



January 2011

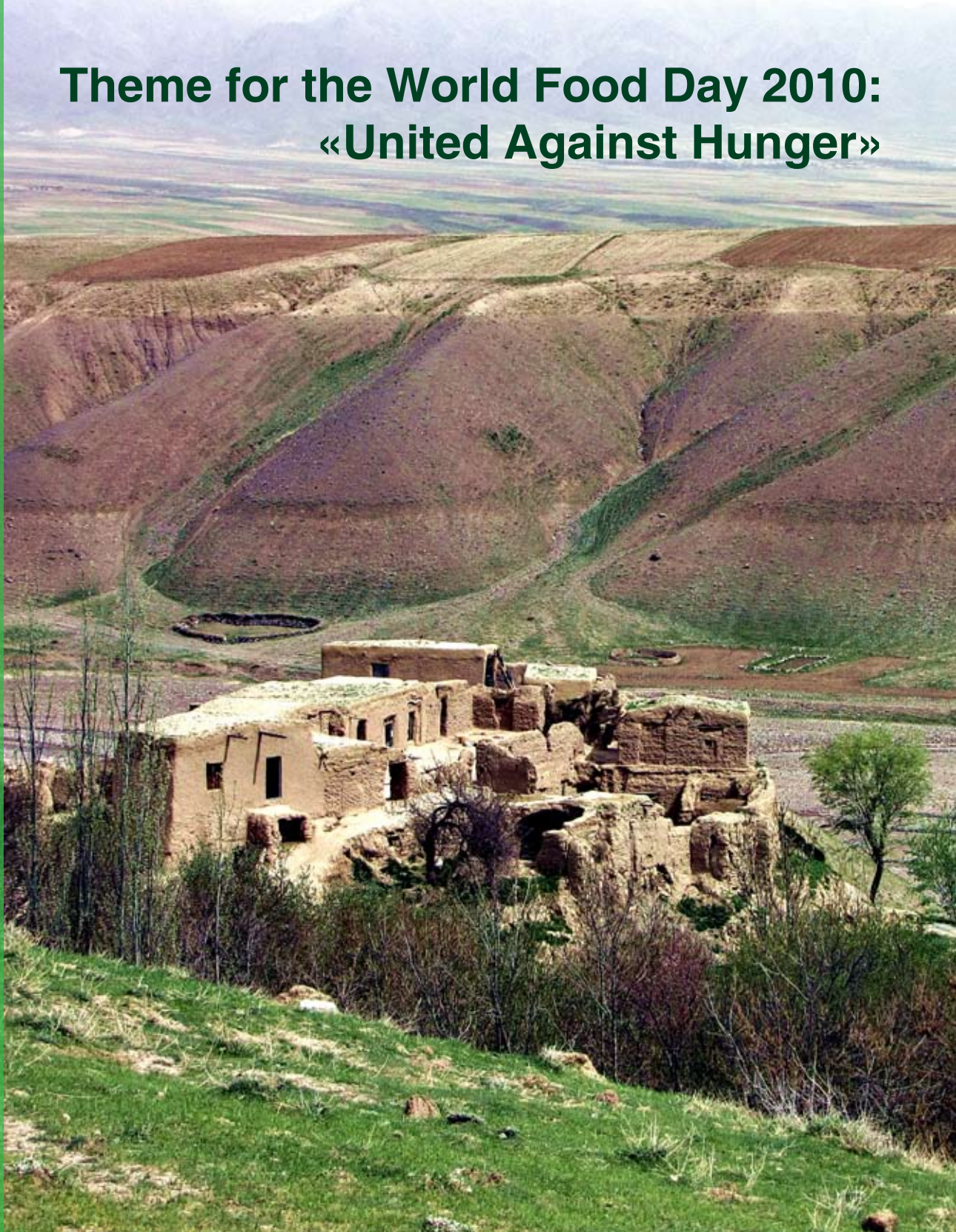
A large, circular photograph of a rural landscape in Afghanistan. The scene shows a valley with green grassy hillsides. In the center, there is a cluster of trees with light-colored, gnarled trunks and sparse green foliage. In the background, a steep, rocky mountain slope rises under a clear blue sky.

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
(FAO) IN AFGHANISTAN**

**FOR A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER**

**THEME FOR THE WORLD FOOD DAY 2010:  
«UNITED AGAINST HUNGER»**

**Theme for the World Food Day 2010:  
«United Against Hunger»**



## Afghanistan Can Be Food Self Sufficient

Afghanistan has 3.2 million hectares under cultivation, which is almost equally divided between irrigated and rain fed agriculture. There is an irrigation system that dates back to hundreds of years that enables double cropping per year. The rain fed suffers from recurrent low precipitation and erratic distribution of rain resulting in frequent droughts.

