

1.1	FDW project code	FDW17093PK
1.2	Project Name	New water rights for basin management and inclusivity in spate irrigated areas of Pakistan (Newarbi)
1.3	Project partners	Partner 1 (Lead): MetaMeta Research Partner 2: Strengthening Participatory Organisation (SPO) Partner 3: Research and Development Foundation (RDF) Partner 4: Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) Partner 5: Government of Balochistan Province,
1.4	Country	Pakistan
1.5	In country locations	Sindh Province and Balochistan Province
1.6	Project Start / End Dates	01/01/2019 – 30/11/2022
1.7	Reporting period	01/06/2020 – 31/05/2021

Executive progress summary

This progress report covers the reporting period June 2020 – May 2021. Following and building on the Inception Phase, the first year of the Implementation Phase has been carried out. The year can be summarized as a year full of uncertainties, due to the COVID-19 measures, but also as a year where the implementing partners worked hard to implement as many activities as possible within the possibilities.

Major results in Work Package 2 are the formation and further establishment of the Joint Management Committees (JMCs) and the Farmer Networks (FN), which form the basis for the discussions about the updated water allocation that will follow in the next year. Furthermore preparations have been made for the construction of several infrastructural improvements, which will facilitate an improved management of the flood waters.



Farmer closing the field bund after the field has been irrigated with flood water.

In Work Package 3, the focus was on preparation of the introduction of the Livelihood Opportunities, such as improved seeds and processing technologies. Furthermore several activities have been carried out to reach out to communities hit by the locust invasion, the flooding or the COVID-19 measures.

As part of Work Package 4, the project teams are participating in several up-scaling initiatives and the documentation of project results has continued.



Farmers collecting the harvest of (intercropped) moth beans from a sorghum field

As mentioned, a major external factor in the reporting period was the COVID-19, it influenced the communities through disrupted markets and loss of income from the urban centres. The project was also impacted in terms of planning of activities and the ability to hold trainings and meetings. To some extent these continued in smaller set-ups and some activities have been delayed to the second implementation year.

The cooperation in the PPP has strengthened in the past year. Both Governmental partners have taken up their role in facilitating the activities through making their staff and experts available and in the case of Balochistan starting the committed infrastructural improvement in the Bhag Narri spate system. RDF and SPO have been flexible in adapting to the changing context of COVID-19 measures and carried out activities where possible. Due to travel restrictions, the team from MetaMeta has not visited the partners and project areas in the past year, but the contact has continued through online means and has been warm.



Woman engaged in handicrafts, one of the sources of income for female household members

The multiple events that happened in the past year (COVID-19, Flooding and Locusts) have shown the hardship of living in the spate communities, but also the ability of the communities to adapt. Nevertheless, the relevance of the project has also been underlined, in supporting the spate communities to use the potential of the flood water for crop production and ensuring the water allocation is optimized, taking into account the tail-end parts of the systems.

Pictures

Table 1: Selection of pictures from the project areas. The HQ-files are attached to the report

	
<p>1. Camels in Spate Irrigation Area</p>	<p>2. Drying of harvest</p>
	
<p>3. Farmers collecting the harvest of (intercropped) moth beans from a sorghum field</p>	<p>4. Farmer closing the field bund after the field has been irrigated with flood water</p>
	
<p>5. Sorghum pinnacles</p>	<p>6. Field experiment with strip cropping, as alternative for mixed cropping</p>



7. Woman engaged in handicrafts, one of the sources of income for female household members



8. Clearing bushes from the field before the ploughing and seeding of the winter crop