



Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan
Planning and Development Department
Government of Gilgit-Baltistan

Annual Newsletter 2025

July 2024 - June 2025

This Newsletter (July 2024 - June 2025) highlights ETI-GB's progress across key programme components, featuring notable achievements, ongoing interventions, program recognitions, policy support milestones, and strengthened partnerships and linkages. Despite operational challenges and unprecedented climate-related events, the program continued to advance its objectives by building resilient agricultural infrastructure, accelerating land development, enhancing value chains, building capacity among agribusiness entities, and strengthening the region's economic resilience through incentivized, and integrated investments. Collectively, these efforts underscore ETI-GB's pivotal role in transforming the economic landscape of Gilgit-Baltistan by creating productive assets, improving livelihoods, and driving inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth across rural communities. This edition provides a concise snapshot of milestones achieved and the collective actions contributing to sustainable development across the region.

ETI-GB is US\$133.72 million (equivalent to Rs. 27,362.13 million) development programme of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, co-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through a highly concessional loan of US\$67 million. The program is also supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), with funding equivalent to US\$21.12 million.

Key Highlights of 2024-25 – A Year in Review

1. PROGRESS IN PROGRAM COMPONENTS

a) Economic Infrastructure

- The Economic Infrastructure Component continues to demonstrate strong momentum, with 251 schemes identified across Gilgit-Baltistan, including 111 Irrigation and Land Development (ILD) schemes covering 57,406 acres, 125 Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs) spanning over 609 km, and 15 bridges with a total length of 485 meters. Collectively, these interventions are expected to benefit more than 58,000 rural households, strengthen connectivity, expand irrigation, and boost agricultural productivity in Gilgit-Baltistan.
- A landmark achievement of the programme is the completion of 168 infrastructure schemes by June 2025, comprising 77 ILDs, 80 FMRs, and 11 bridges. This extensive economic infrastructure has played a central role in expanding irrigated command areas covering 38,285 Acres, 389 km roads linking remote communities to services and markets, enhancing climate resilience, and laying the groundwork for long-term rural transformation across the region.
- In addition, 64 schemes currently under implementation further reinforce the scale and depth of the programme's contributions to regional economic development. These ongoing works extend infrastructure development across the entire region during the extension phase, adding 17,000 acres of new command area, supplementing the 38,285 acres already brought under irrigation through completed ILDs, along with 157 km of FMRs and four bridges. Together, these interventions are expected to benefit an additional 14,000 households, ensuring continuity and expansion of development gains.
- The programme has also initiated the implementation of infrastructure schemes under the AICS-funded portfolio, following the completion of all prerequisite processes. 10 out of 28 schemes have already entered the execution stage, while the remaining schemes advance through essential technical reviews and approvals. This demonstrates the programme's strong preparedness and institutional capacity to deliver additional high-impact infrastructure under the extended funding window.

b) Support Services for Value Chain Development

The Value Chain Component continued to expand economic opportunities for farmers and cooperatives across Gilgit-Baltistan by enhancing extension services, improving access to finance, strengthening institutions, supporting enterprise development, and promoting market linkages.

- A major milestone during this period was the launch of the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS), an access-to-finance programme designed for more than 50,000 member farmers of the Village Agriculture Cooperatives (VACs). A formal partnership agreement between the programme, the Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme (GBRSP), and HBL Microfinance Bank (HBL-MfB) marked a significant step toward wider financial inclusion through an incentivized, farmer-friendly banking model. Since its launch in April 2025, the scheme has demonstrated exceptional uptake, with over PKR 421 million disbursed to 1,379 borrowers, including 384 women (27.8%) and 236 youth (17.1%) across the region. This early success clearly highlights the strong need for simplified, subsidized financial services tailored to the realities of smallholder farmers in Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Through Business Development Services, the programme further supported enterprise growth by offering competitive on-farm and off-farm grants to VACs, private promoters, and other key value chain actors. More than 90 VACs and 54 private sector promoters submitted proposals for Common Asset Financing (CAF) and 4P (Producer–Public–Private Partnership) grants. Following rigorous technical reviews and assessments, 15 promoters and 49 VACs were shortlisted. Once prerequisite processes are finalized, grant disbursement will begin, enabling milestone-based funding and strengthening value chain linkages across the region.





