

# SAFBIN BOOKLET

One Year Completion in Pakistan

April 2018 - March 2019



Since 1965

**Caritas**  
Pakistan

*Together We Proceed...*

**safbin** Caritas  
For Small Farmers Future

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# SAFBIN BOOKLET

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One Year Completion in Pakistan

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## Message from Executive Director

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The overall concept of SAFBIN is around empowering the smallholder communities to maximize the use of available resources in an efficient and effective manner. It is also focusing on ending hunger and building resilience of the smallholder farmers to climate change. A number of good interventions were implemented during first year to address issues of hunger and climate change.

I would like to congratulate the entire team of SAFBIN on the occasion of completion of one year of SAFBIN Program in Pakistan. I am a witness to lot of effort and energy put into it during planning and designing of SAFBIN Program. During implementation phase, and being a new partner in this multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral programme, it was quite challenging initiative for us. Many of the ideas and concepts like smallholder farmer collectives, PRA tools, household survey using KoboCollect App, and IFS models were totally new for SAFBIN team. But with constant orientation, capacity building, hard work and guidance provided at regional and country level, we make it happen.

It is my pleasure and privilege to present you the booklet of "SAFBIN JOURNEY - One year completion in Pakistan". It reflects the output of our SAFBIN program along with our coordination and communication with different government department throughout the first year of project implementation.

I would like to express my gratitude towards Caritas Austria, other strategic partners, SARE Office (South Asia Regional Enablers), diocesan Caritas office in Rawalpindi, Government Departments and all smallholder farmers for being with us for the good implementation of SAFBIN Program.

SAFBIN is a wonderful learning experience for our team. "Learning by doing" has been practically experienced in various activities. I hope discovery based learning and farmer led approach will further flourish to do more good work.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amjad Gulzar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amjad Gulzar



# **SAFBIN INTRODUCTION**

## Why is SAFBIN so important?

### South Asia Scenario

- Smallholders produce more than 70 percent of food worldwide from 40 percent of the world's land
- South Asia hosts the world's largest number of smallholders
- More than 70 % farmers in South Asia are small-holders and mostly practice subsistence agriculture
- Future agriculture and the wellbeing of the region lies in the hands of smallholders
- Chronic malnutrition (one third of the world's malnourished live in South Asia)
- Increasing vulnerability to climate change
- Large proportion of rain-fed agriculture in arid and semi-arid conditions
- Low productivity and reducing trend of landholding across the region (avg. landholding 1–15 ha)
- Vanishing traditional practices and agro-biodiversity
- Lack of farmers access and control over farming inputs, socially acceptable and culturally appropriate food (food sovereignty)
- Excessive use of chemicals and external dependency for farming inputs
- Weak agricultural extension system across the region

### Pakistan Scenario

Over **90%** are small farmers in Pakistan

Pakistan is 7<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable country to climate change (Global Climate Risk Index 2018)

**60%** of the population is facing food insecurity. This is due to limited economic access by the poorest and most vulnerable particularly women to an adequate and diverse diet (World Food Programme)

**44%** of children under five are stunted, **32%** are underweight and **15%** suffer from acute malnutrition (World Food Programme)

Under future climate change scenarios, Pakistan is expected to experience increased variability of river flows due to increased variability of precipitation and the melting of glaciers. Demand for irrigation water may increase due to higher evaporation rates. Mortality due to extreme heat waves may increase. Sea level rise and storm surges may adversely affect coastal infrastructure and livelihoods.

# About SAFBIN Program

## What is SAFBIN?

SAFBIN is a regional programme to promote local food and nutritional security through adaptive small-scale farming in four rain-fed Agro Ecosystems (AES) in South Asia. The overarching goal of the program is to contribute to SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

## What does Adaptive Farming mean?

- Understanding the local environment and agro-ecology
- Identification of the problems of climate variability and change
- Identification of the locally feasible and acceptable solutions
- Testing of the solutions to identify the best results
- Proactive action (precautionary) to overcome the problems
- Mutual sharing and learning

## Where is SAFBIN located in Pakistan?



## What is the key strategy of SAFBIN?

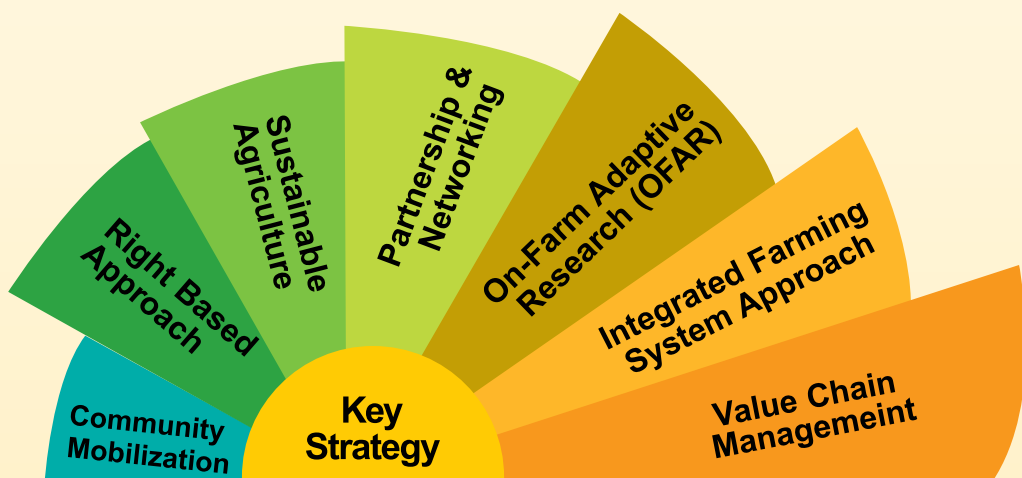
According to the programme strategy, there will be two major “entry points”:

(a) empowering smallholder farmer to individually and collectively address the issues at household level and

(b) improving the environment of smallholder farmers around policy, research, extension and market relations.

