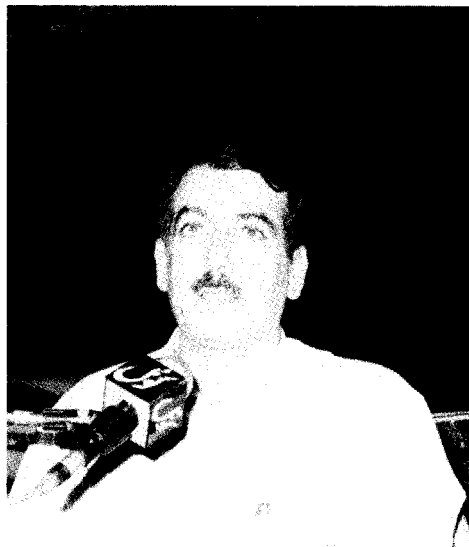


## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF FO FROM PUNJAB (HAKRA 4R DISTRIBUTARY)**

Mian Abdul Wahid<sup>10</sup>

The performance of any organization can be monitored only if the responsibility is transferred to that organization. The Hakra 4R water user federation has been established since March 5, 1997 but no responsibility is transferred to the organization as yet. For the transfer of the responsibility, negotiation is being made with the irrigation department but due to lack of legislation, the process is being prolonged.



PID is willing to transfer the system to federation in every way. The MOU draft was prepared under the existing irrigation and drainage law (1873). The secretary irrigation asked the federation's opinion on its willingness to takeover the complete system. The federation agreed to take the complete system instead of signing a MOU, but unluckily the process has been delayed. Hopefully, at the end of the year, the system would be transferred to the federation.

Despite the non-transfer of the power, federation is undertaking its activities. These are:

### **MEETINGS**

Meetings are one of the important factors in making the organization sustainable. That's why the high tiers organize their meetings on monthly basis. The lower tier also plans regular meetings. At the moment, 44% WUAs have scheduled their monthly meetings and hopefully this percentage will increase.

The high tier, WUF, is also organizes its annual general meeting. Two annual meeting were held and about one thousand farmers attended each meeting. Each meeting lasted for about five hours. First year, the provincial irrigation minister was the chief guest and second year, Deputy Commissioner was chief guest of the meeting.

To see the organized gathering, both the chief guests, minister and DC remarked " We have never seen such a disciplined gathering of farmers in our life", the disciplined gathering of farmers showed strength and viability of the organization.

### **MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRING OF THE DISTRIBUTARY**

The WUF launched the annual maintenance campaign twice on self-help basis. A total of 800 farmers and 677 farmers participated in these activities respectively. The farmers did this work with great zeal and zest. According to PID assessment, a total of Rs. 250,000-400,000 work was done in each year.

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<sup>10</sup> President Farmer Organization (FO) Hakra 4-R Distributary, Bahawalnagar, Punjab.

### **ESTABLISHING OF THE OFFICES**

All the five WUOs and WUF have established their offices on self-help basis. The offices are properly maintained.

### **OPENING OF BANK ACCOUNT**

All three tiers of organizations have opened their bank accounts and these accounts are being operated. In this way, a total of 130 accounts have opened.

### **FUND RAISING**

The WUOs are regularly raising funds to meet the organizational requirements. Whenever, there is an activity, the expenditure on that activity is estimated and then collected equally from each member. It also happens that some members give more than their due share voluntarily.

### **BYE-LAWS**

The bylaws are essential for the smooth running of any organization. The federation established the bylaws committee to frame the bylaws. Within three meetings the sub-committee frames the bylaws and then gets their approval from the general body.

### **RESOLVING WATER RELATED DISPUTE**

The WUF has started to resolve the water-related disputes. Only a few cases remained, unresolved in the last 10 years the federation resolved the rest amicably. Now people use this platform for the solution of their problems. Whenever any issue is raised, people prefer to bring it to the federation.

### **EQUITABLE WATER DISTRIBUTION**

The federation is achieving equitable water distribution. The federation established a water court that did the survey of the distributary. The watercourses, which are drawing more than their authorized discharge, convince their shareholders morally. If they do not agree then outlets are adjusted legally. The federation does not spare water stealers if a case is registered against them. The water stealers repair their outlets accordingly.

### **COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT**

IWMI is strengthening its collaboration with other departments. It is arranging lectures at the village level for the transfer of improved technology. These lectures benefit farmers at grass root level. The lectures are based on improved irrigation and agriculture methods, animal husbandry, and health etc. NRSP and Action aid are also launching their activity in our area. These are micro credit scheme and adult literacy centers respectively.

Different fertilizer and pesticide companies sponsor the logistics of the annual meeting arranged by IIMI.