The irrigation infrastructure has suffered severe damages from long years of war. Some downstream areas do not receive sufficient water and at times are causes of conflict. If sufficient and sustained investment is made in the coming few years, Afghanistan can have more land under secure water, guaranteeing not only once but 2-3 harvest in a year. Wheat followed by rice or barley or vegetables can be grown year in and year out. For this, large-scale investment in structures such as aqueducts or weirs needs to be made to protect canal systems from floods.

Irrigated fields can then be planted with certified high yielding seed varieties such as wheat to boost production. FAO is doing exactly that in Afghanistan through its partnership with MAIL and MEW and using donor funding. Production per hectare is increasing. As one farmer in Balkh province told me, “The top production is reaching 5 MT/ hectare but this is what we want the average to be”. Indeed yields of up to 7.3MT/ha and 8MT/ha have been recorded in Helmand and Herat respectively.

Simply put, if 1.5 million hectares of land under irrigation is fully rehabilitated and complemented by certified seed, it will go a long way in achieving national cereal self sufficiency. Of course, attention should also be given to rain fed agriculture which will bring in additional production. In 2009 Afghanistan had the best ever harvest of 6.3 million MT of cereals and the cereal deficit was only 200,000 MT. With more effort this gap can be narrowed and self sufficiency in food can be achieved faster.

**Tekeste Ghebray Tekie, PhD**  
FAO Representative in Afghanistan





## Introduction

FAO Afghanistan makes considerable efforts to mirror the MAIL National Agriculture Development Framework (NADF).

Consequently, it has aligned its programme along the 4 elements of the NADF.

Moreover, FAO consults and accommodates MAIL comments when implementing its programme. It responds to MAIL's requests for short term consultancies that provides in-depth analytical reports of some relevant issues such as Strategic Grain Reserve, Food Safety amongst others.

FAO Afghanistan contributes to sustainable agricultural development in the country through its long-term agricultural development projects and short-term emergency and rehabilitation interventions. Specifically, FAO projects in Afghanistan seek to:

- a) improve food security and nutrition;
- b) promote agriculture and rural development;
- c) ensure sustainable management of renewable natural resources;
- d) build capacity in the agricultural sector;
- e) assist vulnerable farmers to resume their livelihoods soonest; and
- f) contribute towards generating viable, alternative livelihoods.

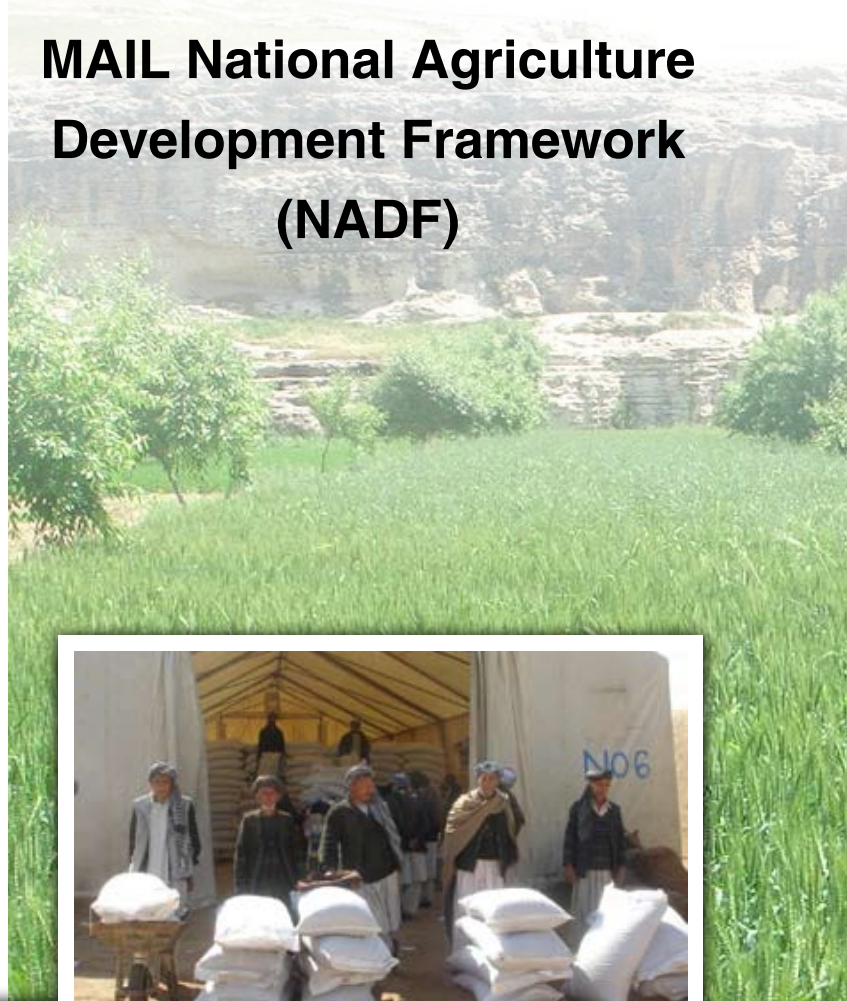
The counterpart agencies of FAO projects are Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW). Donors of FAO's programmes in Afghanistan include Belgium, the European Commission, Germany, Japan, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, UN (CERF) and Government of Afghanistan (World Bank, IFAD ...).

