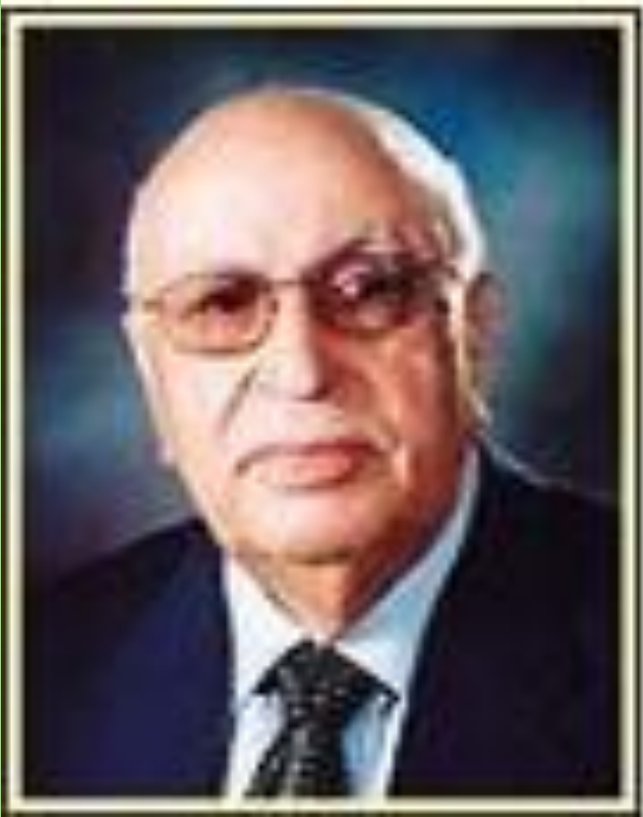




RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION OF PAKISTAN



NEWSLETTER January- July 2021



Founder President Dr. M. Sadiq Malik (Late)

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that the Founder President of Rural Development Foundation Dr. M. Sadiq Malik left for his heavenly abode on 28th Feb, 2021 at the age of 100 years. His death is a great loss and has left a big void in the RDF family. Being a kind-hearted, generous and devoted

person he always kept the needs of others before self. Being a God fearing and magnanimous person, he was a philanthropist at heart.

He was the Founder of RDF and his passion was to improve the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, focusing on the rural poor. The objective of Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan (RDF) is to alleviate poverty from the rural areas by increasing production and raising productivity, together with the facility of basic services such as health and education, which can have an impact on the physical well-being and quality of life of the rural poor.

Dr. Sadiq Malik (late) was not only the Founder President of RDF, he was also the initiator of the concept of Integrated Rural Development in Pakistan which was based on the SHADAB project in 1968 incorporating 60 villages near Lahore. This model was recognized not only in Pakistan but also got international recognition. Although he is not among us anymore, his ideas and concept will always be guidance for all the NGOs / Institutions working on rural development.

Awareness Program

RDF Islamabad organized a day long Awareness Program on different topics for women in collaboration with the Agriculture Department Tehsil Taxila on February 18, 2021 in RDF Centre Godho, Taxila, where experts from different organizations and 42 local women participated.

The main objective of the program was to equip the rural women about the potential of working on different activities such as Mushroom Cultivation, Angora Rabbit Farming and Kitchen Gardening for their livelihood.



Ms. Sehrish Saba
Agricultural
Officer Food &
Vegetables
Development
Project
Rawalpindi,
highlighted the
details about the
market value of mushrooms, mushroom cultivation
at household level and the whole process for
mushroom production.



Ms. Anum Noureen, Agriculture officer from
Agriculture Extension Department provided valuable
information to the participants about kitchen
gardening and also provided the participants variety
of seeds for production.

The women appreciated the work of RDF in their village and ensured that they will cooperate with RDF in achieving its mission.

Household Survey on Kitchen Garden

RDF Project team conducted households survey on kitchen garden in five UCs of Tehsil Taxila during the month of March & April. The objective of the survey was to look at the current status of households in regard to the area available for the kitchen garden, mostly grown vegetables in the area, households spending on vegetables, highly purchased vegetables and source of water in the area. The selection of UCs was based on the poor socio-economic conditions of the people. The selected UCs were Ghari Afghana, Ghari Sikandar, Lab Thathow, Usman Khattar and Wah.

The survey findings indicate that majority of the people in the selected UCs are dependent on market for vegetable consumption. However, every household grows one or the other types of vegetable in their home. The most commonly grown vegetables are winter season vegetables i.e. potato, cabbage, onions, turnips and chilies. A small portion of HH also grows tomatoes, lady finger and spinach. The survey findings also showed that despite having some land available for kitchen gardens, people prefer to buy vegetables from the market. A very small percent of people buy specific vegetables while majority of the respondent's data shows that they buy all vegetables from the market.

Based on the findings of the survey, RDF will develop a comprehensive proposal on food security and will reach the potential donors and will work on women empowerment through the kitchen garden project.

Meeting with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC)

NAVTTTC facilitates, regulates, and provides policy direction for skill development in Pakistan. In order to be a part of NAVTTTC funding opportunity, Mr Zil ur Rehman (Director Projects) RDF held a meeting with Mr. Usman (Deputy Director NAVTTTC) on 24th June at NAVTTTC office, Islamabad. Mr. Usman explained in details about the work of NAVTTTC in Pakistan and their funding methodology. He assured RDF staff about possible collaboration in future and said that NAVTTTC will consider RDF for their upcoming funding opportunity.

Medical Camp at Ghari Afghanan



RDF in collaboration with Aga Khan University Hospital organized one day free medical camp in village Ghari Afghanan on 8th July, 2021. In this medical camp



Group Photo of AKU Medical Team & RDF staff during medical camp

qualified doctor and nurses of AKUH including one female doctor and two nurses along with paramedical staff provided their services to the marginalized segments of the society.

The main highlights of the camp were;

- ✓ Free medical consultation
- ✓ Free diagnosis including blood sugar and blood pressure

Updates from Project, Godho

RDF initiated its pilot project in Taxila in 1983, and made its focal point (*Markaz*) at village Godho which is situated about 7km from Taxila city. Currently two major projects are running under RDF Center Godho, Taxila:

- Mother and Child Health Care Unit
- Vocational Training Center

MCH Center Godho is providing the following facilities to the locals of Godho and its adjacent villages;

- Childhood Vaccination
- First Aid, Blood Pressure checkup
- Health Awareness Sessions

RDF Centre Godho facilitated polio vaccination campaigns in the months of January and May, while in the month of February, 500 children were



vaccinated against thyroid disease and an awareness campaign on dengue fever was carried out in April.

RDF Skill Development Centre provides training of hand embroidery, knitting/tailoring, fabric & glass painting and handmade decoration pieces to needy and vulnerable women and girls of the area. RDF Skill Development Centre's trained beneficiaries are successfully supporting their families and are financially independent.



The highlight of the various sessions held during the first quarter of 2021 are as follows;

- RDF Team facilitated the Khushali survey team in Ghari Afghana.
- Plantation Program Activity at RDF Centre Village Godho, Taxila.
- Facilitated the local farmers to get Kisan Card.
- Awareness program about Honey Bee farming and Angora Rabbit farming.
- An awareness program was held to raise awareness among the farmers about the use of pesticides and insecticides.

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