



International MSME Day

Showcasing the Rural Businesses of worth PKR 104.5 million grants under GRASP Project funded by European Union

MNA Syeda Nafeesa Shah Graces the Event as Chief Guest

The Growth for Rural Advancement & Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project aims to scale up small and medium enterprises in Sindh & Balochistan, encompassing various value chains such as livestock (goats, cows, and sheep) as well as horticulture (dates, bananas, onions, and tomatoes). The project is EU funded & implemented by ITC and its core partner PPAF along with its partner organization, the GSF, in Sindh for the implementation at Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad, and Sanghar Districts.

The Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF) celebrated International MSME Day on July 5, 2024, at Khairpur Medical College with 272 participants. The event began with a recitation from the Holy Quran. MNA Dr. Nafeesa Shah praised GSF for disbursing over PKR 104.5 million in grants to 63 SMEs through the EU-funded GRASP project. Mr. Zubair Hussain presented a brief overview of the GRASP Project. The ceremony included the distribution of matching grant cheques for Cycle III and appreciation awards to outstanding SMEs, government departments, and supporting organizations. GSF's CEO, Nazir Ahmed Ujjan, highlighted the organization's

support for SMEs across three districts in Sindh, emphasizing the 63 grants disbursed in Cycles I, II, and III. Mr. Wali Muhammad, Chairman of GSF, thanked all participants.

The event featured speeches from the Agriculture Department, Livestock Department, other government departments, and SMEs who shared their success stories, showcasing the transformative impact of GSF's support. This celebration underscored GSF's commitment to promoting SME growth and innovation in Sindh, significantly contributing to the local economy and community development.



Empowering Resilience Together New Meeting Hall Inaugurated in Mehar

The Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) have upgraded the meeting hall at the Assistant Commissioner's Office in Mehar under the SUSTAIN Project. Inaugurated by Ms. Ghulam Fatima (AC Mehar), Mr. Gul Wali Khan (CRS), and Mr. Nazeer Ahmed Ujjan (GSF), the facility includes a large meeting table, chairs, an air conditioner, and a multimedia projector. This modern space supports development organizations and local administration, enhancing community collaboration and development efforts in Mehar.



SUKHAAR (Prosperity)-BHA/CRS funded Project Jacobabad and Dadu

The SUKHAAR (Prosperity) Project, launched in August 2024, is making significant progress in Jacobabad and Dadu. It targets agriculture, WASH, economic recovery, and MPCA to enhance food security, clean water access, and economic resilience.

Key achievements in August and September 2024 include:

- Baseline assessments in UC Ramzanpur, UC Moladad (Jacobabad), UC Khairpur Nathan Shah, and UC Mehar (Dadu).
- Formation of 23 Village Committees for community engagement and transparent decision-making.

- Meetings with District Administration for logistical support.
- A two-day orientation workshop in Sukkur on August 15-16 for project staff and CRS senior management.
- Baseline survey in 14 villages, covering 250 households, providing insights into agricultural practices and WASH conditions.

The project empowers communities by promoting sustainable agriculture, improving essential services access, and creating economic opportunities, enhancing long-term prosperity and resilience.



SUSTAIN Project funded by CRS Enhances Community Well-being in Deh Kamanger, Dadu

The SUSTAIN Project, supported by CRS, is positively impacting Deh Kamanger. It has planted 8,000 trees across 15 villages, with each beneficiary receiving 10 plants. The project, inaugurated by CRS Head of Program Mr. Gul Wali Khan and Assistant Commissioner Mehar, aims

to combat deforestation and improve the environment. Additionally, 753 rainwater harvesting tanks and 350 energy-efficient stoves have been introduced. GSF is also rebuilding a boundary wall at GBPS Sohbat Khoso and upgrading the meeting hall at the Assistant Commissioner Office in Mehar



GRASP matching grants (3rd cycle) cheque distribution ceremony at Sindh Governor House



A matching grants cheques distribution ceremony was organized by PPAF under the EU-funded GRASP at the Sindh Governor House in Karachi. The event was held for the distribution of matching grant cheques among the qualified SMEs of Cycle III by the Governor of Sindh, Mr. Kamran Tessori.

The PPAF team, along with all partner organizations of Sindh, participated in the event. The SMEs of Cycle III received matching grant cheques from the Governor of Sindh. GSF SMEs also installed promotional stalls at the event to showcase their finest products with

beautiful stall decorations.

The Governor of Sindh visited their promotional stalls and appreciated the work of GSF with the financial support of PPAF. He also awarded cash prizes to the SMEs who had installed promotional stalls.

Crop Insurance Agreement for SMEs Signed in Karachi



On July 25, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between PPAF and Salaam Takaful under the EU-funded GRASP for its Access to Finance (A2F) component. The event was organized at the Movenpick Hotel in Karachi to sign the MoU for crop insurance, with the support of PPAF/ITC/EU under the GRASP project. Eight SMEs from Sanghar and SBA attended and signed the agreement for onion and banana crop insurance. The total premium amount for these SMEs is 11,850,000 PKR. This initiative aims to provide essential insurance coverage for these crops, supporting the agricultural sector and protecting local farmers from potential crop losses. The session highlighted the importance of financial protection for farmers and the role of insurance in ensuring agricultural stability.