Dahimal (Before)



Dahimal (After)

- Agriculture education and innovation were advanced through the engagement of 50 Agri-Tech Fellows, who delivered hands-on training in schools, conducted awareness sessions on climate change and nutrition, facilitated community campaigns and plantation drives, and participated in agricultural exhibitions promoting modern agricultural practices and fostering youth involvement.
- To support fast-track cultivation on newly irrigated lands, extensive mobilization efforts were carried out across all ongoing and completed ILD schemes. These included site visits, consultative meetings, and a range of land development and plantation activities. These efforts are expected to support communities in developing over 3,000 acres, complemented by the distribution of fruit and forest saplings, 174,690, and Alfalfa seed for intercropping on newly created command areas.

Agriculture Extension, Research, and Cooperative Development

- The Department of Agriculture Extension remained actively engaged with farmers across Gilgit-Baltistan, delivering input support, technical guidance, and training on production, processing, and pest management. Over 2,000 farmers benefited from these services during the year. Key initiatives included the establishment of 13 private fruit nurseries on 45 Kanals, extensive training of 2,217 participants (1,146 men, 1,071 women), including exposure visits, Farmer Field Days, and the distribution of fruit plants and hybrid maize seeds to promote improved farming practices across districts.
- The Research Department produced 14,430 in-vitro potato plants, harvested over 37,000 seed potatoes, and expanded certified seed production under the Federal Seed Certification and Research Department (FSC&RD) inspections. With programme support, the department expanded tissue culture, greenhouse, and screen-house production of high-quality seed potatoes, generating in-vitro plants, mini tubers, and G-0 category seed across multiple stations. Contract farming partnerships further enabled large-scale field trials, positioning the region to enhance its capacity for certified seed potato production.
- The Cooperative Department, Gilgit-Baltistan advanced cooperative governance and accountability by training 123 registered societies, conducting operational inspections, supporting 109 AGMs, and completing third-party audits for 88 societies. The department also issued recovery notices for revolving funds, facilitated Board of Directors' reconstitutions, and updated the database of 160 Village Agriculture Cooperative members to strengthen coordination under ETI-GB.

Collectively, these advancements highlight the component's strong contribution to expanding financial access, strengthening cooperatives, promoting agri-innovation, and accelerating the productive use of newly irrigated lands, enhancing economic resilience and rural prosperity across Gilgit-Baltistan.

c) Programme Management and Policy Support

- ETI-GB is also contributing to long-term systemic change by supporting government institutions in developing policies and systems that will sustain programme outcomes. These policy and institutional support initiatives demonstrate ETI-GB's commitment to building resilient systems, strengthening governance, and ensuring that programme benefits are sustained well beyond project completion.
- The Water Management and Irrigation Department (WM&ID), as the leading agency for irrigation and land development, is formulating the Gilgit-Baltistan Water Policy with financial support from the programme. Likewise, the Communication and Works(C&W) Department is developing a Road Master Plan, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Policy, complemented by the provision of road maintenance machinery to ensure the sustainable upkeep of ETI-constructed roads. Both policy processes have made substantial progress, informed by extensive stakeholder consultations and field-level assessments conducted by the engaged firm. The policy documents are expected to be completed by December 2025.

- Under the Land Titling and Digitization initiative, the Board of Revenue (BoR) has partnered with the Punjab Land Records Authority (PLRA) through a government-to-government (G2G) collaboration. The PLRA team is currently using drone-based technology to capture high-resolution imagery of ETI-developed lands for GIS-based cadastral mapping. Drone data collection has been completed for 17 ILD schemes, including seven in Ghizer, nine in Diamer, and one in Astore, while BoR teams continue preparing Massavis from manual surveys across various sites
- The finance section of ETI-GB started implementing enhanced operational effectiveness and embracing a more digital workflow. This streamlined structure leverages the new online TOMPRO system, enabling Regional Coordination Units (RCUs) to directly input payment data, while the central PCU team manages processing. This strategic shift offers key benefits like greater regional focus on financial compliance, increased efficiency through reduced administrative tasks and eliminated travel, and stronger central support through an active Program Coordination Unit(PCU) team. This move creates a more agile, cost-effective, and responsive Finance Section within the ETI-GB programme, strengthening financial stewardship. The department plans to continue this digitalization by introducing online banking instructions and e-Office platforms for routine operations.

