

## DAIRY-BEEF PROJECT

### Calf competition

Calf is the future of any dairy farm and plays a very important role in the development and profitability farm. In Pakistan, with increasing demand of milk and meat, more and more importance is being placed on the improvement of calf production and management. Unfortunately, smallholder farmers neglect their young calves and face trouble with poor calf growth rate, weight gains, health and high mortality rates. These become major constraints in accelerating the smallholder framing production and profit.



Dairy-beef project organized calf rearing competition among smallholder farmers in six villages across Punjab and Sindh. The competition was conducted to; demonstrate the farmers that good daily growth rate is achievable with

using available resources, encourage farmers to grow calves well and engage in good feeding practices and facilitate farmers to learn about good fattening practices from each other. Smallholder households; men, women and children participated in looking after the calves from birth to 2.5-3 months, achieving good daily weight



gains and keeping records for their calf feeding, health and growth rates.

A judge from community shared *“farmers always had curiosity about weight gains and after every weight record they tried to feed more to find increase in growth rate.”*



Calf competition was initiated to motivate farmers to strive for reaching calf growth potential. The highest daily weight gain was 1.15kg/day whereas the community was happy to see that average weight gain up to 700gm/day that became motivation for farming community to care calves to get market profit.

One of the winner said *“we have offered ad libitum colostrum immediately after birth and 4-5L milk per day. We are happy that this competition helped us to care for our calves and learned the good calf rearing activities. We have seen that we can achieve highest growth rate if we feed calves properly”.*