### **HEALTH CAMPS**

We regularly organize free health camps. Doctors contact us for launching these free health camps. To date, hundreds of patients have benefited from these camps.

## **INVESTMENT GROUP**

WUF established an investment group. A total of seven members make up the group. Each member invested Rs.30, 000-100,000 in the group. The total amount invested is Rs. 630,000. The investment group got the dealership from Engro chemical limited. The group purchased 1100 bags of fertilizer and stored it in three different Chaks of the Zone to make it accessible to the farmers. The investment group framed its own bylaws for its smooth running. It introduced shares and the cost of each share is Rs. 500. It is essential for the membership of the group to purchase the share certificate in the range of Rs.5000-100, 000. The investment group also announced to donate one rupee per bag of fertilizer to Organization, from which 25 piasas would be given to federation and 75 piasas, would be kept by the organization. The WUO is launching awareness activity in the area to expand the program.

## **STUDY TOUR**

The federation launches study tours for exposure. These study tours are national and overseas level. The federation mostly provides finances for inland tours while the overseas trips are financed by the NGO. The purpose of the overseas trips is to see how farmers managed system work in other countries.

## **SELF- EVALUATION OF HAKRA 4-R WUOS**

The WUOs of Hakra 4-R distributary established a seven-member Inspection Committee. The purpose of the committee is to evaluate the performance of the WUOs in terms of their record keeping of organizational and financial aspects, and prepare a critical report. The committee held three meetings for completing the task. In the first meeting, committee selected its president and developed nineteen parameters for the performance assessment.

The committee inspected the record of all six WUOs, and evaluated them. The report indicates that the performance of the WUOs except WUO2, related to organizational management was satisfactory. Those WUOs which meet frequently, scored better points as their office bearers had become more trained. The WUO 2's poor performance in the organizational management is due to less work, i.e., comparatively less number of meetings. The performance of all WUOs, related to financial management was, however, regarded to be poor.

The committee decided to submit the detailed report in the next round of WUO meetings. The committee was of the view that performance of WUOs may improve further if the committee is authorized to check the record at any time, for which approval will be sought from the WUOs general bodies.

## **NEWSLETTER**

Federation is going to publish a newsletter on monthly basis. Action aid, an NGO has agreed to sponsor it. The purpose of the newsletter is to give information about the federation's activity to grass root level and different relevant agencies

## **TRAINING**

The federation of Hakra 4R undertook series of capacity building activities and training with active support from IIMI Pakistan.

### **Flow measurement**

12 training sessions, spanning on four months were undertaken for top level and gross root level. The purpose of the training was to discuss with the department the water supply and to monitor the equity of water distribution.

### **Financial management**

One day training session for 23 members of the WUOs and WUF was undertaken. The purpose was to provide a basic understanding on accounting procedures to various WUOs tiers.

### **Organizational Management**

One day training session of 23 members of WUOs and WUF was conducted to improve the skills of the WUO leaders for organizational development activities.

### **Animal husbandry**

Three training sessions on animal husbandry were undertaken at village level. A total of 144 farmers benefited by becoming aware of the causes and treatment of common livestock diseases.

### **Improved irrigation and agriculture technology**

Four training sessions were conducted for 333 farmers. The purpose was to introduce improved irrigation and agriculture practices (rate, timing, and input frequency). The federation has three sets of bed shapers for growing cotton on bed-and-furrow technology. The federation also formulated the bylaws for the smooth running of the implements.

### **Record keeping**

Informal training activities were conducted, especially for general secretaries, on maintenance of register for periodic meetings.

### **Restoring of confidence**

The major achievement of the Federation is restoring of confidence of the farmers. Now Federation meets with the government's officials more confidently. The federation also launches and conducts big farmers' gatherings.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE**

### **Training on important social and technical aspects of organization**

Training is a very important factor in capacity building of an organization. Therefore, government should launch necessary training programs.

### **Transfer the responsibility to FO promptly after the formation of organization**

After the formation of FO, transfer the responsibility to FO so that it feels a sense of ownership to the organization. At initial stages, the spirits are high among the FO members, so they work with great zeal and zest.

**Effective cooperation is required from the concerning departments after the transfer of the system**

The joint management is a new experience therefore the concerned departments should cooperate with FOs effectively for the sustainability of the system.

**Legal protection**

For effective organization, legal protection is essential. The FO should have the power to implement its own decisions.

**Keep the FO free from politics**

Try to keep the organization from politics. It should focus on irrigation and agriculture activities.

**Monthly meetings of general body should be encouraged**

Meetings are an important factor in making the organization sustainable, so these should be encouraged at every level. Interaction among members is increased and doubts are dispelled through meetings.