FoodAg-2024 International Exhibition at Expo Center Karachi

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) held the second International Food and Agriculture Exhibition, FoodAg2024, at the Expo Center Karachi from August 9-11, 2024. The event showcased Pakistan's food and agriculture potential, with over 200 exhibitors and more than 900 local and international buyers and investors. The exhibition began with an Investment Conference, highlighting opportunities in Pakistan's food and agriculture sectors. SMEs from Khairpur, recommended by GSF and UNFAO, set up stalls at the GRASP Pavilion, building valuable business relationships. This event marked a significant step in boosting Pakistan's exports and economic growth.



Crop Insurance and Loan Orientation Events in SBA and Khairpur

On September 11, 2024, the GRASP Project Team GSF organized an orientation event on crop insurance at Aleez Restaurant, Nawabshah. The event featured discussions on insurance for banana and onion crops and loan facilities for SMEs. On September 13, 2024, in Khairpur, GSF held a similar session at Shah Abdul Latif University, focusing on crop insurance and financial support. Mr. Waseem Shaikh highlighted the benefits of the GRASP project and distributed the second tranche of cheques to SMEs. Both events emphasized the importance of financial protection and support for local farmers and SMEs.



Divisional Dialogue on Impact of Climate Change Addressing Food Security and Livelihoods at SALU Khairpur

On August 3, 2024, Goth Seengar Foundation's PASAP Project and the Farmers Association Network held a divisional dialogue at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur with the support of MISEREOR. The event, titled "Impact of Climate Change on Food Security and Livelihoods of Small Farmers," began with a recitation by Gulzar Ahmed Kubar. Rizwan Ali Kubar, General Secretary of the FAN Network, welcomed the guests, followed by an introduction to the PASP Project and FAN Network by Mumtaz Tabassum Shar.

Distinguished guests included Ziadullah Laghari, Divisional Forest Officer Khairpur, Dr. Nazir Ahmed Mallah, Livestock Officer, Professor Taj Muhammad Lashari, education expert, and Sanam Solangi from SPO. Panel members, including Mashooq Ali Dahar, Gulzar Ahmed Kubar, Ikram Hussain Cheeno, and Nazir Ahmed Soomro, answered questions on climate change, its causes, and its impact on food security and livelihoods. The dialogue saw the participation of 35 attendees, encouraging insightful discussions on these critical issues.



Farmers Association Network Visits Wheat Research Institute in Sakrand



Goth Seengar Foundation's PASAP Project and the Farmers Association Network organized a study tour to the Wheat Research Institute in Sakrand. During the visit, participants explored the museum and learned about various wheat varieties preserved and developed by the institute. The Director, Mr. Imdad Ali Wistro, provided detailed information on the cultivation and average yield of these wheat varieties. He also answered questions from the farmers, offering valuable insights into wheat farming practices. The tour was an informative experience, enhancing the farmers' knowledge and understanding of wheat cultivation.

Tree Plantation Drive Launched with Support of Sindh Forest Department

In a significant environmental initiative, the Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF) and the FEN Network have launched a tree plantation campaign. This effort began with a needs assessment involving 105 farmer organizations. Following this, meetings were held with the Forest Department of Khairpur, resulting in an agreement between the Sindh Forest Department and GSF.

Under this agreement, the Forest Department have provided 15,000 saplings for the PASP project. These saplings included species such as Sindhi Babul, Sumbal, Bedmushk, Jamun, Sahanjro, and Sukh Chain. The saplings have been distributed among the 105 farmer members of various farmer organizations.

To ensure the success of this initiative, a detailed agreement

outlining the responsibilities of each party has been prepared. This includes ensuring the proper planting and verification of the saplings.

The primary goal of this drive is to address climate change by planting trees, which help balance the climate, provide fodder for animals, and nesting sites for birds. Trees also enhance the beauty of the earth and help reduce global warming. A single tree can clean 60 pounds of polluted air annually, absorb 6 tons of carbon dioxide per acre, and produce 4 tons of oxygen, meeting the annual needs of 18 people. Additionally, a tree can absorb 750 gallons of rainwater annually and provide the cooling effect equivalent to ten air conditioners.



Building Capacity of RMOs

Training of Regional Management Organizations (RMOs) at Press Club Sukkur



Electoral Quality & Inclusiveness in Pakistan (EQUIP) TDEA/FAFEN Funded Project

Civil Society Democratic Network-CSDN, Region Sukkur & S Benazirabad

Goth Seengar Foundation, a member of the Free & Fair Election Network, serves as the Network Management Organization (NMO) following FAFEN/TDEA guidelines. It runs the Civil Society Democratic Network (CSDN) in Sukkur, promoting inclusion, rights, sustainable development, and democracy in Pakistan. CSDN comprises local CSOs from Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, Noshferoz, and Shaheed Benazirabad, initially including 27 tehsil-level organizations.