In this information note, a brief description of FAO's activities are provided. They are of long term Development type or short-term Emergency nature.

## Contant:

1. *Agriculture Production and Productivity Programme (APP).*
2. *Economic Regeneration Programme (ER)*
3. *Natural Resource Management Programme (NRM)*
4. *Programme Support and Change Management (PSCM).*

## MAIL National Agriculture Development Framework (NADF)



# FAO VISION



# FOR A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER

## Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation Project (EIRP)

### Objective:

The overall objective of the project is to provide Afghan farmers with improved, reliable and equitable irrigation water delivery to increase agricultural productivity and farm income, improve food security and livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to drought. The objective would be achieved by:

- Rehabilitating and improving existing dilapidated irrigation infrastructure;
- Restoring and modernizing the hydro-meteorological network for better monitoring, planning and management of water resources, including contingency planning for drought and flood;
- Restoring and building new infrastructure and institutional capacity for monitoring, managing and planning sustainable use of water resources; and
- Developing the capacity of public sector institutions, enhancing role of community organizations and farmers for operating and maintaining irrigation system in a sustainable manner. This will reduce poverty in the rural areas and accelerate transition to sustainable agriculture.

### Achievements:

- Increase in crop yield: 50-68% increase in yield of wheat, maize, onion, potato and cotton in the project area.
- Rehabilitated Irrigable Land: 665,000 hectares.
- Incremental Irrigated Area: 183,767 hectares.
- Reduction in Incidence of Water Disputes: 68% as a direct result of improved water availability and reliability, facilitating equitable water sharing. The reduction indicates that EIRP has also contributed to creating collaborative climate for social solidarity, stability and community cohesion.
- Institutional and human capacity development: Capacity development improved due to project's intervention in the form of formal training, on-the-job training and institutionalization of an operational project management system.
- Hydro stations installed: 105 hydrological stations have been installed in different locations on the five main river basins.

## EIRP Cont...

### Impact:

- Increase in Farm Income: There was a marked increase in net farm income.
- Measurement of river flows: Measurement of river flows has commenced in different locations.

### Testimony by: Malik Haji Jahan Zeeb Elder and Mirab

Farmers were forced to frequently repair bank protection walls and use plastic sheets to save water from leaking to the outlying irrigated areas. But these measures never worked and the problem continued to cause conflict between neighboring water users and we didn't receive enough irrigation water when our crops needed. Haji Abdul Ha and Haji Fateh Gul said, "we were not able to cultivate our land bordering the banks of the canal for many years".

After the rehabilitation of the protection walls of the eroded parts of the canal banks in February 2007, the conflict between neighboring farmers was resolved and adversely affected farmers were able to fully utilize their land holdings. Yaar Mohammad, one of the poorest farmers in the village, who owns 4 Jeribs of land, says, "I am able to earn 40,000 Afs worth of melons harvested from 2 Jeribs and 20,000 Afs from onions in 1 Jerib of my land. It was barely possible to cultivate even a third of my land before repairs were carried out by the EIRP. My income has increased and I am able to pay for my children's school stationery and books".



# Variety and Seed Industry Development Project

## Objective:

Improving the access of farmers to quality certified seeds and planting material of major staple crops.

## Achievements:

### Release of new crop varieties:

FAO's technical support to the national seed programme has resulted in the release of 31 new varieties of crops (19 wheat, 7 food legumes, 3 rice, 2 barley) that are adapted to the country's agro-ecological conditions. In comparison with local or traditional varieties, the improved wheat varieties are estimated to give up to 30% incremental yield in irrigated areas. Some new potato varieties with potential yield of about 30 tons/hectare have been earmarked for release after 3 years of adaptation testing and screening.

### Seed law, policy, rules, regulations and procedures:

With FAO's technical assistance, a Seed Law was enacted in 2009 within the framework of a National Seed Policy adopted in 2005. Seed rules, regulations and procedures are being developed for implementation of the Seed Law.

### Seed production:

National capacity has been enhanced which enables the annual production of certified wheat



Agronomic training of counterparts and project staff

seed of international quality standards up to 30,000 MT, which is equivalent to seed-replacement-rate of about 10%.

### **Private sector promotion:**

Starting with 8 pilot private seed enterprises in 5 provinces during 2005, there are now 92 enterprises in 28 provinces, which account for all certified seed produced and marketed in the country. These enterprises are members of the newly formed Afghanistan National Seed Organization (ANSOR) with a functional Board of Directors and serving as the umbrella organization and focal point of contact.



