

Developing a Sea Buckthorn Value Chain for Improved Income and Enhanced Resilience in Mountain Communities

Mountain people, particularly the poor, are extremely vulnerable to risks posed by climate change and other drivers.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, limited market access, economic means, innovative ideas, and knowledge of the use of local resources for rural livelihoods and income in the context of climate change are factors that constrain development.

The Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalaya (Himalica) initiative aims to support meaningful participation and leadership of mountain people for the sustainable use of natural resources, including sea buckthorn, to build livelihoods and strengthen resilience. Diverse sea buckthorn value chain actors and factors need to come together to forge an alliance, thereby integrating the poor into market systems and processes.



Sale of sea buckthorn products in the market



Sea buckthorn processing



Building entrepreneurial capacity

Sea buckthorn is an under-utilized multipurpose plant species spread over an estimated 5,700 hectares in pilot study areas in Ghizar and Hunza districts.

Key findings of our survey:

- An estimated 12 million plants
- 86% of rural families engaged in sea buckthorn production and processing
- Estimated total annual production: 6,000 metric tonnes of fresh berries and 2,020 tonnes of dry berries
- Estimated revenue potential from sea buckthorn: PKR 300 million (USD 3 million)



Neglected sea buckthorn orchard



Increasing sea buckthorn use for resilience enhancement



Demonstrating a sea buckthorn model orchard



Sea buckthorn micro processing and vocational skills



Building pre- and post-harvesting skills and capacity