



"Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us".  
~Henrik Tikkanen

# Making the Difference

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

Issue No. 15  
June 2004

## Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

### Contents:

[Irrigation with untreated wastewater](#)

[Death by contaminated water](#)

[Highlights of LEAD's graduation ceremony - Cohort 10](#)

[Training Calendar of LEAD Pakistan - June & July 2004](#)

[LEAD Fellows - lifetime ambassadors of sustainable development](#)

[World Environment Day Facts about Seas and Oceans](#)

[LEAD Pakistan takes pride in a Fellow](#)

### Editorial Team

[Sadaf Akram](#)  
*Program Assistant*  
*LEAD Pakistan*

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

### Irrigation with untreated wastewater

Growing vegetables with wastewater in suburbs and peripheries of major cities of Pakistan is becoming quite common. This is because wastewater has high nutritional value for plants. However the associated health and environmental risks are totally ignored by farmers and consumers alike. Consequently, a large number of people suffer from acute and chronic diseases such as diarrhea, hepatitis, interstitial infections, cancers, and poor IQ and performance level among children.

Mr Zahoor Ahmed Bazai (**LEAD Associate, Cohort 10**) took a close look at this growing problem through his LEAD Associate Project (LAP). Through this LAP he has attempted to relate the effects of industrial effluent and sewage on the vegetation in Quetta city and its surrounding areas. Water crisis in Quetta became worse due to the huge influx of Afghan refugees, persistent drought, and industrialization. This situation strained the already dwindling water resources and as a result people started using untreated wastewater for the irrigation of their vegetable farms.

After collecting samples of wastewater from various places, Mr Bazi conducted a lab-based research on the locally used vegetables such as *Spinacia oleracea* and *Lactuca sativa* (Palak and Cavo respectively) to find out the effects of the high concentration of heavy metals on the germination and growth of plants. The facts thus revealed were alarming as toxic elements such as lead, copper and cadmium were detected as these toxic compounds kill the living protoplasm of plants and become part of the food chain by remaining in them. High amount of these toxins in the human body may cause anemia, kidney damage, and central nervous system abnormalities.

The crucial factor involved in this issue is the economic repercussions on the local farmers. It is difficult to resolve the issue unless the government provides a substitute and imposes strict legal action. In addition to this proper city planning is required to save surface water. Health campaigns can also play a crucial role in educating the common man about this grave issue



Give a man a fish, and he can eat for a day. But teach a man how to fish, and he'll be dead of mercury poisoning inside of three years. -Charles Haas

### Death by contaminated water

Contaminated water from Pakistan's largest lake called Manchar was directly released into the Indus River. This incident had devastating effects on the people of Hyderabad, Thatta and the villages around Manchar lake. More than thirty two people lost their lives and 2,000 are suffering from stomach and skin problems caused by the contaminated water.

Mr Ayaz Latif Palijo (**LEAD Fellow, Cohort 7**), a lawyer by profession filed an application in the court of the district session judge and director of Human Rights Board seeking an action against the people responsible for this unfortunate and deadly act. He has cited the director of the Water and Sanitation Agency, Director General of Hyderabad Development Authority, Chief Engineer of Kotri Barrage, Nazims of Hyderabad district and the state as respondents. As a result the Court has issued notices to all the concerned people. Unfortunately due to the absence of proper guidelines, procedures, and laws nobody can be held responsible and the common man ends up paying the price for this. Mr Palijo's initiative is not only a great example for the common man to raise his voice but is a message for regulating authorities to work collectively to highlight the areas where the system is weak.



## Highlights of LEAD's Graduation ceremony Cohort 10

In April, LEAD Associates from across the globe traveled to the Wye Campus of Imperial College London to explore the challenges and opportunities for sustainable agriculture. The title of their training session was: 'Sustainable Agriculture and the Global Food Economy: Going Against the Grain?'

This was a unique opportunity to listen to a distinguished line-up of speakers and to meet different stakeholders in the global agricultural debate including farmers groups and environmentalists.

