

## **Rural Development Programmes in Pakistan**

### **Village-Agricultural and Industrial Development Programme V-AID (1952-1961)**

- Increasing income 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.
- 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.

### **Rural works programme (1962-72)**

- Started under the theme of Basic democracies
- Started in Comilla in East Pakistan as a small experimental project under the leadership of Akhtar Hameed Khan through Pakistan Academy for Rural Development
- The main objectives of this program were to enable rural communities to participate in the development process to improve their socio-economic conditions; to provide employment opportunities for rural poor at local level; to develop rural infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water channels; and to create an effective basis of planning and development at the union council level

- The approach was purely technocratic in nature and the philosophy is the development of rural infrastructure through self-help basis
- The programme succeeded in upgrading the social consciousness and creation of spirit of self-help among rural communities for promoting democratic social structure
- The programme increased the inequality of rural income and didn't allow the participation of villagers in the preparation and implementation of development plans. Lack of accountability of members of union councils was also one of the main causes of its failure.

### **Peoples' works programme (1972)**

- Started under the federal Ministry of Finance and Planning
- The programme was different from RWP in different aspects including its coverage of both rural and urban areas for infrastructure development schemes through participation of local people
- The major objective of this programme was to provide maximum participation to the people in planning and execution of development plans
- The vision of PWP was to provide physical infrastructure by organizing appropriate machinery for their proper utilization through the active participation of the community
- It had some common weakness like irregularities in the choice of projects; priorities and locations of the projects were determined by the politically influential people with little consider for the actual needs of the community; irresistible reliance on contractors rather than on project committees; preference was given to large projects; about 90% of the projects under PWP had no participation of local community

### **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (1972-1980)**

- Funds for rural development were managed and controlled by the local government department
- Multipurpose cooperative societies were established under this programme
- The major objective of IRDP was to improve the social condition of rural people with the partnership of government officials and its proposed beneficiaries
- Development of agriculture sector on sustained basis by providing storage, credit, transportation, and marketing facilities was also one of its the main purposes
- Some of the positive points of this programme were: integration of national building departments to improve the farming communities; decentralization of staff of Government functionaries from district to union council level; and improvement in the delivery of agricultural information systems
- The common weaknesses of IRDP was inability to address the real needs of landless poor and communities with small land holdings as major focus was given to large land holders. The response of line allied departments in providing services and technical staff was very poor. And non-cooperative behavior of concerned officials was another hindrance factor

### **Farm guide movement**

The farm guide movement was started in December, 1967, to organize and equip the farm and city youth, men and women for boldly facing the national problems like increasing food production, placing agriculture on very sound and string lines and giving it a permanent foundations with the backing of agricultural training in certain fields of agriculture at primary, middle and high school stages. The movement is also meant to disseminate achievements of

science and technology in the field of agriculture and general development of agriculture-cum industrial economy of the country.

### **Training and Visit programme (1978-2001)**

- Started with the financial assistance from the World Bank
- The programme based on frequently updated training of extension workers and regular field visits
- T&V was based on two-step flow of information – from contact farmers to the farming community
- This enables them to concentrate their efforts on informing and educating the farmer about best farming practices, from crop husbandry to plant protection

### **National Program for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation**

- This programme is also known as Prime Minister's programme.
- The Program aims to radically expand coverage of social mobilization using the Rural Support Programs (RSPs) and provincial and district line departments to execute the program.
- The Program will consciously include the rural poor in its interventions.
- The program is designed on a modular format, with one Union Council as the model base, offering flexibility to choose any number of Union Councils as resources allow.
- The overall Program will include a national adult literacy program, to be executed by RSPs and the National Commission for Human Development, and a national livestock support program to be executed by RSPs and provincial livestock departments

### **Tameer-a-Watan programme (1990-1993)**

- administered by the Ministry of local Government and Rural development in collaboration with the provincial local Government and rural development departments
- The basic concept and approach of this programme is the participation of elected representatives of public at the national level in identifying development schemes in their respective constituencies, on the basis of their assessment of development needs of the areas
- The programme concentrate on the provision of basic amenities such as drinking water, sanitation, rural roads, village electrification, education, supply of natural gas and establishment of public call offices

### **Social Action programme (SAP) (1992-2000)**

- National programme, launched with active participation of the Federal and Provincial Governments, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), private sector and communities.
- It aims at helping reduce poverty, improve well-being of the people and decelerate population growth. It comprises Government effort to strengthen basic social services through primary education, primary health care, family planning, and rural water supply and sanitation. SAP focuses on the most vulnerable or marginalized groups of society, such as, the rural poor and women

### **Khushhal Pakistan programme (2000 to date)**

- Started with the active community participation
- Funds are allocated under the Programme to the districts through provincial governments

- This program will not only create employment opportunities but also help in improving the living conditions of millions of the poor in the country.
- The Khushhal Pakistan Program basically covers small public works both in urban and rural areas
- The main focus areas of the programme were developing rural infrastructure and supply of basic amenities of life