Cross-Cutting Themes: Gender, Youth, and Nutrition

- The programme recognizes the essential role of women and youth in Gilgit-Baltistan's economic growth. Women, especially, make substantial contributions to both on-farm and off-farm activities, such as harvesting, post-harvest processing, and drying agricultural products, yet they often face limited access to decision-making, finance, and productive labor opportunities. To address this, the programme promotes the inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable groups through targeted, smallholder-friendly interventions, such as women-specific Village Agriculture Cooperatives (VACs), capacity building, payback exemptions for eligible segments, youth-driven activities, and financial inclusion initiatives.
- Building on these efforts, the programme revised its Gender Strategy to include an action plan with specific measures to support these groups. Participatory Wealth Ranking (PWR) exercises were carried out in 23 of 27 ILDs, and the Poverty Scorecard (PSC) was used in five ILDs. Additionally, gender sensitization sessions were held for over 80 staff members, and six VACs were evaluated to measure women's empowerment and economic contributions. Through PCGS, loans were distributed to 1,379 borrowers, including 384 women (27.8%) and 236 youth (17.1%). To orient program beneficiaries about the importance of food security, combating malnutrition, and alleviating poverty, awareness sessions are being organized through Agri-tech Fellows in selected Government Schools across Gilgit-Baltistan and Village Agriculture Cooperatives. Simultaneously, ETI-GB social media accounts are being used for the dissemination of public service messages on these subjects to reach wider audiences.

2. RECOGNITIONS AND PROMOTIONS OF ETI-GB

a. Programme Extension and Approval of Revised PC-I from ECNEC

The ETI-GB programme was extended from September 2025 to June 2029 by the co-financiers; the revised programme PC-I was presented at the concerned forums. Followed by the approval of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) the revised PC-I was presented at the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) with incorporation of modifications made during the programme life. ECNEC approved the revised PC-I on 25th March 2025 in Islamabad with a revised cost of Rs. 27.362 billion until 2029.

b. ETI-GB Featured at International Forums

- ETI-GB showcased in COP 29 at Baku, Azerbaijan, on 14th November 2024 as a flagship climate-resilient programme of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, co-funded by IFAD and AICS. ETI-GB aims to unlock the region's agro-climatic potential, enabling high-value crop cultivation, improved food security, and reduced import reliance.
- With support from AICS Islamabad, ETI-GB successfully showcased Gilgit-Baltistan's agricultural sector, with a specific focus on potato cultivation in Pakistan, at Macfrut (Italy's leading international fruit and vegetable fair), held from May 6–8, 2025, in Rimini, Italy.



c. Agri-Business Expos

GBRSP, and ETI-GB successfully hosted three Agri-Business Expos in Skardu, Hunza, and Chilas. These events provided VACs with a platform to showcase their agricultural products, emphasizing the importance of networking and exchanging knowledge, and strengthening market linkages.

d. Collaboration and Partnership for Sustainable Developments

- The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan signed an Agreement with the Punjab Land Records Authority(PLRA) for digitizing land records of ETI-GB developed lands in Gilgit-Baltistan. ETI-GB and GBBOR will work together with PLRA for the development of GIS based land record management and information system for Gilgit-Baltistan.
- ETI-GB, HBL Microfinance Bank, and GBRSP have signed a Landmark Tripartite Agreement to provide financial access to rural farmers through the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme.
- ETI-GB is supporting the Government of GB in developing a (1) Water and (2) Road Master Plan and O&M Policies, involving both departments and consultants, while the Land Titling Policy has already been approved by the GB Cabinet in 2022.

e. Overall Outreach

Since its inception in 2015, the program has reached 104,464 households. The unique beneficiary exceeds 83,300, which includes 11,565 women-headed households.

Major Events / Activities

ECNEC Approved Revision and Extension of ETI-GB till 2029

On 25th March, 2025, the revised PC-1 of ETI-GB was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) with a revised cost of Rs. 27.362 billion until 2029. The program will cover the entire Gilgit-Baltistan region, including ten districts, and will extend infrastructure with 20,000 acres and 300 km of Farm to Market Roads. The extension will also introduce an access-to-finance program to provide subsidized loan products to over 50,000 farmers to improve agricultural production and productivity. The program will also complete land digitization, titling, water policy and Road Master Plan, and O&M policies. ETI-GB, supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), has been ongoing since 2016.