Princess Ann, the Chancellor of the University of London, was guest of honor at LEAD's graduation ceremony for new leaders of the future on Tuesday, 20 April. The Chancellor described it as a moment to celebrate a shared commitment to the ideal of sustainable development and described her pleasure on seeing so many young women there:

*"If we do have a sustainable future, women have to play a substantial part."*

Awa Faly Ba from Senegal spoke on behalf of the leaders present and said: *LEAD Fellows are lifetime ambassadors of sustainable development and pioneers of a new world without poverty, war and injustice - where we live in peace."*



After completing 18 months of intensive leadership training for sustainable development, the newly graduated LEAD Fellows returned home with a renewed commitment to a better future and access to the largest network of leaders to help them.

LEAD International has posted the proceeding, workbooks, papers and presentation at [www.lead.org](http://www.lead.org).

Ms Rina Saeed Khan (LEAD Fellow, Cohort 10) has written an article on graduation session, which can be viewed at [www.thefridaytimes.com](http://www.thefridaytimes.com)

### World Environment Day

#### Wanted: Seas and Oceans: Dead or Alive? Facts about Seas and Oceans

- More than 90% living biomass of the planet is found in the oceans.
- Plastic waste kills up to one million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals and countless fish each year
- Over the past decade, an average of 600,000 barrels oil a year has been spilled accidentally.
- Ships transport 60% oil.
- 3.5 billion people depend on seas for their primary food sources
- 60% of remaining coral reefs are at risk of being lost in next three decades
- 100 million sharks are killed per year for their fins and meat.
- More than 70% of world's marine fisheries are fished up to or beyond their sustainable limit.
- 80% of all pollution of seas and oceans come from land based activities.

Adopted from: [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

## LEAD Fellows - Lifetime Sustainable Development Ambassadors



From now onwards we have started a new section in which LEAD Fellows will share their views on how they have benefited from the LEAD training in their quest to promote the sustainable development agenda.

Lets read that what Mr Nasir Ali Panwar , Coordinator constituency , IUCN (**LEAD Fellow, Cohort 5**) says in this regard.

After being a LEAD Fellow, as an individual, I have become more conscious about the rapidly growing Environmental problems. I have developed the urge to contribute towards environmental awareness through my professional skills.

LEAD training has certainly facilitated my work in IUCN. I played an instrumental role in the establishment of the Sindh Programme at IUCN Pakistan. I Initiated and coordinated the process of developing the report on "State of Environment and Development of Sindh" under the aegis of IUCN. The report is first of its kind and will bridge the existing information gap by catering the needs of a wide range of stakeholders, who have been striving for sustainable development in Sindh and creating environmental awareness. I Initiated and negotiated on Sindh Strategy for Sustainable Development (SSSD) with the Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh on behalf of IUCN.

I also played the lead role in assisting the District Government of Badin to develop the District Development Framework, which will include the District Profile and Vision under the aegis of IUCN. I have developed two multilingual documentaries on the environmental issues under the Sindh Programme of IUCN of Sindh. I write regularly on the issues related with environment and development in national English and Sindhi newspapers.

I would like to say that LEAD has equipped me with "green lenses", which have enabled me to see the dynamics of sustainable development.

## LEAD Pakistan Training Calendar June-July 2004

No	Trainings	Venue
1.	Leadership Grid Seminar (15 - 19 June 2004)	LEAD House, Islamabad
2.	Art of Community Management (28-29 July 2004)	LEAD House Islamabad
3.	Training of EIA Trainers Phase I (31 May - 4 June 2004)	Peshawar
4.	Training of EIA Trainers Phase II (14-18 June 2004)	Peshawar

## LEAD Takes Pride in a Fellow

We are pleased to share with all of you that a film called "AFTER THE BRADFORD BOIL:" by Ms Huma Beg (**LEAD Fellow, Cohort 8**) has been nominated for *One World Media award*. The film is about race relations of the Asians especially the Pakistanis and the white community in the UK. The awards will take place on **10 June** in London.

One World Broadcasting Trust encourages responsible coverage of the developing world. It was established in 1987 to present more human and positive face of the less developed world hidden behind wars and disasters.

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](mailto:ldp@lead.org.pk)