

A Report on Socio Economic Design of Nara Canal

(Report Prepared by Ms. Shakeela Leghari)

05 Female Focus Group Discussions were undertaken at the Head, Middle and Tail reach of Nara Canal to identify the issues of farmers and level of awareness, understanding and participation of women in currently ongoing reforms process. From head reach FO Gendahu Minor, middle reach FO Sadrat-II & FO Mirpur distry and tail reach FO Ashabo minor and Rin minor were selected respectively for female focus group discussions (FO has not yet been formed at Rin Minor). List of participants is attached as annex-I.

Surprisingly social, economical and environmental conditions at each reach (i.e head , middle and tail)of Nara Canal vary from each other. Especially issues regarding water management have remarkable variation in terms of water availability, efficiency and distribution.

At the head reach agricultural lands are on high altitude than Nara canal. The water availability at head reach is sufficient but it is not efficient. Crops are being irrigated through big lift machines. However lift machines are installed by Govt. and they are responsible for the operation and maintenance of lift machines but responsible Govt. officials are Ghost workers. Mostly the lift machines are being operated by farmers. The common causes of inefficiency are current power failure and operation and maintenance of these lift machines. As these machines run on electricity but due to frequent and longer power cuts it misturns the water turn of farmers. Especially small farmers are the main victims of power cuts because small farmers have duration of approximately 2 hours water turns and the duration of power cut is also 2 hours.

At the other hand, some lift machines run on oil and diesel. Big land lords can afford the expenditure of oil and diesel to be incurred on operation and maintenance of lift machines where as small farmers can not afford the operation and maintenance of machines as oil and diesel are so expensive.

At the middle reach of Nara farmers reported quite different issues regarding water management and distribution. The availability of water at middle reach is sufficient but not sustainable, efficient and equitable. When there is extra water in upper reach, they release water to middle but during cropping season when crops need water; they stop water and let crops die until farmers pay bribe or illegal money to irrigation officials. Physical condition of channels/minors/distributaries is not good. Water bodies are physically deteriorated due to several reasons, largely due to ignorance of irrigation department. There are no or broken modules, gates and gauges on the water bodies. Due to broken modules and gauges water theft is common. Water course tempering and bribery to purchase irrigation water is also widespread in the area. All these reasons lead to inefficiency and undependability of irrigation water.

Tail reach of Nara is surprisingly dominated by few land lords and political families of Sindh Province. Wasan, Mari, Juneja, Talpur, Dars, Gill, Arain, Qaimkhani and Nuhriyos are the big land lords and most power full in tail reach of Nara canal. Irrigation water is

A Report on Socio Economic Design of Nara Canal

just a power game in the tail end. There is extreme shortage of water in tail end or we can say that there is no water in tail of Nara Canal. Farmers reported that, only big land lords and political people get irrigation water because they have money and power. Either they purchase water by money or they receive water on behalf of their political power. Middle level and small farmers always suffer. There is no water for these categories. Due to non availability of water farmers have tended to put up for sale their agricultural lands and migrate towards urban areas for livelihood. People are extremely poor but skilled. Men move to urban areas for jobs in different sectors of life.

Economical and Social status of women through out Nara Canal is more or less same. At upper reach women are rich but totally dependent on men. Mainly women are unskilled and house hold. They are not involved in decision making or social activities, patriarchy system is totally dominated in the area. Women have no access on basic commodities and utilities such as there are no health, education or vocational centers in the FO areas. Even women use wooden fuel to cook food. However, few oil and gas fields are also available in the area.

At lower middle and tail reach of Nara women are socially active and involved into decision making up to some extent. Due to water shortage and extreme poverty women work as daily wage laborer's and food producers in agricultural farms. Not only irrigation water but there is extreme shortage of drinking water as well in this reach. 90% of ground water is brackish; women walk long distance away from their homes to bring drinking water. There is a high rate of water born disease and due to brackish water and poverty child mortality rate is also comparatively high than other areas. In this reach women are skilled. A good number of women were found working as traditional birth attendants, lady health workers, dairy producers and artisans.

