GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
Agriculture Department

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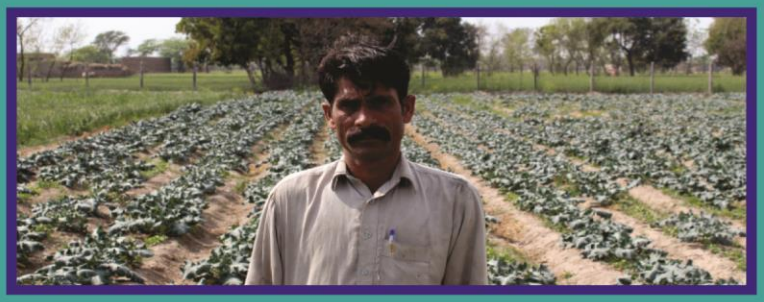
PUNJAB IRRIGATED-AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

IMPACT STORY

DRIP IRRIGATION
A Multi-Benefit Technology Reforming Agriculture



Mr. Abdul Ghafoor (Farm Manager)
Chak No.151/RB, Tehsil Jaranwala,
District Faisalabad

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DRIP IRRIGATION-Impact Story

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According to agricultural experts, Pakistan is facing severe water shortage particularly for irrigation of crops because freshwater resources are shrinking and groundwater quality is deteriorating rapidly. It is a matter of great concern that Pakistan has

touched the 'water stress line' in 1990 and crossed the 'water scarcity line' in 2005. It is, therefore, imperative to adopt water saving technologies in agriculture like drip irrigation for food security of exponentially growing population with limited available water resources. This modern technology not only helps to save precious irrigation water, fertilizer and pesticide but also facilitates in reclamation/ rehabilitation of problematic soils i.e waterlogged and saline soils.

Cultivation through drip irrigation facilitated me in rehabilitation of the waterlogged-saline soil.

Mr. Nadeem Akhtar of Chak No.151/RB, tehsil Jaranwala, district Faisalabad has a fifteen (15) acres farm in predominantly saline-waterlogged area. He shared his experience as **"My entire land was waterlogged & saline and it was not possible to grow any crop as the watertable was just 2 feet below the soil surface. I tried conventional irrigation methods like Furrow/ flood irrigation but it further aggravated the situation. I was very upset at that time and discussed this problem with many agricultural experts. Meanwhile the OFWM staff approached me and suggested to install drip irrigation system on 15 acres for growing vegetables during 2015-16."**

With successful adoption of drip irrigation on saline/ waterlogged soil, Mr. Nadeem Akhtar is becoming famous as a progressive farmer of the area. He grows high value crops like cucumber, grapes, strawberry, onion and brokli with drip irrigation under high and walk-in tunnels.

He further told that **"Drip irrigation enabled me not only to increase quantity & improve quality of produce, farm profitability but it helped me a lot in saving precious irrigation water, fertilizer and other farm inputs"**.

Farm Manager, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor shared that **"watertable has dropped to 5 feet within one year after irrigating the land with drip irrigation as no excessive water is applied that can contribute to raise watertable".** He further shared that **"due to this modern irrigation technique, we are able to have better seed germination, uniform crop stand and healthy crop. It is now possible to get more and better produce with efficient and effective use of fertilizers because all the nutrients are directly applied within the plant root zone."**

Mr. Nadeem is an educated person and indicates that drip irrigation is the best option for better crop growth on waterlogged/ saline soils than furrow/ flood irrigation method cannot be adopted successfully on already waterlogged soils. He appreciates the drip irrigation technology because it made possible to grow crops on his barren land.

While sharing his experience of growing high value crops with drip irrigation, he highlighted that **"Plants grow healthier under drip irrigation due to better aeration and nutrition in soil for the plants. I have become able to cultivate my entire land with limited available water and reduced inputs like water, fertilizer and other agricultural inputs after installation of drip irrigation system".**

He further shared that "cultivation of high value crops on my farm has also provided opportunity of livelihood for local people of the area due to increased farm production and profitability.

Drip Irrigation created opportunity of livelihood for the local people at my farm.

Presently, about fifteen (15) men and eight (8) women are working on my farm for different farm operations".