



LEAD Pakistan
<http://www.lead.org.pk>

Making the Difference

Issue No. 12
March 2004

Contents:

[A Rapid Assessment of the Environmental Status in Babuzai Village \(Mardan Division\) and the Way Forward](#)

[Linkages of Multinationals and Conflict Trends: A Case Study of Pakistan post 1990](#)
A paper by Ms Musarrat Jabeen (LEAD Fellow, Cohort 8)

[Eco Agriculture as Sustainable Agriculture](#)

[World Water Day 2004](#)

[Editorial Team](#)

[Sadaf Akram](#)
Program Assistant
LEAD Pakistan

[Saba Fatima Hussain](#)
Program Assistant
LEAD Pakistan

Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

A Rapid Assessment of the Environmental Status in Babuzai Village (Mardan Division) and the Way Forward

Dr. Channa Bambaradeniya – Programme Coordinator of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, Sri Lanka Country Office and Associate of LEAD Pakistan, Cohort 10 carried out a project on environmental assessment as part of the volunteer work, which is an integral component of the LEAD Associate training programme. The basic objective of this exercise was to assess the status of the environment (i.e., biodiversity, sanitary aspects etc.) in Babuzai to evaluate the environmental conservation initiatives implemented in Babuzai by the local communities, to evaluate the status of environmental (and health) education in the schools and college in Babuzai and to prepare a strategy for future environmental conservation initiatives in Babuzai, including an eco-tourism development plan.

Dr Channa spent three days with the community and collected information on various issues. He says that Babuzai has specific tourism attractions such as archaeological ruins in the spring area, the Kashmir cave, the nature trail leading to the spring and the planted forest, the panoramic sceneries from various locations, the architecture of the ethnic minority community living on the way to the springs, the traditional sugarcane processing plant ('Ghani') and several other places. He proposed that there should be a proper documentation of the sites of natural, cultural and archaeological significance in the Mardan Division, including historical details. He also suggested preparing a set of guidelines for tourists, indicating tips and advice, based on the socio-cultural aspects prevailing in the village, and the physical features of the areas to be accessed.

Dr Channa visited forest areas and suggested community that the patches of *Eucalyptus* in the forest should be gradually replaced with native species such as *Acacia* and *Zizypus*, since *Eucalyptus* is known to absorb more water, and also behave as an invader that suppresses native plants. Dr Channa proposed to introduce environmental and health education into the Junior School, High School and College educational curriculum, in order to generate a society that is conscious about the environment and human health aspects. He also identified various areas where community, NGOs and archeological department can develop partnerships to make the difference.

Linkages of Multinationals and Conflict Trends: A Case Study of Pakistan post 1990

A paper by Ms Musarrat Jabeen (LEAD Fellow, Cohort 8)

The Queen Elizabeth House, International Development Centre, University of Oxford, convened a Project Conference on Multinational Corporations, Development and Conflict on 6 December 2003. Ms Musarrat Jabeen (LEAD Fellow, Cohort 8) was invited in this conference to present a paper titled, "Linkages of Multinationals and Conflict Trends: A Case Study of Pakistan post 1990.

The paper was highly appreciated due to its relevance with present political global scenario. The main idea was that the political economy perspectives emphasize the functionality of conflict, as the underlying driving forces are economic. War confers important benefits on certain actors. The paper assessed the impact of conflict on Pakistan in the light of assertion that conflict practices reduce the productivity and capacity of a nation for development. The paper valued the socio-economic linear effects of conflict germinating links vis-à-vis practices of multinational corporations in global governance and its ripple effects on Pakistan. To assess the conflict trends in Pakistan: uneven economic development, economic decline, socio economic disparities, trade policies, and nature of war economy were taken as the main indicator. The paper went on to assess the future implications of conflict on Pakistan in the broader framework of socio-economic conditions, capacity of people to survive in conflict practices, and the attitude of the people towards governance process.



Eco Agriculture as Sustainable Agriculture; The Field Visit by Cohort 10

Pakistan is an agriculture based economy where agriculture contributes almost one fourth of the whole GDP and about 70% of population is engaged in agriculture. Unfortunately, agricultural policies and practices are causing number of negative impacts on soil fertility, biodiversity and human health.

Keeping in view the importance of the subject in developing countries, LEAD Pakistan organized Fourth Regional Training session of Cohort 10 on *Agreements on Agriculture and Food Security*. In connection with the session, a field visit was organized to observe eco agriculture practices in three villages of Sheikhpura. The Lok Sanjhi is a community based organization working to promote eco agriculture practices in this area.

The Associates took keen interest in different activities such as composting, warm houses, seed banks, integrated pest management and organic pesticides.

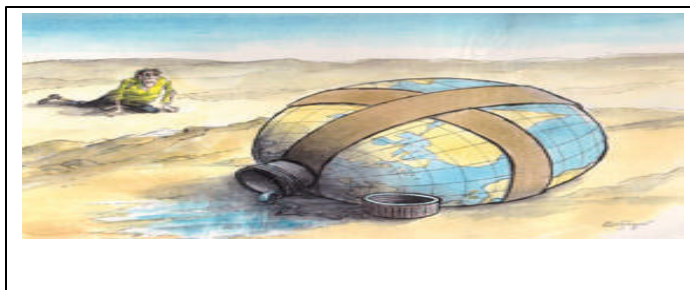
The Associates were convinced that traditional and organic methods of farming could help to reduce habitat destruction and soil erosion. They are equally good for human health and natural ecosystem. The Associates appreciated the efforts taken by Lok Sanjhi and local farmers but they mentioned challenges for the promotion of these practices. Mr. Jahangir Piracha (Associate, Cohort 10) said that the population of earth is going to increase from 6 billion to 8.9 billion by 2050. To feed this population, more food has to be grown- this is only possible by increasing the cultivable land or increasing the productivity. The question arises that is organic farming suitable to sustain this large number of people. Marketing, Consumer concern and self-sustainability after WTO are other issues, which need to be established.



World Water Day 2004 Water and Disaster

Water-related disasters have disrupted national economies, severely weakened poor and vulnerable and are now recognized as impediments for sustainable development and reduction of poverty. Losses caused by natural disasters are particularly depriving countries of resources, which could otherwise be used for economic and social development. The toll for these disasters is much severe and tragic in the least developed and developing countries and has set back their development goals by decades. Disaster risk reduction is consonant with poverty reduction.

World Water Day on **22 March 2004** with theme on "Water and disasters" calls for attention of all disaster managers. It reminds us to promote decentralized disaster preparedness, regional knowledge sharing and raising public awareness about the issues related to Water-related disasters. It aims at inspiring worldwide political and community action for preventing and mitigating water-related disasters, and to enhance awareness in order to save lives and property.



Disaster management is not merely a technical issue but the one that has social, cultural and environmental dimensions. The disaster management strategies have to be evolved based not only on the technical data but also on a strong social and cultural knowledge base. People's participation at all stages of the disaster management cycle, in ways that is easy to understand, will reduce their vulnerability and will enable them to participate effectively in any mitigation measures.

LEAD Pakistan is offering training and research services under WEHAB (Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity). Therefore, in connection with the World Water Day, LEAD Pakistan will also organize few activities to mark the importance of the issue.

Please see article 'Crops that Kill' by Ms Rina Saeed Khan (Associate, Cohort 10) on The Friday Times on the web link www.thefridaytimes.com.

Fellows and Associates can send us details of their achievements, job alterations, or any other news they wish to share with the LEAD Family. All contributions will be an asset to the bulletin. Write to us at: ldp@lead.org.pk