Tomato Seed Extraction

### **Crop diversification:**

Besides wheat, some enterprises have begun producing seeds of other crops including rice, maize, food legumes, oil crops and vegetables, for which start-up technical support and training have been provided. A modern potato tissue culture laboratory has been established in Kabul for the production of disease-free mini tubers.

### **Impact:**

The Seed Law and Policy have enabled the Government to coordinate seed industry functions in

the country through a quality control and certification system in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (MAIL), thus creating an enabling environment for private seed enterprises to flourish and provide certified seed to farmers in most provinces of Afghanistan.

## **Variety and Seed Industry Development Project story**

### **Haji Lal Jan Seed Enterprise**

Afghanistan can today boast of over 90 private seed enterprises in 28 of its 34 provinces, which have demonstrated the capacity to deliver up to 18,000 MT of certified wheat seed of international quality to farmers throughout the country.

At the top of this year's list for efficiency and effectiveness is the Khowja Kafer Baba Enterprise in Chadara - Kunduz headed by Haji Lal Jan, who received this recognition at the September annual production planning workshop in Kabul and awarded a trip to the Istanbul Seed Technology Fair in October with nine of the other leading seed enterprises.

Through the EU funded MAIL/FAO seed project, the private enterprises have become an engine of hope in the agricultural sector for boosting crop productivity, household food security and farm incomes of many poor families in rural areas across the country.



Haji Lal Jan, Head of Khowja Kafer Baba Seed Enterprise

# Development of Integrated Dairy Schemes (IDS) in Afghanistan

## Objectives:

The goal of this livestock development projects is to improve food security in Afghanistan by raising the productive capacity of the national dairy sector through the development of integrated dairy schemes.



Dairy Scheme in Herat

## Achievements:

- 2,207 MT milk collected from 1,600 farmers annually and processed in the three dairy unions plants; supplied to the local markets in Kabul, Kunduz and Mazar;
- Afs 59.19 millions came from the sales of processed dairy products by the three dairy cooperative unions;
- The dairy processing equipment such as butter milk bottle filling and sealing unit, yoghurt cup filling and sealing unit, butter churn and milk pouch filling and sealing machine has been installed in the Kunduz Dairy Union;

- 15,337 cows have been artificial inseminated;
- Dairy plant in Herat and the two feed mills in Kunduz and Balkh are fully operational;
- 3 animal feed plant equipment with 6 MT per day capacity installed each at dairy unions in Kabul, Mazar and Kunduz; the system is functional;
- 126 demonstrations plots of fodder crops done for Lucerne, Sorghum, Oats and Berseem and the seed multiplication for Berseem, Lucerne and Oats carried out in 27.3 hectares of farmers' land;
- 454.2 MT concentrated feed and 1,846 kg of mineral feed produced and marketed;
- 443 selected women farmers were trained on animal health and hygienic milk, 80 leaders of the unions and cooperatives, 185 cooperatives members and 15 MAIL staff were trained on management of cooperatives and their roles and responsibilities;
- 205 students of Veterinary, Agriculture faculties/ Institute and Agriculture schools were trained in dairy production, cattle feeding and breeding;
- A one-week study tour was organized for 11 dairy unions' leaders, MAIL counterpart and project staff to Iran, and 24 technical staff as well as committee members of dairy unions were trained on milk collection, processing and marketing at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal India for a two-week duration.

## Impact:

- Increased access to regular and dependable raw milk market;
- The IDS has changed farmer livelihood; they have regular income at household level and receive 900Afs per week from the village milk collection centre (MCC). Family Nutrition improved from consumption of dairy products;
- Farmer incomes per family has increased from

US\$371 to US\$613 (between 2005 and 2009);

- Milk production per cow/Surplus milk available increased from 1.3 litres in 2005 to 5 litres on an average in 2009;
- Milk processing plants and medium-sized feed mills have been set up in Kabul, Mazar and Kunduz, enabling supply of 13,000 liters of fresh milk and dairy products on a daily basis for local consumption;
- Rural women are the main beneficiaries of the project. Women also take ownership of over 84% of the regular cash income earned from milk and have full decision making authority on how the income earned is spent. The cash is currently spent in the following order of priority: 1. Education; 2. to diversify and enrich family nutrition; 3. Medicines, 4. Clothes and 5. Feed for dairy animals;
- Women are being increasingly allowed to participate in social, collaborative and other local developmental initiatives due to positive experiences they gained from the IDS project;
- IDS can make a significant difference to the quality of family life, particularly in rural life where there are few opportunities for alternative livelihoods other than illicit crops. The approach enables families to invest in education, improved nutrition, health, and provides a realistic gateway out of poverty. It has been therefore assessed as a promising means of sustainable rural development for Afghanistan.

children for education, and buying food (rice, oil, cereal, meat and dairy products).