## The expected programme outcomes are designed around this approach:

- Smallholder farmers are able to increase their food security by **doubling their farm production and income**.
- Small farm households have and apply **improved capacities to consume a balanced diet**.
- Smallholder farmers have enhanced **land tenure security and access to water, seed, entitlements and knowledge on small farming**.
- Small farm households are **resilient** and have enhanced capacity for **adaptation to climate change and disaster** while maintaining **ecosystem and soil health**.
- **Multi-level cooperation and partnerships** are contributing to **small-farmer favourable policy and actions** (around research, extension and technology development).
- **Urban Middle Class Consumers** recognise the benefits of and increasingly demand for Small-Farm-Agri-Foods.



# **SUMMARY OF ONE YEAR PROGRESS**



## SUMMARY OF SAFBIN PROGRESS

SAFBIN Program in Pakistan is implemented in 20 villages of district Sargodha and Khushab districts in close coordination with community partners, government agriculture departments and research partner. SAFBIN is focused around six project outcomes i.e. 1. Doubling farm production and income; 2. Access to balanced diet; 3. Control over land and access to entitlements; 4. Resilience to climate change; 5. Multi-level co-operation and partnership; and 6. Sustainable food production and consumption of small farm agri foods. In Pakistan during year I, activities were organized around all outcomes except outcome 6 pertaining to sustainable food production and consumption of small-farm-agri-foods for urban middle class consumers. However much of the work was done around outcome 1 (doubling farm production and income), outcome 2 (Access to balanced diet), outcome 3 (control over land and access to entitlements) and outcome 4 (resilience to climate change).

Main activities carried out during the first year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2018-31 March 2019) included PRA and baseline orientation training; PRA exercise in the villages; focused group discussions; household survey; launching of SAFBIN program at country/district/village level; capacity building sessions on recycling of farm products; PRA and household data cleaning; distribution of seed for wheat, canola, gram, fodder, and vegetables; formation of district forums; meetings of district forums; distribution of material for cowshed; linkage building with agriculture extension and livestock departments at district level; mapping of available entitlements; meetings with research partner; honey bee training to farmers and distribution of honeybee boxes, and advocacy and land rights training. The number of community partners reached till March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 is 7095 including farmers, school children and women. About 25% of the total community partners are women.

During the implementation of SAFBIN, Caritas Pakistan developed good co-operation and networking with the Directorate of Agriculture Extension and Adaptive Research in Lahore. The Director General issued a letter to the concerned departments of Sargodha Division in support of the SAFBIN Program. This letter helped our teams to introduce the SAFBIN Program at district level and mobilize government officials for the benefit of small farmers. Moreover, at district level, DPOs maintained a good relationship with government agriculture extension, livestock department, nutrition focal persons and forest officers. Caritas Pakistan has also signed a MoU and entered into partnership with the governmental Adaptive Research Farm as Research Partner.





## CAPACITY BUILDING OF SAFBIN STAFF

Capacity building of staff and farmers is a key aspect of this program. Following training were provided to the SAFBIN staff:

- National community development course
- PRA and baseline orientation workshop
- Training on community mobilization
- Advocacy and Land rights
- Awareness raising and capacity building sessions on nutritious food, and recycling of farm by products

## MAJOR LESSONS LEARNT

- Farmers and SAFBIN project staff rate SAFBIN as capacity building program
- SAFBIN project team needs more exposure and training on community mobilization
- Changes in nutritional status are less likely to result directly from SAFBIN Program as other factors like access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities are highly inter linked.
- As a witness to one-year implementation of SAFBIN Program, the district government agriculture and livestock officials are extending their possible support for small farmers. The role of government stakeholders is very important for SAFBIN Program.
- Women participation is a big challenge in areas where Muslim farmers are in majority
- Farmers feel the impact of climate change on their farming system
- The selection of right beneficiaries is key to project success
- Women participation is equally important

## LIST OF VILLAGES

### District Khushab

Sr.#	Name of the Village
1	Chak No. 34 DB
2	Chak No. 36 DB
3	Chak No. 37 DB
4	Chak No. 38 DB
5	Chak No. 39 DB
6	Chak No. 40 DB
7	Chak No. 50 MB
8	Chak No. 59 MB
9	Chak No. 52 MB
10	Rehman Colony

### District Sargodha

Sr.#	Name of the Village
1	Chak No. 33 SB
2	Chak No. 34 SB
3	Chak No. 36 SB
4	Chak No. 42 SB
5	Chak No. 37 SB
6	Chak No. 40 SB
7	Chak No. 109 SB
8	Chak No. 112 SB
9	Chak No. 79 NB
10	Chak No. 85 NB

The background of the page is an abstract composition of flowing, translucent ribbons. The top half is dominated by bright yellow and light orange hues, while the bottom half transitions into soft blue and teal tones. The ribbons create a sense of movement and depth, with some areas appearing more saturated than others.