Chief Minister, Gilgit-Baltistan, Provided Strategic Guidance and Oversight to Strengthen ETI-GB

Chairing a high-level meeting on 9th September 2024, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan proposed an extension of the ETI-GB program until 2028, with a Rs. 27 billion allocations for agricultural development projects. The proposal was recommended for final approval by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC). Chief Minister emphasized the program's importance in fostering agricultural self-sufficiency and stressed the need for



sustainable project implementation. ETI program, along with land reclamation efforts, was expected to transform the agricultural sector across the region. The goals were to enhance agricultural self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life for all residents. Chief Minister also urged a comprehensive water policy, considering the unique needs and customs of Gilgit-Baltistan, and engaging experienced consultants.

IFAD Pakistan Conducted an Online SECAP Clinic for ETI-GB Staff

An online Social, Environmental, and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) clinic was organized on January 22, 2025 by Mr. Zahid Ahmed Shakeel, SECAP Consultant for IFAD Pakistan, for the staff of the ETI-GB working on the IFAD-financed ETI-GB program in Gilgit-Baltistan. SECAP is a set of guidelines and procedures developed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to ensure that its projects and investments are socially, environmentally, and climate-friendly. Staff members from Gilgit, Diamer, and Baltistan regions participated in the online clinic, finding it a valuable learning experience. They expressed hope that similar online learning sessions will be organized in the future.



Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Chaired ETI-GB Program Steering Committee Meeting



The ETI-GB Program Steering Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr. Abrar Ahmed Mirza, and attended by all PSC members and senior management, held three meetings in 2024-2025 to discuss program-specific agenda items and ensure smooth execution across Gilgit-Baltistan, enhancing coordination with financiers, partners, and communities. In PSC meetings progress review and policy decisions were taken for smooth program execution.

Progress Review Meeting Chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, GB

On 29th August 2024, Capt (Retd.) Mushtaq Ahmed, the Additional Chief Secretary (Development), GB chaired a meeting to review the progress of the ETI-GB. The meeting focused on assessing the status of the project's implementation, identifying key challenges, and discussing strategies to expedite progress. ETI-GB programme management presented progress updates on infrastructure development, capacity building, and socio-economic impact. The chair emphasized the importance of timely execution, inter-departmental coordination, and addressing bottlenecks to achieve the programme's goals effectively.



Gilgit-Baltistan Agriculture Showcased at Macfrut - Italy's Leading International Fruit and Vegetable Fair

AICS Islamabad showcased the Economic Transformation Initiative-Gilgit Baltistan (ETI-GB), focusing on the practices of potato cultivation in Pakistan at MACFRUT in Rimini, Italy's leading international fruit and vegetable fair. The project aims to promote sustainable agricultural development in Pakistan, with agriculture accounting for 23% of GDP, 70% of exports, and employing nearly 40% of the workforce. The ETI-GB programme aims to improve the livelihoods of over 100,000 rural families in Gilgit-Baltistan through increased cultivated land and improved infrastructure.

<https://youtu.be/NEgdSeKcEP8?si=fxeaV43yzkUe4Tps>





IFAD Support and Supervision Missions (October 2024 & May 2025)



IFAD Pakistan conducted a support and supervision mission in October 2024 and May 2025 respectively to evaluate progress against targets and recommend remedial actions. IFAD mission interacted with key stakeholders, including beneficiaries and implementing partners for firsthand insights.

AICS Senior Advisor Reviews ETI-GB Development Projects across Gilgit-Baltistan in May 2025

Imran Ashraf, Senior Consultant for Agriculture & Natural Resources at the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) Islamabad, completed a week-long supervision mission of AICS supported ETI-GB projects across Gilgit-Baltistan. Imran Ashraf visited Village Agricultural Cooperatives (VACs) in Murtazabad and Hyderabad, Hunza, and visited Hunza Foods Processing Company Private Limited (4P) at Rahimabad, Gilgit. He also evaluated Farm-to-Market Road projects in Ghulmet, Nagar, Sildi Shigar and Niyanoor, visited Akbar Foods processing facility in Skardu, and inspected irrigation and land development schemes in Yogou, Ghanche, and FMR and ILD schemes in Tolti, Kharmang. The visits highlight the strong collaboration between AICS, ETI-GB, IFAD, and local communities.