Mr. Nasrullah's family

In 2007 I heard about the Integrated Dairy Schemes project through the milk producers' cooperative society and I decided to join them.

Since I joined the Union my life has changed. I have one dairy cow and 2 heifers reared as a replacement stock. I now have daily income of 180 Afs from milk sales. I deliver 12 litres of milk to the village milk collection centre. One litre of milk is used to feed my children and one litre of milk is used to make yoghurt. I also sell 50 kg of manure at 150 Afs every three days.

100% of income from the selling of milk and manure directly goes to my wife who makes the decisions on how the money is spent. The income is spent on animal feed, stationery of children, treatment and food items. I and my family yearn to increase our cows and milk production.

## Dairy Project's Success Story

### Mazar-i-Sharif

I am Nasrullah (Mr.) from Chilgazi village in Dahdadi district of Balkh Province. I have 9 children and own 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> land. Prior to 2007 my main economic activity centred on crop husbandry and I had no cow. I had difficulty in feeding my family, supporting my

## Strengthening Agricultural Economics, Market Information and Statistics Services

### Objective:

Establish processes for providing current agricultural statistics, market information and farm management data in MAIL, DAIL, and Central Statistic Organization (CSO).

Create operational institutional structures for collection and use of data on agricultural production, weather, market and price at all levels.

### Achievements:

- FAAHM embedded into Statistics and Marketing Information Office of MAIL;
- Conducted provincial crop assessments and sample surveys and published Agricultural Prospects Reports; published monthly Agricultural Commodity Price Bulletins;
- Prepared ad-hoc papers on agricultural production, supply and price for the use of MAIL and others;
- Accomplished preparatory work for provincial market studies;
- Assisted Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of MAIL in training of its staff;
- Preparatory work accomplished for acquisition of Afghanistan land cover mapping.

### Impact:

Staff at MAIL/DAIL are satisfactorily engaged in regular crop and price monitoring/reporting; Increased capacity of MAIL/DAIL in conduct of crop assessments and current sample surveys; Frequent contact between MAIL and Central Statistics Organization in planning their activities; Reports produced by the project are used as a tool for the Government's decision making.



Field inspection by DAIL for crop yield estimation

## Controlling Transboundary Animal disease in central Asian countries

### Objective:

The development objective is to increase food security by reducing livestock production losses caused by infectious disease. The project will contribute to this by enabling national veterinary



Sample Collection

services to gain a better understanding of disease prevalence and impact and to plan and implement appropriate control measures. It will contribute to global rinderpest eradication by providing data on which to verify regional freedom from the disease. The project will also provide for technical input into contingency planning and emergency preparedness for outbreaks of Transboundary animal diseases.

### Achievements:

- Training of more than 450 field veterinarians

belonging to Government, NGOs and private vets on “clinical recognition of transboundary animal diseases and sampling from sick animals all over the country;

- Collection of samples from 507 cattle and 35 sheep and goat suspected for Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) and Peste de Petits Ruminants (PPR), respectively;
- Publication of various awareness materials like posters, booklets, manuals and documentary film on testing of samples;
- Dispatch of 145 clinical samples to World Reference Laboratory (WRL), Pirbright after primary testing in the project rehabilitated lab for confirmatory testing;
- Collection of 4,565 blood samples from 60 villages in 17 provinces and testing them, with the purpose of finding the prevalence of FMD in the country;
- Collection of 3,600 blood samples from sheep and goat to find the prevalence of PPR in the country;
- In one village of Faryab province a field day was observed where upon the quick (30 minutes) diagnosis of FMD was shown to the participating farmers.

### Impact:

- Afghanistan is now Rinderpest Free country.



Shewa Valley in northern Badakhshan

# Promoting Integrated Pest Management through Farmer Field School in Afghanistan

## Objective:

The expected outcome of the project is implementation of integrated best practices of plant production and pest management, to improve farm income by substituting pesticide usage with IPM for key crops, focusing on enhanced capacity at institutional and field level.

## Achievements:

2010 is a preparatory year in readiness for 2011 field implementation.

- Awareness raising and advocacy in MAIL;
- Preparation of training manual in disease diagnostics.
- Preparation of databases of endemic pest species.
- Implementation of Farmer Awareness Programme in northern Afghanistan and Bamyan concerning Colorado Potato Beetle. Workshop with PPQD, Extension and DAIL (11 northern provinces Herat to Badakhshan) to discuss PPQD implementation of endemic pest control.
- Construction of training room and office in DAIL, Mazar.
- Procurement of entomologic/field equipment and field microscopes.
- Study tour to Philippines (MAIL staff) – to create advocacy for participatory extension (IPM-FFS); how it is implemented and its impact on the

structure of supporting MAIL institutions.

