussed were justifiable and committed regarding maximum compliance to the solutions presented.



SPRING TEAM LAUNCHES **Ginning Machinery Maintenance Toolkit**

An effective equipment maintenance and calibration ensures consistent working of ginning machinery so that cotton process control points are measured accurately. An adequate maintenance and calibration of ginning machinery carried out by standardized gauges can save time and money by reducing unscheduled downtime & can reduce unexpected major repairs. Unfortunately despite a significant number of ginning SMEs are in operation every year in Pakistan to produce more than 14 million bales, annual repair, overhauling & maintenance of these ginning units are done by technicians who don't have any formal training & use hit and trial method to calibrate different fundamental parts of ginning units. These technicians or "USTADs" don't have standardized gauges & tools required for the optimum output & quality of the cotton being processed. Keeping in mind the necessity of such a standard toolkit, WWF-Pakistan SPRING team worked on developing such a toolkit in consultation with Agricultural Machinery Research Institute, (AMRI), Multan & succeeded in getting a set of such tools fabricated to be used by ginning machinery maintenance staff. Step-1 Ginners welcomed the idea of this toolkit and SPRING team facilitated the manufacturing of this kit by a local ginning machinery firm. The firm has provided the kit to 45 ginners who paid in advance for the toolkit. It is interesting to note that the said firm is receiving more orders from the industry to supply these toolkits. Moreover the ginning staff is being trained by the SPRING team for the use of this toolkit.



Highlights of 5th SAP

Project Support Unit (PSU) Meeting

Project Review/ Support Meetings provide an opportunity to analyze and document project successes and difficulties, thereby providing a better foundation for future project work. PSU meeting was held for Sustainable Agriculture Programme (SAP) being executed under the supervision of Dr. Ghulam Akbar Senior Director Programmes, on 30th and 31st July, 2013 at Head Office Lahore. This meeting concentrated on progress towards the goals of the specific SAP projects.

On 30th July, 2013 the meeting started with the welcome note given by the Chairman PSU Mr. M Anwar Naseem. Dr. Ejaz Ahmad Senior Director Conservation WWF-Pakistan presented the minutes of the previous PSU meeting as a backdrop for this meeting. After that Mr. Asad Imran, Senior Program Manager SAP presented the progress on SWITCH Asia SPRING Project as well as about a new sugarcane initiative GloPSI. Whereas progress in the projects of PSCI, BCFTF (Sukkar-Sindh) and BCFTF (RYK-Punjab) was presented by Mr. A. R. Bhutto, Manager SAP (Central-Punjab), Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan, Manager SAP (Sindh) and Mr. Muhammad Abubakar, Coordinator SAP office (RYK) respectively.

Similarly Mr. Zahid Jadoon, Senior Manager Finance/Operations presented the financial reports of SAP projects.

On 2nd day of meeting, Mr. Arif H. Makhdom, Director Sustainable Agriculture Programme gave a detailed over-view of Better Cotton System. A comprehensive report on monitoring mission to T. T Singh, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan was given by Miss. Amna Shahab, Senior Manager Programme Development and Mr. Adnan Hanif, Senior Manager Finance/Operations.

Presence of Senior Management at the meeting allowed SAP Management to identify gaps and to determine possible corrective actions as suggested by the senior members of PSU.

Meeting ended with the concluding remarks and vote of thanks by Senior Directors Mr. M Anwar Naseem, and Dr. Ejaz Ahmad respectively. They were of the opinion that it was an excellent opportunity for all of us to improve our understanding of SAP projects to make suggestions for improvement. They further added that discussions have benefited from the active participation of the SAP team. The informative and thought provoking presentation and interventions by the discussants made available before the beginning of this meeting were well appreciated by the senior directors. They further extended their gratitude to all the members of PSU for their time and valuable inputs.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sustainable Cotton Initiative (SCI) steering group meeting in Singapore.
- SWITCH-Asia SPRING Project, National Stakeholders' meeting.
- Better Cotton Fast Track Fund (BCFTF), project evaluation meeting in Dubai.
- Linkage between Levis' supply chain vendors and Step-1 Ginners.
- **Production of Documentary:** "What Makes A Good Buyer" (WWF-UK)
- **Production of Documentary:** "Better Ginning Practices in Cotton Ginning SMEs under SWITCH-Asia Project. (WWF-Pakistan)
- Visit of Media Personal to SWITCH-Asia SPRING Project sites.



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