# **SAFBIN STORIES**

*A New Experience*

Mrs. Nasreen Gulzar member of SHFC – 37 DB – District Khushab is associated with Caritas Pakistan since inception of SAFBIN Program in this village. In the beginning her family was not much supportive but gradually when Caritas work gained momentum and Village Resource Persons (VRPs) cultivated relationships; they were also motivated to be a part of different SAFBIN activities.



Last year with the commencement of SAFBIN Program, SHFCs (smallholder farmer collectives) were formed in the village and she was one of those who were selected as SHFC member by virtue of her good knowhow about Caritas. She actively took part in PRA exercise (Participatory Rural Appraisal), which was totally a new experience for her. With her fellow farmers and villagers, she practically experienced and learnt about social mapping, resource mapping, agro-ecology practices, and farm connections.

She says, “The SAFBIN project is like a life changing element in our lives because it completely changed our thinking towards knowing problems, identifying resources and discussing agriculture practices and indigenous knowledge for collective benefit. It was first time that together as community we practiced PRA tools in our village”.

She is of the view that community leaders, if properly facilitated, could gather data, define problems, rank solutions and devise an integrated village plan for natural resources management with substantial community participation. The beauty of this project is farmer's involvement right from the beginning where we feel that our opinion matters a lot for Caritas Pakistan and this will definitely empower small farmers. “I also feel very honoured when Caritas provided us an opportunity to participate in meetings where we discussed women issues regarding their health and nutrition”, added Nasreen Gulzar. Now, she can see her village from a different angle and replicate her PRA learning with other members.





## 2 FARMERS EXPLORING VILLAGES WITH GOOGLE MAPS

During PRA exercise, Google maps of target villages were obtained and given to the farmers to highlight houses, farms, roads, and schools, in their villages. These maps were also shown to the farmers on tablets.

The farmer community from *Village No. 59/MB, Rehman Colony, Khushab* and *Village No. 109/SB, district Sargodha* were proactively involved in seeing and marking their houses, farms and other infrastructure with different colours. This was the most attractive and charming exercise for the farmers. Not only men but also women at some places were surprised to see their village maps and took keen interest in discussions and community meetings.

According to local farmers, “Caritas teams showed us our villages, our fields, our streets and even homes on the tablets. It created a great interest among our community members”.

People tried to locate their houses and fields on the printed map and praised Caritas for being so creative and innovative in the assessment of villages. Shamim Bibi, Anam Mariam, Miss Shabana, Shakila Bibi, Mumtaz Bibi and Janu Bibi belonging to village 59/MB and Rehman Colony (District Khushab) are some of the female community members, which participated with keen interest and were happy to locate their houses, farms, mosque, market and roads on the maps. Seeing their houses was first experience of local villagers. Both male and female members were excited.

and expressed it as great lifetime learning and rated SAFBIN as a capacity building program for the farmers.

Safia, a mother of four, and a resident of Chak No. 109 SB, district Sargodha said, I know Caritas Pakistan for some years because of its several initiatives in my village, but was not much involved at that time; but this time I consider myself a very lucky person on becoming a part of SAFBIN program”. This Program is spreading message of how a smallholder farmer can benefit by learning, adapting to climate change and building linkages.





### 3 SEED FOR CHANGE

Wheat is the major staple crop of Pakistan and it currently contributes around 37% of total food energy intake in the country. It is one of the most important agricultural crops along with rice, cotton, maize and sugarcane. Wheat farmers in Pakistan face many challenges.

There is a wide yield gap between progressive and common farmers which may be attributed to many factors like poor seed rate, weed infestation, inadequate irrigation water, improper dosage of chemical fertilizers and cultural practices, etc.

Same is the case with small farmers and tenants of village 109/SB district Sargodha. Alike other farmers, they are also suffering from scarcity of water, high cost of production and lack of agriculture extension services. In his seven years of farming life, **Muhammad Shahbaz** never met an

agriculture officer from department of agriculture, government of Punjab. Shahbaz is one of the 45 small farmers from his village, who became part of SAFBIN program in Sargodha district. The local VRPs are acting as bridge between farmers and agriculture extension workers.

They are bringing extension services to their villages and facilitating farmers to register with agriculture extension department. More than 50 small farmers of Sargodha district received wheat seed of high yielding variety in November 2018 for half acre each. Farmers are happy that they had received valuable support in shape of good quality seed, which they believe will produce good production. A revolving mechanism has been established and each farmer beneficiary will return back the seed after harvest in April 2018.

This SAFBIN intervention has given a new hope to the farmers. They are witness to their growing linkages with government agriculture department and the way they are being facilitated through village resource persons (VRPs). Farmers are committed to keep their own seed.



## MOU WITH GOVERNMENT: BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL FARMERS

*The inception of SAFBIN program in Pakistan is a great capacity building opportunity not only for the farmers but also for the field staff. During this process, Caritas built and strengthened linkages with government agriculture and livestock departments. It is a reality that government has well-established set up at district and sub district level and is doing a lot to benefit farmers. The humanitarian organizations cannot work in isolation. For the development of farmers, it is important to tap government opportunities and facilitate farmers*

To do this in a more practical way, District Project Officers (DPOs) had series of meetings with officers of government agriculture extension and livestock departments in the respective districts and discussed possibilities of MoU with Caritas Pakistan. The government officers witnessed different SAFBIN activities at district level. This association and linkage with government departments motivated them and MoUs were signed with agriculture extension and livestock departments at district level in Sargodha and Khushab in Dec 2018 and Jan 2019 respectively. According to MoUs, agriculture extension and livestock departments are helping farmers to avail different government entitlements and schemes. The government departments also ensured provision of technical support for SAFBIN program.