- Linkages created with Philippines National IPM programme and with the University of Los Banos for the development of Afghan capacity.
- Fielding of consultant to prepare Potato IPM-FFS Manual.
- Training of FAO Plant Pathologist and Entomologist in pest diagnostics in UK in readiness to train PPQD/DAIL staff in same.
- Fielding of consultant to assess soil science facilities in Afghanistan.
- Recruitment of staff for FFS implementation.

## Impact:

This project aims to assist the shift from emergency intervention for plant protection issues in Afghanistan, to develop long-term approaches to pest management in the country, and to promote more sustainable and environmentally safe production of fruit and vegetable crops, with the introduction of IPM practices, contributing to improved food security.



IPM Field Training Workshop

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: strengthening cross-border surveillance and containment activities between Afghanistan and Pakistan

### Objective:

- To strengthen the capacity of the veterinary services for early detection and control of Avian Influenza outbreaks in case of re-emergence in the provinces at the border with Pakistan, affected in 2006 and 2007.
- To conduct close surveillance in farms, backyard poultry, live bird markets, villages and wetlands.
- To improve the diagnostic capacity at central diagnostic level and build better conditions for safe poultry products to the population.

### Achievements:

- Implementation of the surveillance teams in the border provinces with Pakistan, based in Jalalabad, Eastern Region (for Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan); Khost, South Region (Khost, Paktia, and Paktika); Kandahar, Southwest region (Kandahar, Helmand and Zabul) and Balkh, Mazar-e-Sharif;
- Field veterinarians were trained in basic epidemiology, participatory disease surveillance, differential, diagnosis of poultry diseases, sampling procedures, sample submission to the lab;
- A total of 14,800 samples were collected and

- submitted to the laboratory;
- Improved capability of laboratory staff by continuous training on Avian Influenza diagnosis;
- Standard Operations Procedures for AI diagnosis are in place at central laboratory;
- Trainings for provincial laboratory staff from the project areas are underway;
- A simple software for data collection and epidemiological analysis is under implementation at the provincial level;
- Results indicate that the HPAI H5N1 is not circulating in the poultry at the different sectors (live bird markets, producing farms and village poultry);
- Presence of Newcastle Disease virus was recorded as well;
- Manuals for sampling, and control of HPAI outbreaks were produced;
- The laboratory staff participated in a proficiency test where they obtained 7 out of 10 in score indicating the confidence in the laboratory to conduct diagnostic procedures.



Avian Influenza Diagnostic Laboratory

### Impact:

- The surveillance program implemented in the border provinces provides direction on actions to be taken for early identification of any virus, with recommendations on establishment of efficient control measures to minimize the risk of spreading to other provinces.



## Emergency Certified Wheat Seed and Fertilizer Distribution Program

### Objective:

The program objective is to support and improve the food security of 59,000 vulnerable farming families affected by high food prices and the drought crisis through the provision of basic inputs for agricultural livelihoods in Afghanistan.



Seed and Fertilizer Distribution

### Achievements:

2,950 MT of certified wheat seed 2,950 MT of DAP fertilizer and 5,900 MT of urea have been procured, quality controlled, delivered and distributed to 59,000 most vulnerable farming families in 40 districts of 10 provinces (Badakhshan, Ghor, Daikundi, Kunar, Nangarhar, Balkh, Kunduz, Takhar, Kandahar and Laghman). Each farmer received a package of (50 kg certified wheat seed, 100 kg urea and 50 kg DAP).

### Impact:

75,520 MT of wheat production potential of the 59,000 vulnerable farming families.



Seed and Fertilizer Distribution

## Expanding Certified Seed Production and Utilization in Afghanistan

### Objective:

The project aims for seed enterprises in several provinces in Afghanistan to be able to produce and sell diversified certified seed of staple crops on a sustainable basis. It also endeavors to significantly increase the number of farmers that buy certified seed at prices that will enable the private enterprises to function and remain in business.

This project is associated closely with the Seed Project and it supports rapid expansion of certified seed production and diversification.

### Achievements:

The following beneficiaries have been identified, who received machinery and technical assistance:

- 20 new seed enterprises established through this project;
- 41 existing seed enterprises;
- 16 existing seed enterprises for crop diversification;
- 10 Agriculture Research Institute of Afghanistan (ARIA) stations; and
- 4 Improved Seed Enterprises (ISEs) stations.

### Machinery:

Machinery worth 6.8 million US\$ have been procured and distributed to beneficiaries.

### Construction of office and storage facilities:

The construction work of office and storage facilities

is ongoing in 11 sites for new seed enterprises. Additional 28 sites have been contracted with 5 Construction Companies, who will start the construction work soon.

### Following trainings were conducted:

- Machinery operation (seed cleaner, seed drill and tractor);
- Business management;
- Technical ToT for community seed assistants;
- Technical training for new seed enterprises;
- The seed planning workshop and seed fair;
- Field day;
- Travel workshop.

