

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan is an agricultural country whose 67.03% population lives in rural areas (Govt. of Pak., 2004). Basically rural community is involved in major farming activities as crop production, livestock production, fish farming and many other activities related to production of crops, fruits and vegetables. To improve the living condition of poor people especially in rural areas Government of Pakistan has launched so many developmental programmes. If we look at the developmental history of Pakistan the following rural and urban development programmes were being launched during different regimes:

- Village Cooperative movement (During early 50s)
- Village-Agricultural and Industrial Development Programme V-AID (1952-1961)
- Basic democracies (1959-1971)
- Rural works programme (1962-72)
- Farm Guide movement (1967)
- Peoples' works programme (1972)
- Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (1972-1980)
- Training and Visit programme (1978-2001)
- Prime Minister's five point programme (1985-88)
- Peoples' works programme (1988-1990)
- Tameer-a-Watan programme (1990-1993)
- Social Action programme (SAP) (1992-2000)
- People's works programme (1993-1997)
- Tameer-a-Watan programme (1997-1999)
- Khushhal Pakistan programme (2000 to date)

The Village Co-operative Movement

This movement started in the early 50s under the aegis of the Cooperative Department. It proposed that all farmers in every village be united under the umbrella of the village cooperative societies, choose their own management committees, and find the means of their development on a cooperative basis. The primary thrust of this movement is to educate member farmers about new technologies and to arrange farm-input delivery on soft-term credit. However, the experience suggests that the cooperative movement has not been able to achieve a consistent success. Some places where local leadership and cooperative department staff have been sincere and effective, it has achieved good results. It has proven a good source of farm input supply and technology transfer to the small farmers at village level.

The Village Agricultural and Industrial Development Program (Village-AID)

The Village-AID program began in Pakistan in 1952, a little after independence, with substantial help from USAID and Ford Foundation (Axinn and Thorat, 1972; Asian Productivity Organization, 1994). The main objectives were to increase the incomes of rural people through improved farming practices and cottage industries; inculcate a sense of self-help among the rural people to solve their own problems; coordinate development activities undertaken by the departments and agencies concerned with agricultural and rural development; and instil a welfare orientation into the entire administrative structure of the government. Village-AID workers (both men and women) were provided with extensive 'hands-on' pre-service training in disciplines such as agriculture, animal husbandry, health and sanitation, cooperation, home economics, cottage industries, education, and youth work. Special emphasis was placed on developing qualities such as leadership, discipline, initiative, self-help and self-service in the trainees. Arrangements were also made for in-service training in order to keep field workers abreast of new information.

This program sought to bring about all-round development of the villages through organizing village councils, building roads, digging wells, constructing schools, and disseminating improved agricultural technology. This program achieved a good deal of success in the beginning but became a victim of departmental jealousies and political change in the country (Davidson *et al.*, 2001). With the abolition of the Village-AID program in 1961, rural development became a part of the Basic Democracies System (BDS).