So far farmers, by virtue of MoUs with the government at district level has availed some benefits. The process of farmer registration has begun in both districts. To date 260 farmers from district Khushab have been registered with agriculture extension department. The registered farmers will be eligible for upcoming government schemes and entitlements. Loan scheme was also announced for small farmers, according to which a small farmer owning one acre of land is eligible to get PKR 25000. Some of the farmers had also applied for the loan.

Over 100 farmers from 36/DB, 37/DB, 38/DB and 34/DB, district Khushab received free medicine from livestock department for deworming of livestock. The livestock department organized free vaccination camp in village 38/DB Khushab and over 150 livestock was vaccinated. Moreover, calcium blocks for livestock were also provided to the farmers on subsidized rates.





## SAFBIN BUILDING CAPACITY OF VRPS: STORY OF MEHRAN



Mehran Shakir, a young VRP (Village Resource Person) of 22 years joined SAFBIN program in October 2018. He is responsible for two villages of Sargodha district (109/SB and 112/SB). He was given orientation about Caritas and SAFBIN program and guideline on how to work with the farmers. He joined at times when baseline assessment was at its peak. He started visiting the villages and gained information about activities previously conducted in the target villages.

He also received training on household survey using KoboCollect. It was his first job and first experience of doing baseline assessment. He quickly conducted the interviews and during data cleaning exercise at national office, it was found that there are many errors in interviews conducted by him.

He admitted, “I made lot of mistakes and thought once forms are submitted, the work is considered done”. The national team guided him how to access forms; how to make conversions and how to rectify the errors. Because in the beginning it was difficult for one person alone to clean the data.

Therefore, Mehran took keen interest and carefully observed the process of rectifying errors. By the time, his all twenty four forms were amended, he was capacitated enough to help other VRPs in data cleaning. The pace of the work accelerated and he became a good helping hand for Capacity Building & Documentation Officer. He also supported SAFBIN team from Khushab district in cleaning their data. The other VRPs also realized that SAFBIN program is contributing in building their capacity.

He says, I consider myself very lucky to be with national team and now I fully understand how to conduct survey of a household using kobo collect. In the beginning, I took it very easy and tried to finish the task without consulting anyone. I am honored to help national team and feel proud that I have been capacitated. This is only because of SAFBIN program”. He is committed to continue serving small farmers with zest and zeal.

## SHAHNAZ AKBAR: A SYMBOL OF INSPIRATION

Shahnaz Akbar, a widow of over 50 years is a resident of village 36/SB Sargodha. She is a mother of one son, which is mentally retarded. She is a farmer and owns five acres of land but most part of her land is saline.

She did not get good benefit from her land. Mostly she grows wheat and maize. With the inception of SAFBIN program in her village, she became a member of the group and actively takes part in different community meetings and activities.

She is a beneficiary of cowshed material distribution. With this material she had managed to construct a safe and hygienic cowshed for her livestock.

She says, “I am very thankful to Caritas Pakistan for implementing such useful agriculture interventions for small and poor farmers. After receiving the material of cow shed; I’m now collecting cow dung easily without being mud mixed into it which will be further recycled as farm yard manure.

The cemented floor of cowshed makes easier for me to collect animal urine for preparation of bio pest repellent”. Since my association with SAFBIN program, I had gained useful information and I am thankful to Caritas Pakistan for supporting poor farmers like me, she added.





## A SMALL FARMER FROM VILLAGE 36/SB SARGODHA

Babar Ahsan owns four acres of land and is a breadwinner for a six-member family. He has four children who are school going. He mostly cultivates wheat and paddy crops as he has very limited resources. He was found one of the active farmers who proactively took part in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), household survey through KoboCollect and other community meetings. Because of his progressive nature, he was chosen to be a member of SHFC (smallholder farmer collective).

He perceives sustainable agriculture as the use of the soil for present and future needs in order to get yield on continuous basis and to give back soil an organic matter to replenish its nutrients for a longer period of time.

In the month of November 2018, he received twenty five kilogram of certified wheat seed. He says, “I hope this time I will get good yield of wheat and will keep the seed for next season. I assure Caritas Pakistan team to return back thirty kilogram of wheat seed to revolve among other needy farmers”.

He is also committed to avoid buying wheat seed from the market in future.



## 8 SPIRIT FOR FARMING

Muhammad Afzal is a small farmer from village 40/SB, district Sargodha. He owns 05 acres of land and produce different field crops. He is very helpful and active in organizing different meetings and activities in his village.

In the beginning, he did not accept SAFBIN Program and used to taunt local VRP (Village Resource Person). He did not cooperate with Caritas team. But gradually when he noticed regular meetings with the farmers; PRA process; government officials visiting his village and regular visits by VRP, he changed his mind and expressed his willingness to be part of SAFBIN Program.

He started attending meetings of SHFC (Smallholder Farmer Collectives) and started contributing in different ways. He always welcome the local VRP and feels very happy to be associated with SAFBIN. He also received material for cowshed and is committed to promote environment friendly practices to adapt to climate change and reduce his production cost.



## 9 EMPOWERING SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

Rubina Shamaun, a woman farmer of village 38/DB, district Khushab is actively involved in different agricultural activities. Her husband owns three acres of land and they mostly cultivate wheat, pulses, fodder and vegetables. She also has a homestead where she grows different vegetables for home consumption.