### Impact:

The 11 newly selected seed enterprises in their first year have produced 480 MT of certified wheat seed for the autumn planting season of 2010. This amount of certified wheat seed will cover 3,840 hectares of land which indicates the impact of the project. Provision of new technologies for such as seed drills have taken place to introduce row planting as opposed to broadcasting.



MAIL, EC and FAO Joint Press Conference

# Support to Household Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in Afghanistan

## Project Objective:

To improve household food security, nutrition and livelihoods in Afghanistan.

## Achievements:

### Capacity Building

36 officers from 18 provinces of MAIL's Directorate of Extension Services for Women received pre- and in service training on food processing, gardening, nutrition communication, marketing and market analyses as well as training methodologies. Study tours on food processing and marketing as well as gardening were conducted, and MAIL received support to conduct various workshops to share experience and lessons learnt.

Teachers, health workers and field workers in the provinces of Badakhshan, Bamyān, Herat were trained in nutrition, food processing and agriculture.

### Establishment of school gardens

A total of 394 school gardens including 14 model school gardens were established in 11 provinces. Model school gardens aim to demonstrate best practices, such as i.e. greenhouses, seedling production and seed management, drip irrigation, use of compost and other innovative techniques. The gardens aim to promote a healthy diet through locally produced foods among students and their families.

### Food processing

A women food processing center was opened

providing technical support to 100 women from 2 cooperatives and dairy union in Kunduz.

### Nutrition

Nutrition promotion, including cooking demonstrations through FAO national officers in Badakhshan, Bamyān and Herat were carried out through the close collaboration with MAIL's Home Economic Department in another 16 provinces.

### Impact:

- The vegetable gardens are successful to promote a healthy diet through locally produced foods among the school going population and their families. School gardens also encouraged students to grow healthy foods at home gardens.
- The income gained in the first year was up to US\$100 dollars in close-to-market places, and ranged from US\$10 to 50 dollars per month elsewhere. The income is mainly used for buying food to complement the daily diet, and for children's education and clothing.



Food Processing

## Support to Household Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods

### Najibah's story

I am 33 years old and am married with three children living in district 13 of Kabul province. Eight years ago, we lived in Bamyán but the situation was very tough and we found it difficult to make ends meet.

My husband was a carpenter so we moved to Kabul to try our luck in the city. For many years, it was a struggle. In 2009, one day I was approached by a staff member from FAO that was starting a 6 month literacy and food processing course. I was busy with my children but I was encouraged to join the course.



Food Processing

**I learnt to read and write, and was given training in basic food processing, hygiene and nutrition.**

I attended the intensive course 6 days a week, and

I learnt basic literacy, cooking, nutrition and food processing. I learnt how to make tomato paste, chutney, pickle, jam and milk candy.

**Our lives have been transformed from changes in the house, our diet and income!**

In my home, there is a lot of change! For example, we now take lots of care in domestic hygiene. I boil water to wash the dishes. I use salt to wash the vegetables. I also have completely changed my cooking habits. I make sure that I give the children nutritious food that includes vegetables every day. My family and my husband respect me for this. I also make pickles, which my husband sells in the market. I am therefore also increasing our household income. I pass the messages to other women.

I am so happy with what I have learnt that I am eager to learn more. I want to be better educated, a great cook and have my own business.



Food Processing

## Consultancy Services for Poultry Subcomponent of Horticulture & Livestock Project

### Objective:

The overall objective of Horticulture & Livestock Project (HLP)'s animal production sub-component is to enhance productivity and stimulate livestock production marketable output at national and regional levels in order to contribute to poverty reduction, nutrition improvement and import substitution.

### Achievements:

- In 2009 a total of 7,000 women received training in poultry management, feeding, watering, diseases control and bio-security. They received poultry production starter kit as grant which composed of 15 pullets (2 months age), 75 kg feed, one feeder, one drinker and two square meter wire mesh;
- In 2010 another 6,000 women received poultry training and kits to start production;

### Impact:

- It is expected by the end of project the 50 million eggs and 365 MT of poultry meat will have been produced by the direct beneficiaries of the project;
- The targeted family will generate US\$140-160 dollars per year;
- They produced 13 million eggs of which 8 million were sold;
- Import substitution;
- Improvement in family diet.

### Success Story of Poultry Project:

Ms. Bibi Zarmina belongs to a poor family. She has 9 children living in Sorghal village of Mahmood Raqi, Kapisa Province. She was selected by Community Development Council (CDC) for poultry project in 2009 and trained by FAO poultry project trainers for 6 months (three months preliminary and three month follow up). After training, she received poultry production starter kit grant consisting of (one feeder, one drinker, 75 Kg poultry feed, 2 m2 wire mesh and 15 pullets) from the project. After 6 months her chickens started laying eggs and she started earning money from the selling of the surplus eggs every day. She says, "from selling of eggs I purchase medicines for myself, note books, pens and cloths for my children." She also saved money in the pottery saving box distributed by the project, and from that she expanded her coop from 15 to 45 pullets and bought two sheep. She is a member of Women Poultry Cooperative of Sorghal village and she has access to supply chain of inputs (medicine, pullets, vaccines) and outputs (eggs) that is established by the project. She is very happy with the poultry project's support.