From Manual to Modern: Digitizing Gilgit-Baltistan's Land Records

On December 02, 2024, the Board of Revenue, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GGBor), and the Punjab Land Record Authority (PLRA) signed an agreement to digitize land records for lands developed under the Economic Transformation Initiative-Gilgit-Baltistan (ETI-GB). The partnership aims to develop a GIS-based land records management information system. The agreement was signed at a ceremony attended by key officials, including Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Abrar Ahmed Mirza and Program Coordinator ETI-GB Khadim Hussain Saleem. PLRA will provide technical expertise and support to GGBor in digitizing land records for the selected 28 schemes under ETI-GB. The digitization aims to streamline land administration processes, enhance



transparency, and facilitate economic development in the region.

Creating an Inclusive Workspace: Gender Sensitization Sessions, International Women's Day, and Gender Based Violence Activism.

- In December 2024, ETI-GB's Gender and Poverty section organized awareness sessions on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment for 86 ETI staff members, including 49 professionals and 37 support staff, at the PCU and regional coordination units.
- The Gender and Poverty section marked the 16 Days of Activism campaign at the PCU and Regional Coordination Units, engaging 83 participants, including both professional and support staff, to promote gender equality and prevent gender-based



ETI-GB Celebrated International Women Day



1. Cultivating Change: Yasmeen and Fouzia, two women entrepreneurs from Sultanabad, Gilgit, are transforming the lives of local farmers by establishing a women-led private nursery and collaborating with other organizations. Their innovative approach to commercial farming, supported by ETI-GB, demonstrates the vast potential of women in agriculture and entrepreneurship.

<https://youtu.be/uS7nLS9O8G8?si=Li-X0bUv17H0bHi>



2. Seeds of Positive Masculinity: Zaheer Ali, Tahira Batool, and their son Muhammad Tahir have transformed their livelihoods in Fhapa, Skardu, through tunnel farming, thanks to the ETI-GB program support. Their dedication to women's economic empowerment and gender equality inspires their community, fostering resilience and hope.

https://youtu.be/5S4ERrKmt6I?si=5eYSst7mwmbph_4H

Access to Finance Scheme Launched for Rural Farmers of Gilgit-Baltistan

ETI-GB, a program supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, has partnered with HBL Microfinance Bank to improve access to finance for rural farming communities in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan. The partnership aims to integrate over 50,000 farmers registered under ETI-GB's Village Agriculture Cooperative Societies (VACs) into formal financial systems, providing tailored financial services like agricultural loans and climate-smart financing products. The initiative, piloted under the ETI-GB value chain fund until December 2031, aims to boost agricultural incomes and create employment opportunities for rural households in Gilgit-Baltistan. The tripartite agreement between ETI-GB, GBRSP and HBL was signed on February 10, 2025 in Islamabad.



Fernanda Thomaz Da Rocha, Country Director, IFAD Pakistan, echoed this sentiment, calling the agreement a "significant milestone" in broadening credit access. "This partnership with HBL Microfinance Bank Ltd. represents a crucial step forward," she stated, anticipating long-term, tailor-made loans for farmers and entrepreneurs in remote areas.

Khadim Hussain, Programme Coordinator ETI-GB, affirmed that the initiative "will address the issues of access to finance and will promote agriculture in the region to boost the income of rural farmers."

ETI-GB Hosted Agribusiness Expos at Skardu, Hunza and Chilas

From October to November 2024, a series of agribusiness expos were held across the Gilgit-Baltistan region. The events were organized to support VACs and the 4Ps, providing them with a platform to highlight their agricultural products and establish business links with fellow entrepreneurs.