Since the start of SAFBIN program in her area, she is regularly participating in different meetings and activities. She says, “women farmers should regularly attend these meetings and training, as such events are good source of information on different agriculture issues”. Women can really feel empowered, if they have right information and they can bring positive changes in their farming system. She also received fodder seed of high yielding variety. She is really happy to see Caritas back in her village and helping small farmers to grow. She is committed to mobilize other women farmers and keeping seed for the next cropping season.



**Shella James** is another woman farmer who is member of SHFC. Her family is tilling three acres of land. She takes part in different agricultural activities like harvesting fodder for her livestock; milking of cows; and rearing poultry. Before her association with SAFBIN Program, she perceived farming as growing of crops and rearing livestock only. But in the last three months, she had started thinking differently. After attending different meetings and capacity building events, she says, “Neither I took part in any community meeting nor I was allowed by my family to attend meetings and trainings.

The way farmers are respected and involved in the SAFBIN Program not only motivated me but my family also”. Our family does feel the climate change impacts but we never thought of adapting to it and now I am getting good and useful information from government officers and Caritas staff, added Ms. Shella James



# BEE KEEPING FOR POLLINATION AND INCOME GENERATION

Caritas Pakistan has been implementing tangible, measurable and community based agricultural interventions for enhancing their food security status and access to livelihood opportunities since years. Various experiences and learning has been gained while implementing sustainable agriculture initiatives.



Since the inception of SAFBIN program in Pakistan, the staff members get to experience many new and innovative approaches to solve the problems of poor and marginalized communities in Pakistan. Continuing these experiences, the farmers and staff got to learn many things since their engagement with SAFBIN programme. One such experience is introduction of honeybees as a farm connection for farm diversification. The poor farmers from Sargodha and Khushab districts were provided with honeybee boxes. The distribution was one of the several initiatives by Caritas Pakistan under its Smallholder Adaptive Farming and Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN) programme, because the benefits of keeping bees are numerous. Bees are pollinators, which transfer pollen from one flower to another. This fertilizes plants so that they can grow and reproduce.

The apiculture (beekeeping) training for the farmers was held at green farms surrounded by yellow flowers and running water channels. The ethnic Pashtuns (Involved in honey business over decades), hired as trainers, were wearing safety equipment. They trained farmers on types of bees, advantages of bees, flowering crops/plants required for bees, and different tools and demonstrated equipments required for bee keeping. These tools included protective gloves and hats, bee boxes, frames for hives and honey strainers and extractors. They provided a very comprehensive training to the small farmers regarding all the technical aspects of honey extraction. There is no such facility provided by the government regarding bee keeping in these areas. However, it was identified during our data collection process that small farmers have very less farm diversity in the districts of Sargodha and Khushab (Punjab province of Pakistan). Cultivation of honeybee increases farm diversity, nutrition and economic stability of the smallholders.

Farmers kept the honeybee boxes near mustard fields and they reported that the pollination has increased since then. During visit Program Manager could sense the spirit of brotherhood and social harmony while interviewing the farmers who received their honey boxes. Most of them are now earning good profit by extracting about 25 kilograms of honey from each box. Farming was their only source of income for the past several decades. It has given them a great way out to earn extra money and improved their nutrition status. Many shared about the remarkable improvement in their children's health after consuming the organic honey. The project also boosted social cohesion and unity among villagers. Male and female members in the family are actively and productively involved in beekeeping.





# **Letters from Government Departments**



No. 31007-8 /16-1/csm/Dev. Dated: 09/10/2018.

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL AGRICULTURE (EXT. & A.R.) PUNJAB**  
21 – DAVIS ROAD, LAHORE.

**Phone:** (042) 99200752 **Fax:** 99200743 **E-Mail:** ddahqrs1hr@gmail.com

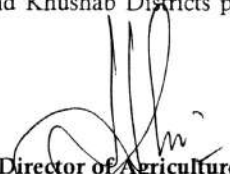
1. Director of Agriculture (Extension) Sargodha Division, Sargodha.
2. Director of Agriculture (Farms, Training & Adaptive Research), Sargodha.

**Subject: Support for SAFBIN Program**

Caritas Pakistan, a NGO working for small farmers approached this office and informed that they are implementing Smallholder Adaptive Farming and Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN) Program in 20 Villages of Sargodha and Khushab Districts. The main goal of the program is to end hunger.

Caritas Pakistan requested this office for technical support and cooperation for SAFBIN Program through Agriculture Officers in Sargodha and Khushab Districts.

You are requested to please extend cooperation to Caritas Pakistan regarding SAFBIN Program in Sargodha and Khushab Districts permissible under the Rules.

  
**Director of Agriculture (Ext.) Hqrs.**  
for DIRECTOR GENERAL AGRICULTURE  
(EXTENSION & A.R.), PUNJAB, LAHORE

**CC:**

- Mr. Amjad Gulzar, Executive Director, Caritas Pakistan, National Secretariat, 23/3 Race Course Road, Lahore for information.



## Assistant Director Agriculture (Extension)

Agriculture Extension Office, Tehsil Quaidabad, District Khushab, Pakistan

Phone: +92-454-880387

Reference No. 455/Dev/-3-12-2018

To,

Caritas Pakistan  
Head Office, Lahore

**Subject: Appreciation for farmer support**

The Agriculture Extension Department gladly extends this appreciation letter for farmer support activities under Smallholder Adaptive Farming Program.

Our officers had been a part of different activities and observed Caritas Pakistan and its field teams doing farmer survey, awareness sessions, capacity building and seed distribution in district Khushab, which are helpful for the welfare of the farmers.

