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Fodder Seed Technology Economically Empowers Rahimabad Farm-her

Woman farmer benefits from adoption of improved fodder seed technology



“Thanks to PATTA’s technical assistance on fodder seed technology, my cows are now able to produce more milk and I am successfully earning an additional income of PKR 12,000 per month from fodder and milk sales. Quite frankly, this new technology has been life-changing for Rahimabad’s farmer community!”

Naila Bano, woman dairy farmer, Rahimabad, Gilgit-Baltistan.

As the harsh winter approached in village Rahimabad, District Gilgit, Gilgit Baltistan (GB), 32 years-old Naila Bano, a female dairy farmer, was worried about being unable to address the bitter season’s usual fodder-deficit for her small herd of 2 cows and 1 calf. The situation had an adverse impact on her livestock’s health, lowering overall milk productivity and income. Being the sole breadwinner of her family of nine, Naila was financially dependent on milk production.

“During this winter, I was spending approximately PKR 6,000 per month to purchase Lucerne hay to counter the fodder deficit and yet, the total milk production per day decreased substantially from 4 liters to 1 liter, making it difficult to earn enough for myself!” Naila explains.

Naila is a member of the Dairy Farmer Association GB which addresses issues faced by female farmers in the province. In October 2018, Naila received an invitation from the Association to attend the USAID-funded Pakistan Agricultural Technology Transfer Activity (PATTA) project’s demonstration session on new fodder seeds specifically suited for extreme weather conditions so that women farmers can continue benefiting from the maximum yield potential of their livestock. PATTA team encouraged Naila to adopt the Emmerson Ryegrass seed, a unique, fast-growing and cost-efficient variety of highly nutritious, protein-laden animal fodder.

To enhance farmers’ awareness about Emmerson Rye seed which can be adapted to a wide range of climatic conditions and to further advance its private sector partners’ linkages with Rahimabad’s farmer community, PATTA organized eight demonstration sessions in joint collaboration with its Supply-Side Partner (SSP) Farm Dynamics Pakistan (FDP). FDP is one of the 35 agri-tech companies that PATTA is helping to commercialize agricultural technologies and management practices, and eliminating barriers to farmers’ technology adoption. Overall in Gilgit district, 1,400 farmers attended these demonstrations out of whom 583 women farmers purchased the seed from Farm Dynamics Pakistan.

“I am fortunate that I learned about this innovative seed technology. In December 2018, I was successfully able to produce an additional 1 ton of nutritional fodder per month. I am also able to sell the surplus fodder to other farmers!” Naila adds.

Empowering Pakistani women in agriculture is a priority for PATTA; the project will benefit over 25,000 women from technology transfer, investments in agri-tech and awareness-raising initiatives during its life. The project plans to assist women agripreneurs by increasing their access to new technologies and improving management practices in high-value sectors including dairy, livestock, and horticulture.