

# THESIS

## SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMERS ORGANIZATION FORMED UNDER PUNJAB PRIVATE SECTOR GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



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Submitted by:

SYED ZIL-E-HASSNAIN  
(98-PG-WRM-17)

for the Degree of

Master of Philosophy

IN

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING  
University of Engineering and Technology  
Lahore

2002

## ABSTRACT

Pakistan is pre-dominantly an agriculture country. Agriculture contributes 25% to GDP, employs 44% of the country workforce and substantially adds to export earnings. In the agricultural production, irrigation has a vital role to increase the productivity of the land. But unfortunately, production per unit area has become stagnant for the past many years.

Like several other countries, participation is becoming the need of the country to share the burden of the Government. In many projects, community participated as Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in planning, construction supervision, operation, management and funds raising. Examples of such participatory initiatives can be found in OFWM Projects, FESS project, SCARP Transitions projects, Small Dams Project, Punjab Private Sector Groundwater Development Project and National Drainage Programme (NDP). Currently, in almost all of the irrigation projects, FOs formation is being emphasized. To increase the number of FOs in different development projects is important but it is rather more essential to examine the sustainability in terms of technical, operational, social and financial merits. Main objective of this study was to determine the sustainability of Farmers Organizations (FOs) at distributary/minor and community tubewell level.

The results of the study revealed that all sample FFOs participated in planning, construction & supervision of works in partnership to the technical/ engineering professionals for lining of the channels. Equity at head, middle and tail was of the order of 1.0, 0.80 and 0.70 respectively during pre-lining and pre-FFO period. In post lining period these ratios improved significantly to 0.90 and 0.85 at the middle and tail respectively.

The study has shown that all the executive members of FOs/CTW groups had the reliable water supply. For other members the reliability of tubewell water supply was to the extent of 60 to 80%. Utilization factor/operational factor of community tubewell was 3 times (30%) more as compared to individually owned private tubewells (utilization factor 11%). Access to community tubewell water is significantly equitable and reliable to the members and partly to non-members.

Per unit cost of the lining is Rs. 1,630 per acre. It is worth noting that the Federated Farmers Organizations (FFOs) who have contributed 10% of the capital cost up-front have no further recovery in installments, while the FFOs who provided 5% upfront contribution of the capital cost are obliged to contribute further 50% of cost of the project over 8 years (2 installments each year). The collection of significant amount of upfront contribution by FFO is very significant positive impact.