This is a very good project and on behalf of Agriculture Extension department, I assure you my support and cooperation.

  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Assistant Director  
AGRICULTURE (EXTENSION) (Agriculture Extension)  
DIST. KHUSHAB Tehsil Quaidabad, district Khushab  
03/12/2018



## EXTENSION & ADAPTIVE RESEARCH

Agriculture Extension District Office, Jail Road, Sargodha

Phone: (048) 9230232, Fax: (048) 9230233

Email: doaextentionsargodha@gmail.com

To,

09-04-2019

Mr. Amjad Gulzar  
Executive Director  
Caritas Pakistan  
23/3 Race Course Road Lahore - 54000

**Subject: Appreciation Letter for Smallholder Farmer support in District Sargodha**

Dear Mr. Amjad Gulzar,

The Agriculture Extension Department Sargodha gladly extends this appreciation letter to Caritas Pakistan for supporting smallholder farmers in District Sargodha through SAFBIN Project. Smallholder Adaptive Farming & Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN) Project is really unique and having innovative interventions for the benefits of deserving, poor and marginalized farmers. It is promoting integrated farming system in district Sargodha. On behalf of Agriculture Extension Department we assure you our support and cooperation.

Muhammad Aslam Khan  
Assistant Director  
District Office - Agriculture Extension Department, Sargodha



**Agriculture Department Punjab**  
Agriculture Extension Office,  
Town Bhagtanwala, Kot Momin Road, Choki Bhagat Sargodha  
Phone: 0322-6860621



**One Year of Completion**

Smallholder Adaptive Farming & Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN)

I am so pleased to know that Caritas Pakistan's Smallholder Adaptive Farming & Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN) Program has completed its one year successfully in district Sargodha. I feel honour to write few words for SAFBIN Program.

This is a unique project; mainly focusing on the strengthening of small farmers in ten villages of district Sargodha. I personally witnessed that SAFBIN Program is an innovative project working with smallholders. The real theme of the project is capacity building of farmers and linking them with government agriculture departments.

On behalf of Agriculture Extension Department, I have been involved as resource person for sharing the modern agriculture techniques to SAFBIN farmer community. I felt that small farmers have been very much focussed and are actively involved.

I wish you all the best on successfully completing one year in district Sargodha.

Best wishes and prayers for all your future interventions.

*25-05-2019*  
*Kaleem Ahmad*

Kaleem Ahmed  
Agriculture Officer (Extension)  
Sargodha - II

**AGRICULTURE OFFICER  
(Extension) Sargodha. II**



## Livestock & Dairy Development Department Punjab

Office of Deputy Director (Livestock), Tehsil Silanwali,  
District Sargodha U.A.N: 0800-9211



To,

SAFBIN Program Management Team  
Lahore, Pakistan

**Subject: Appreciation Letter for Smallholder Farmer support in District Sargodha**

Dear Management team,

Livestock Department Sargodha gladly extends this appreciation letter to SAFBIN team for completing one year of implementation in Sargodha. I witnessed different activities of SAFBIN Program at district and village level. Our department has good linkages with the local field staff of SAFBIN and collectively organized livestock vaccination camps in different villages. I personally feel, this is a much need project for poor farmers

I congratulate the management team for good implementation, farmer centered approach and building collaboration with us. I, on behalf of Livestock Department, Sargodha assure you of my full support and cooperation.

Dr. Tanveer Ashraf Kalyar  
Deputy Director - Livestock  
Sargodha





## Livestock & Dairy Development Department Punjab

Office of Assistant Director (Livestock), Tehsil Quaidabad,  
District Khushab, Pakistan U.A.N: 0800-9211



To

Executive Director,  
Caritas Pakistan,  
Lahore.

25-03-2019

### Sub **Letter of appreciation – SAFBIN Program**

Dear Mr. Amjad Gulzar,

Greetings!

I would like to appreciate Caritas Pakistan for putting all your efforts regarding SAFBIN Program in district Khushab. I had a wonderful experience working with your team. Hence, I feel honoured to see a faith based organization working for the betterment of smallholders without any discrimination about religion, race and gender.

I attended different activities of SAFBIN Program at village level and also facilitated some sessions on livestock management. I personally felt that the component of livestock is equally focussed and the way the local SAFBIN team is taking government departments along is helping small farmers in different ways. I feel honored to extend and disseminate information about available government scheme to local SAFBIN team and farmers on priority basis.

I really liked the idea of providing cowshed material, registration of farmers with the government and regular farmer meetings because it provides them an opportunity to interact with each other and benefit from government schemes.

I feel pleasure for being part of a SAFBIN Program and assure you the full support of Livestock Department in district Khushab for the development of smallholder farmers.

Good luck and best wishes

Dr. Aneel Shahzad  
Veterinary Officer (H)



**Agriculture Department Punjab**  
Agriculture Extension Office, Tehsil Quaidabad, District Khushab, Pakistan  
Phone: +92-454-880387



### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

On behalf of Agriculture Department, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciate Caritas Pakistan for implementing SAFBIN project in district Khushab. The whole team of Caritas is hard working, devoted and performing their duties with great enthusiasm.

Caritas has executed number of activities for upgrading the life of small farmers. District project officer regularly updates me and I also participated in district forum meetings. Provision of honeybee boxes, seed for different crops and material support for cowsheds has really helped and supported farmers. All this has been done in consultation with my department and farmer leaders.

I feel happy to say, SAFBIN is a good project to address issue of food security and climate change. The registration process of farmers will also bring new opportunities for their farmer beneficiaries.

