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## The Pull in One's Land

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*"I was in the blazing sun facing scorching heat and now I feel like being under the shadow enjoying the cool breeze with my children... I am at peace."*

**Afsar Khan, Livestock Extension Worker, Pindiali, Mohmand Agency**

I worked as a laborer and a security guard in far flung areas for 8 years. I was in a clinch, as I wanted to go back to my children but did not have anything else at hand. I come from village Qasim Tabor of Mohmand Agency, where seldom any development scheme gathers the courage to enter because Mohmand is a highly security sensitive area. In 2013, I had had enough. I decided to come back home and do something in my own village. I learnt about the LPH that had started in our villages in 2011, two years before I returned.

The LPH gave me the opportunity to become a Livestock Extension Worker. From the trainings, I realised the importance of new practices and techniques; such as, vaccination, de-worming, record-keeping, feeding, hygiene, balanced diet, shelter and free access to clean water. I began providing all these timely services to the farmers at their doorstep at an affordable price. Seeing this to be a good opportunity, I requested one of my nephews for his empty shop in which I started selling veterinary medicines and nutritious mineral mixtures for dairy farmers. Alongside I also stocked some grocery as well - a bit of an all and all. This added to my monthly income of PKR 20,000 a month. With the help of this income, I was able to provide better health care facilities to my family.

The LPH has picked me up from scorching heat and placed me under the shade near my children. I am at peace now. My pocket is never empty. I send my children to school, and also bought a 5 acre of land to cultivate wheat for my family's consumption only. I am planning to cement my house and shop and also learn about artificial insemination of livestock as it is very much in demand in all nearby villages.

For maintaining a sustainable income, I have established strong market linkages and use mobile phone to increase my client base. My services are not only limited to my village but also to the adjacent communities as well. I have also helped women in treating their livestock as majority of women are responsible for caring for their domestic animals. They are comfortable in coming to me and discuss their issues related to livestock. I owe my success to the LPH team, which helped me explore new ways to find a better income and improved my social status through its Livestock Extension Workers' training programme for farmers like me. My skills are important for my village people and their livelihoods and that makes me very happy.