The network aims to:

1. Create an environment for civil liberties and political rights.
2. Strengthen voices for evidence-based, inclusive reforms.
3. Ensure non-partisanship, transparency, accountability, and elimination of discrimination.

Each local organization nominates one representative for the network.

A one-day training session for Regional Member Organizations (RMOs) of the Civil Society Democratic Network (CSDN) was held at the Press Club Sukkur. The training was organized by Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF), serving as the National Member Organization (NMO) with support from TDEA, this session aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of RMOs.

The training covered three main areas:

1. Governance survey research and techniques.
2. Effective use of social media and digital platforms, including packaging information for FAFEN Digital.
3. How RMOs can assist NMO in conducting activities.

The session positively impacted member organizations, boosting their capacity in research, social media usage, and institutionalization. The refresher course enabled RMOs to conduct activities more effectively, report accurately, and coordinate better with NMO.

Participants appreciated the training, the enhanced capabilities of RMOs are expected to contribute to the overall effectiveness of the Regional Networks.

This training session is a step forward in strengthening the collaboration and efficiency of RMOs, ensuring they are well-equipped to support their communities and initiatives.

Quarterly Project Review & ToT at Karachi for EQUIP Project by TDEA

A two-day quarterly project review and training session was conducted on August 22-23, 2024, at Hotel Mehran, Karachi. Two staff members from GSF, including the Project Coordinator and Senior Project Officer, participated in the event. The EQUIP project's activities from the previous quarter were reviewed,

and a comprehensive discussion was held to address challenges and plan effective solutions. The training session for the upcoming quarterly activities was also part of the event. FAFEN's representatives briefed the participants about the upcoming quarter's activities and timeline.

Youth Led Actions for Climate Resilience in Sindh

Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative PYLI-2024 Project

Funded by British Council



PYLI Key Insights

- 666 Youth Trained
- 3000 Trees planted
- 150kg Solid Waste Dumped/Disposed/Re-cycled
- 10 Cubic Water Conserved/saved
- 1,500 students, Youth, and community members were made aware of climate change

Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF) is implementing the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) Project to empower youth for climate actions. Supported by the British Council, the project is active in Sukkur, Naushero Feroz, and Shaheed Benazirabad, aiming to train 810 youth and engage them in initiatives on five areas:

- **Solid Waste Management**
- **Tree Plantation**
- **Water Conservation**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Climate Change Education**

By September 2024, GSF trained 666 youth (302 in Sukkur, 195 in Shaheed Benazirabad, and 169 in Naushero Feroz) on leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, and sustainable actions. These youth formed groups of 3 to 10 members to implement climate-friendly projects in their communities.

Youth-Led Actions

The trained volunteers are conducting activities on:

- **Tree Plantation:** Planting trees to improve the environment.

- **Solid Waste Management:** Promoting recycling and reducing litter.
- **Water Conservation:** Encouraging efficient water use.
- **Renewable Energy:** Promoting renewable energy sources.
- **Climate Change Education:** Raising awareness in schools and colleges.

Each group is assigned specific targets and uses innovative approaches to address climate challenges locally.



Bhit Badra Social Welfare Project funded by Prime Pakistan

Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Visits BHIT-BADRA to Review Development Efforts

In July 2024, Mr. Riaz Hussain Wassan, Deputy Commissioner of Jamshoro, visited the BHIT-BADRA block to review development activities led by the Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF) in partnership with Prime Pakistan Limited.

Mr. Riaz Hussain Wassan was welcomed by GSF staff and community members, who presented the achievements of their programs in education, health, and skill development.

During his visit, Mr. Wassan Sb visited a community primary school, a health center, and vocational training centers. He also praised the skill-building opportunities for women and youth.

Mr. Riaz Hussain Wassan engaged in discussions with community members, who shared their positive experiences. He commended GSF's efforts and emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships in achieving sustainable development. His visit highlighted the significant impact of GSF's initiatives on the local community.



Elementary School Lehaz Sheik celebrated EiD Meelad-u-Nabi (SAWW)

The Goth Seengar Foundation organized an event to celebrate Eid Milad un Nabi (SAWW) at the SEF-funded GSF Elementary School Lihaz Sheikh. The event was attended by students' parents, Mr. Fakir Muhammad Ujjan, Head Teacher of Govt High School Kandari, and other stakeholders. The celebration included recitations,

speeches, and activities highlighting the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (SAWW). The event aimed to educate and inspire students while building community spirit. Attendees appreciated the efforts of the GSF in promoting educational and cultural values through such meaningful events.



GSF Provides Cooked food to Needy Families in Sindh Funded by CoA

From July to September 2024, the Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF), with support from Children of Adam UK, organized several events to provide cooked food to the poor. Through the Juma Feeding Program, GSF served a total of 3,260 individuals across Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, and Nawabshah Districts. This initiative aimed to support those in need by offering nutritious meals, making a significant impact on the lives of many. The community expressed gratitude for the continuous support and efforts of GSF and its partners in addressing hunger and improving well-being.



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