In the end, I would like to mention once again that Caritas is doing a brilliant work for the betterment of smallholder farmers. They involved all the line departments of agriculture and livestock in their project activities, which is a great success.

I assure SAFBIN project of my full support and cooperation

Noor Muhammad Chan  
Assistant Director  
Agriculture Extension

Date: April 04, 2019



# **DONOR/ PARTNERS MESSAGES**

Congratulations to the Caritas Pakistan team for publishing the achievements of the first year of SAFBIN implementation in Pakistan. At Caritas Austria, we are happy to see the progress made by the team during the first year. We wish you the very best for all your efforts in empowering the smallholders in ensuring their food security and resilience to climate change. Let us together End Hunger!

Best wishes,



**HELENE UNTERGUGGENBERGER**

Head of Development Cooperation  
Caritas Austria

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I would like to congratulate the SAFBIN team in Pakistan and Caritas Pakistan management for successfully completing the first year of the SAFBIN programme. As a new entrant to the SAFBIN programme, the team has shown extreme commitment and vigor to learn and follow the approaches and methodologies effectively in delivering the expected results. I wish a lot of success to the team in supporting the smallholder farmers in Pakistan.



**SUNIL SIMON**

Head of SARE

South Asia Regional Enablers

Smallholder Adaptive Farming & Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN)

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I am very happy to learn that Caritas Pakistan has completed one year of close working with the small farmers in a partnership mode, following innovative approaches through the Regional SAFBIN program. As a co-traveller I am impressed with the spirit, sincerity and missionary zeal of the team having been listening to their achievements and human stories from the ground. While challenges are immense, I am sure they will be able to bring in meaningful change for the small farmers by working with them through SAFBIN.



**PRANAB CHOUDHURY**

Enabler - SARE

Smallholder Adaptive Farming & Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN)

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“SAFBIN is more than a programme for a number of beneficiaries. It is a necessity in times of climate change, a compass for food security, a model for future sustainable agriculture and a blueprint, which should be copied as many times as possible.”

**ANDREAS ZINGGL**

Programme Manager Pakistan  
Caritas St. Pölten



It was our pleasure to have Caritas Pakistan as a new partner in SAFBIN program from 2018 onward. The idea of the program is to have as much partners not only from the region but also beyond. As a new partner, we have found Caritas Pakistan very enthusiastic and cooperative. We have shared several learning during this period and we look forward the same spirit in coming days.



**CHINTAN MANANDHAR**

Program Manager  
Smallholder Adaptive Farming and Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN)  
Caritas Nepal

On this occasion of Caritas Pakistan completing one year, I would like to especially congratulate the management and the entire team of SAFBIN for their contribution and consistent efforts rendered towards the smallholder farmers and reaching out for their emancipation from the harsh effects that globalization brings on agriculture. We especially acknowledge the innovations and new approaches Caritas Pakistan has adopted and also the knowledge they bring to make SAFBIN more fruitful. Caritas India extends her best wishes.



**BABITA ALICK**

Operations Manager  
Caritas India

I would like to admire the work Caritas Pakistan is doing for the agriculture development of small farmers. Such projects are dire need of the population which help to transform new knowledge and promote learning by doing . In this regard SAFBIN is playing a very effective role for the betterment of the farmers. Caritas Pakistan is empowering farmers by building their capacities and linking them with agriculture line departments. I congratulate SAFBIN team for all the good work.



**DR. HUMERA AMIN**

Assistant Professor  
University of Sargodha



SAFBIN program being carried out by Caritas Pakistan, which has completed its first year, is very beneficial for the selected smallholder farmers of district Sargodha and Khushab. This will not only improve the farming style of these farmers but also enhance their capacity. Through adoption of IFS models developed by Caritas Pakistan, the farmers will be able to minimize the dependency on outside resources and will be able to integrate the available resources in a beneficiary manner. I congratulate Caritas Pakistan for achieving this milestone and ensure of my support and co-operation for SAFBIN.

Agriculture House, Government of Punjab, Lahore



**DR. JAVAID IQBAL**

Research Officer  
Adaptive Research

Caritas Pakistan invited me on the launching ceremony of SAFBIN Program. I was pleased to see efforts of Caritas Pakistan in addressing hunger and livelihood issues through adaptive farming. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to SAFBIN Program and congratulate whole management on completion of one year in Pakistan.



**SHAMAUN JAVED**

Research Officer Agriculture Extension  
& Adaptive Research Wing Agriculture House, Government of Punjab, Lahore

I have been engaged with Caritas Pakistan for the last few years. I was part of launching of SAFBIN Program and One Million Tree Plantation Campaign in Pakistan. Since then, we are trying to support efforts of Caritas Pakistan through collaboration with corporate sector in tree plantation. I introduce myself as Caritas family and admire the work that Caritas Pakistan is doing for the wellbeing of humanity. We are always here to contribute our services to Caritas Pakistan.



**DR. SAAMIA SAIF**

Director  
Environmental Consultancies and Options (ECO)

I am representing Government Adaptive Research Farm, Sargodha as a Research Partner. I was briefed about the progress of SAFBIN Program in Sargodha and khushab districts. I congratulate Caritas Pakistan for initiating Smallholder Adaptive Farming project in two districts. As a representative of Research Partner, I assure SAFBIN program of my full support and co-operation.