- **Chilas, Diamer:** An expo was held on November 13, 2024, attended by the district administration, community notables, and businesspeople. Notably, two women farmers of VACs from other districts showcased their products in the agribusiness expos. VACs showcased their agri-products in the expo.
- **Hunza:** On November 6-7, 2024, Colonel (R) Abaid Ullah Baig served as the chief guest for the expo held at Karimabad, Hunza. Many VAC members, tourists, local entrepreneurs, students, and the public attended the event and showed keen interest. Both men and women members of VACs displayed their agri-products.
- **Skardu, Baltistan:** The first agribusiness expo was held on October 23-24, 2024, at Skardu, which was also attended by a visiting support mission from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Syed Mehdi Shah, the Governor, Gilgit-Baltistan, also graced the occasion with his presence on the inaugural day.

https://youtu.be/SrqjACmfnbQ?si=r67rBIGZvrR5N_Xj



ETI-GB Showcased at COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

The Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan (ETI-GB) is a climate-resilient program co-funded by IFAD and AICS, aiming to unlock the region's unique agro-climatic potential. It has enabled the cultivation of high-value crops and fruits, improved food security, and reduced reliance on imports. Strategic investments in irrigation infrastructure have expanded over 50,000 acres of cultivable land, increased household landholdings, and enhanced agricultural productivity. The initiative's integrated approach links institutions, infrastructure, and incentives, laying the foundation for a sustainable and inclusive agricultural economy. The program was featured at COP 29, Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 14, 2024.



The Agri-Tech Fellows Program of ETI-GB Continued across Gilgit-Baltistan

ETI-GB partnered with the School Education Department, Gilgit-Baltistan and the Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme (GBRSP) under its program initiative, **“Mainstreaming Agriculture Education, Technology, and Innovation in Schools”**. 50 Agri-Tech Fellows were selected through an open, competitive process and deployed in 82 government schools across 10 districts initially for one year. These Agri-Tech Fellows, including 7 females and 43 males, were placed in selected government schools to promote agricultural education, entrepreneurship, and nutrition awareness, reaching over 8,000 students.

These Agri-tech Fellows delivered comprehensive education and training to students, members of the Village Agriculture Cooperatives (VACs), and farmers about;

- Agricultural Entrepreneurship
- Value Chain Development
- Modern Agricultural Technology
- Kitchen Gardening
- Product Development and Marketing
- Nutrition and Food Security
- Sustainable and Climate-resilient Production Systems
- Good Agricultural Practices and many more

In addition to their primary role, the Agri-Tech Fellows are supporting teaching staff by teaching supplementary subjects in their assigned schools, which helps to reduce the workload of the existing teaching staff. Each Agri-Tech Fellow is also actively engaged with at least one nearby Village Agriculture Cooperative Society (VAC), established through ETI-GB, where they provide their services on improving agricultural production. They regularly share awareness messages on food security and nutrition through the VAC WhatsApp groups also. This is a unique and innovative program under ETI-GB that not only strengthens agriculture education in schools but also creates strong linkages with farming communities to promote sustainable livelihoods and improved nutrition. https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566602680338&sk=directory_links



ETI-GB Participated in the State Bank of Pakistan's Seminar on Horticulture Value Chain Financing in Skardu

A seminar on Value Chain Financing in Horticulture was held on 20th June 2025 at Municipal Stadium, Skardu, featuring experts from the State Bank of Pakistan, Agriculture Department, ETI-GB, and Promoter. The speakers



highlighted the importance of agriculture in the region, particularly in fruit production and reducing post-harvest losses. Mr. Amin Salman, Business Development Officer ETI-GB, highlighted challenges related to Access to Finance (A2F) and the need for more accessible and farmer-friendly financing mechanisms in Gilgit-Baltistan.



Programme Coordinator ETI-GB and Deputy Commissioner Ghizer holding meeting with the beneficiary farmers of Gahkuch Bala

On 18th February 2025, Khadim Hussain Saleem, Programme Coordinator ETI-GB, visited Ghizer, where he met the beneficiary farmers of Gahkuch Bala in the office of Deputy Commissioner Ghizer. They discussed in detail the plan regarding early land development at the ETI-GB, completed the irrigation and land development scheme.



27th November 2024 - Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Visited ETI-GB's ongoing projects in Ramgat Bunji, and Daskil, Astore.



Capacity Building and Professional Development of ETI Staff

Engr. Shahid Hussain, Infrastructure Specialist, Asad Ullah Baig, Manager Admin & HR, Ghulam Mustafa, Admin and Finance Assistant, ETI-GB, participated in the M3 CERTIFICATION Programme: Advanced Procurement and Contract Management Strategies at Turin, Italy, from 10 to 14 March 2024, hosted by the International Training Centre of the ILO BuildProc Project with the support of IFAD.