Interestingly more than 90% of women were found enthusiastic in tailoring (dressmaking) and they demanded training in dressmaking. Along with health, education, drinking water and gas, vocational center was also the priority of women in lower middle and tail reach of Nara; where as in upper reach women prioritized health, education and gas facilities only.

Out of 05 Farmers Organizations, Women of only 02 FOs (Gendahu and Ashabo minor) had information about SIDA and FOs activities. However Nara Canal is the 1st canal which was selected for implementation of reforms through Farmer Organizations and 1st Area Water Board was also formed on Nara Canal but women still lack information and awareness on institutional reforms or SIDA. Due to poor information regarding FO activities women had no any interest in FO membership.

Recommendations:

1. Strong Social Mobilization with strong and appropriate communication strategy is required to address the issues of Farmers
2. There is a need of membership Campaign as well. At this stage we must analyze FO membership and start a campaign to revise and enhance FO membership.

A Report on Socio Economic Design of Nara Canal

3. SIDA may take up issues (operation and maintenance) of lift machines with irrigation department.
4. SIDA may take up the issue of power cut and water turn with irrigation and WAPDA. Power cut and irrigation scheduling can be fixed with joint sitting of both departments in order to avoid misturns of water turns of farmers.
5. A gender mainstreaming activity proposal was prepared by SDC and approved by PCMU on initial stage of WSIP. A committee for the proper implementation of gender mainstreaming activity proposal was also constituted with representatives from Women Development Department, PCMU, SIDA and PICs. The said committees also hold a meeting in the office of GMT SIDA. There is a need to review and revise gender mainstreaming committee. Gender mainstreaming activity proposal may immediately be activated and implemented through MS&Gender to address the gender based needs and priorities within the project area.

A Report on Socio Economic Design of Nara Canal

Annex-I

(List of Participants)

Rin Minor

Date : 15/7/2010

Village : Muhammad Khan Rind

UC-

Canal Nara

Deha: Kaloee

Distributary Rin

Taluka: Deeplo

District: Tharparkar

Participants:

1. Zeenat Lund
2. Nazia Lund
3. Shazia
4. Musrat
5. Hanifan
6. Zareena
7. Kadija

FO: Sadrat -II

Date : 14/7/2010

Village : Sher Khan Shar

UC:- Gujri

Canal Nara

Deha:- Sadrat

Distributary Sadrat

Participants:

1. Patel
2. Sabhagi
3. Muradee
4. Fatima
5. Saliha
6. Bakhtawar
7. Julee

FO: Gendahu Minor

Date : 13/7/2010

Village : Fakeer Adam Rajar

UC- Sikandar Abad

Canal Nara

Deha: Gendahu

Distributary Gendahoo

Participants:

1. Mariyam Rajar
2. Bakhtawar Rajar
3. Reshman Rajar
4. Saleemat Rajar
5. Jameelan
6. Saran
7. Sarma

FO: Mir Distributary

Date : 16/7/2010

Village : Shaik Lal Chand Banglow

UC:- Mirpur Old

Canal Nara

Deha:- 112

Distributary : Mir

Participants:

1. Jeean
2. Chathroo Devi
3. Ramoo
4. Sita
5. Amroo
6. Meethani
7. Naji
8. Hawa
9. Kesari
10. Jamna

A Report on Socio Economic Design of Nara Canal

FO: Ashabo Minor

Date : 17/7/2010

Village : Cheema Farm

UC:- Satriyon

Canal Nara

Deh:- Temo Khero

Distributary : Ashabo Minor

District : Umerkot

Taluka: Samaro

Participants:

1. Shagufta Rayaz
2. Shagufta Fayaz
3. Tahira Nawaz
4. Tahira Imtiyaz
5. Bashiran Bibi
6. Khansa Javed
7. Aysha Imtiyaz