**Ali Raza**

Assistant Research Officer (ARO)  
Government Adaptive Research Farm, Sargodha



# **SAFBIN STAFF EXPERIENCES**



**AMIR IRFAN**

Program Manager - SAFBIN  
Caritas Pakistan

To be part of SAFBIN Program was a dream for me. It brought me immense joy at times, when Caritas Pakistan was considered an eligible potential partner for this Program. Representing Caritas Pakistan, I went through planning phase; preparatory phase and then implementation phase with a proper team at national and district level. Being a new partner to SAFBIN, it was really challenging for us but with constant guidance and support from management and SARE, we are able to contribute in producing the desired results and credit goes to whole SAFBIN team. For me SAFBIN is not a program, it is a movement; and it is a mission.

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**AMER ANWER**

Program Coordinator / CBDO - SAFBIN  
Caritas Pakistan

It has been almost eleven years that I became associated with development and humanitarian sector. However, working with SAFBIN was quite a unique experience. Every new day carried innovative discussions to address the issues of climate change, food security and resilience building in smallholder farmers. I learnt some new things including koBoCollect, data analysis by using advance software and the innovative tools of PRA which are integrated with adaptive farming and biodiversity. During the year, I also got an opportunity to meet the global SAFBIN team which added value to my friends and social circle.

I wish SAFBIN a very best of luck for all the future endeavors!

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**IMRAN YOUNAS**

Finance Manager  
Caritas Pakistan

I am very happy to be part of SAFBIN Program as a Finance Manager. I was also part of few planning workshops and realized the energy and dedication behind this program. It is a great initiative for the development of smallholder farming community. Providing guidance and technical knowledge for capacity enhancement of farmers is the real beauty of SAFBIN. It is also contributing in building our links with different agriculture departments. My interaction with this program by virtue of presence in the meetings, posting financial status on SAPI and discussion with local staff has enhanced my personal capacity. I am thankful to each and every player of this Program for giving me new knowledge and ideas.



**KAMRAN SATTAR**

Executive Secretary  
Caritas Pakistan Islamabad/Rawalpindi

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Improving the sustainability of livelihood and food security of the poor farmers has always been the priority of Caritas Pakistan and through SAFBIN we are making this happen through indigenous and modern techniques. The research findings of this project will be a game changer for the farmers for their livelihoods and food security. We anticipate to replicate this model project to other agriculture areas to bring new hope, in lives of many.



**SANAM SAMUEL**

Manager Operations  
Caritas Pakistan- Islamabad/Rawalpindi

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I take this opportunity to thanks and acknowledge SAFBIN Program for providing me diversified experience related to the current agriculture momentum. I really enjoyed working with SAFBIN and learnt new tools & techniques relating to community development and financial aspects. I wish all the best to SAFBIN Program for all the future endeavors and wish the continuity of this program for poor and marginalized farmers in Pakistan.



**MAHNAZ**

District Project Officer | Khushab

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SAFBIN Program is playing an advisory role for the promotion of agriculture and for the betterment of smallholder farmers through capacity building and using best agricultural practices. Through SAFBIN program, farmer's income and production will be enhanced and they are grateful to Caritas for implementing this multi dimensional project in district Khushab.



**ESTEPHEN DAVID**

District Project Officer | Sargodha

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I feel honoured to be a part of SAFBIN and want to congratulate the entire team on successfully completion of one year in Pakistan. I have seen SAFBIN growing as a tree which we planted a year ago. The farmers are learning and experiencing innovations which will benefit them in future economically and socially.



**DR. SHAHEEN IQBAL**

Research Officer  
SAFBIN

Before joining Caritas Pakistan, I used to work for Punjab government in Adaptive Research Component of Agriculture Extension Wing. SAFBIN Program provided me an opportunity to transform my experience and serve the small farmers at grass root level. I feel that I am serving the farming community in a better way in close relation with small farmers of the project area. My views will be unjustified if I do not acknowledge the kind supervision of Mr. Amjad Gulzar as Executive Director and special dedication of Mr. Amir Irfan, Programme Manager for making all efforts to run the project smoothly and effectively.

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**RIZWAN FARHAT**

Village Resource Person

People are working with SAFBIN and people are learning from SAFBIN. I really appreciate the SAFBIN project because it is the only way to end hunger by using different techniques of farming.

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**MARYAM YOUNAS**

Village Resource Person

For me SAFBIN is like a sun, which is lightening up the poor farmers. I am very thankful to SAFBIN Program for giving me an opportunity to work with farmers and learn from them regarding their indigenous knowledge and practices. I feel honored to be part of SAFBIN.

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**NAEEM ARIF**

Village Resource Person

I always wanted to work for the development of poor farmers since my childhood. SAFBIN did not only fulfill my dream but also enhanced my knowledge and skills regarding community development and integrated farming.

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**RAZIA SAMUEL**

Village Resource Person

It is my first experience to work for the project like SAFBIN. In the beginning, I felt very nervous and thought I cannot do this work. But SAFBIN Program gave me an opportunity, courage and confidence to work in the community, from which I am thankful to Caritas Pakistan.

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# PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Launching of SAFBIN Program in Pakistan







Participatory Rural Appraisals







Household Survey by using KoboCollect







Women exploring villages on google maps



Meeting with government officials





Village level launching of SAFBIN Program



Awareness session with women on nutrition





Distribution of cowshed material







Distribution of wheat seed



Research Officer visiting SHFCs





Awareness sessions on nutritious food with school children







Capacity building session with SHFC



Advocacy and land rights training for SAFBIN staff





Meeting with SHFC







Free livestock medicine camp by Livestock department







Training on bee keeping to local farmers & distribution of honey  
bee boxes







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