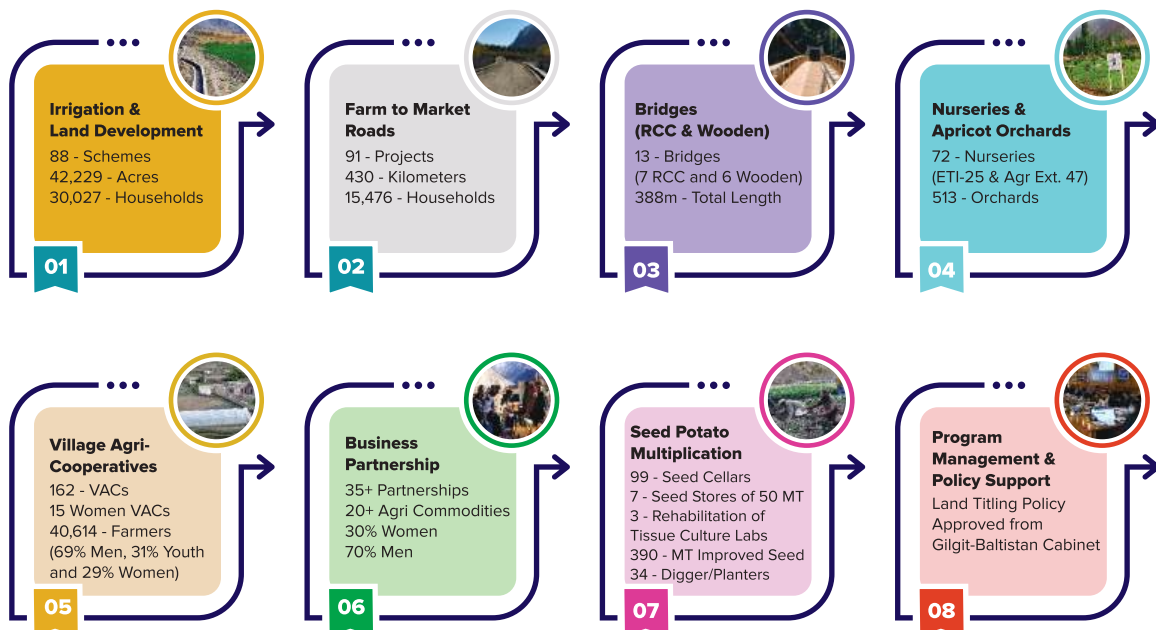
ETI-GB Procurement Staff visited Bangkok for Procurement Training. Fahad Dar, Procurement Officer, and Sajjad Afzal, Procurement Assistant, ETI-GB, participated in a hands-on training workshop organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on their new Contract Monitoring Module within the IFAD OPEN procurement system in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aimed to strengthen procurement capacity, enhance transparency, efficiency, and compliance in contract monitoring and reporting, and familiarize project staff with IFAD's digital procurement tools. Participants received in-depth instruction on key functionalities such as contract data entry, real-time status monitoring, and compliance dashboards, complemented by live system walkthroughs and interactive sessions, all designed to support IFAD's broader digitization efforts in procurement.

Rizwan Latif, Gender and Poverty Officer, and Nizar Ali, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, of the Economic Transformation Initiative-Gilgit Baltistan, attended a workshop on nutrition from November 6-8, 2024. The event, titled "Asia and the Pacific Regional Experience Sharing and Capacity Building Workshop on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Food System Transformation," was organized by IFAD in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The workshop served as a platform for project staff, government officials, and stakeholders to share experiences and discuss how to optimize agriculture's role in nutrition. It also aimed to enhance participants' technical knowledge and skills in key areas like implementation, monitoring, evaluation, sustainability, scaling up, and problem-solving.



ETI-GB Achievements

(Completed Projects only – information as of 30th October, 2025)



Programme Goal

Improve Income, Reduce Poverty and Malnutrition in Rural Areas of Gilgit-Baltistan

Programme Objective

Increased agriculture income and employment for at least 100,000 rural households in Gilgit-Baltistan through sustainable development of agriculture value chain

Outreach Target

100,000 Households

Total Cost (\$)

133.72 million

Geographical Coverage

Working in all 10 Districts of Gilgit-Baltistan

Key Components

1. Economic Infrastructure
2. Support Services for Value Chain Development
3. Programme Management and Policy Support

PROGRAM / REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT

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