Backyard Poultry in Kapisa

## Small farmer livelihoods and income enhancement in Baghlan Province

### Objective:

The project aims to increase income levels for small farmers in the Baghlan province through improved farmers organization, productivity gains, value addition and market access.

The project originally targeted Pulikhumri and Baghlan districts. Since early 2010 two new districts of Khenjan and Doshi were added to the already targeted two districts. The project will mainly help these two districts in establishment of orchards and literacy trainings.

### Achievements:

- 66 vineyards established with planting of 10,000 saplings;
- 6,000 Pullets distributed to 400 beneficiaries;
- 
- 210 stone fruit orchards established with planting of 12,000 saplings;
- 300 farmers completed two months extension course;
- 800 beneficiaries attended literacy course;
- 100,000 hybrid poplar cuttings distributed to 100 beneficiaries;
- Paddy rice demo plot established for 16 beneficiaries;
- Sunflower and soybean seed distributed to 50 beneficiaries;
- Support and contribution to Joy e Naw Canal cleaning that irrigates (12,000 Jerib 2,400 Hectares) of land in Dand Ghori.
- Artificial insemination centre rehabilitated and

- equipped at Pulikhumri DAIL;
- 200 honey bee beehives distributed to 100 beneficiaries;
- 300,000 cabbage & cauliflower seedlings distributed to 150 beneficiaries;
- 2000kg green bean seed distributed to 100 beneficiaries as intercrop;
- Tomato seedlings distributed to 100 beneficiaries (each beneficiary received 2000 seedlings);
- 200 women trained in Tomato Processing;
- 20 beneficiaries trained in Solar fruit drying.

### Impact:

As this project is in its early stage, its impact will be measured later.



Bee Keeping in Baghlan

## Initiating Participatory Forestry in Support of Sustainable Livelihoods in Afghanistan

### Objective:

The project objective is to improve the status of forest by demonstrating effective management mechanisms in a way that forest resources could be viable and sustainable income source for the people of Afghanistan to improve sustainable livelihood and ensure food security. The project also intends to bring communities, Government Forest Department and Research Institutions in a unique partnership to ensure sustainable forest management.

### Achievements:

- 12 male “Forest Management Committees established in 12 project pilot sites of 3 provinces (Balkh, Baghlan and Nangarhar) in consultation with MAIL/DAIL.
- 12 female forest management committees established in all above mentioned 12 project pilot sites.
- 667 home based nurseries established, producing 258,300 saplings of Pistachio, Eucalyptus and Ailanthus in all 12 project pilot sites.
- 1,541 different tools and equipment (Spades, Pick Axe, Wheel Barrows, sprinklers, mash screens, Bamboo, Rumbas etc) distributed in 8 pilot sites of Balkh and Baghlan provinces.
- 105.7 hectares covered by pistachio, poplar, pine, eucalypts, almond and walnut through direct seeding and plantation in all 12 project pilot 12 sites.

- 748 male and female from Community, Universities, MAIL/DAIL, Project staff and other stakeholders trained in different fields’ of activities of Community Participatory Forest Management.

### Impact:

- 359 Females from 8 pilot sites earned an average of US\$60 by selling saplings of pistachio.
- 600 females will be supported to raise home based nurseries sell 200 plants each by end of year 2011. This activity will enable each female to earn US\$90 each.



Women Participation in Hashar Plantation in Balkh

# Strengthened Approach for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management in Afghanistan – A FAO- UNDP-UNEP Joint Programme

## Objective:

To promote a strengthened approach for the integration of sustainable environmental management into Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the MDGs to result in environmentally sustainable growth.

## Achievements:

- 566 farmers trained from community development councils (CDC) in range land management;
- Restoration of rangeland: Sites for seed multiplication were selected, 28 Jeribs were planted with *Agropyron desertorum* and *Kochia prostrata* in Herat province, and 4.5 Jeribs in Ghor Province;
- 1,000 kg of seeds were harvested for range restoration by reseeding;
- 272 Kitchen gardens have been established and are operational in Herat and Ghor Provinces providing 11 varieties of vegetables;
- 240 Toolkits have been distributed to Kitchen gardens beneficiaries in Herat province.

## Impact:

Although the full long term impact of the project will be realised a few years later, some impact is evident. A wide variety of training activities have been conducted. These have improved the capacity of our partners in MAIL, MRRD, and NEPA in community mobilization, natural resources management, and livelihood interventions. Capacity building on the community level, provided community members with new skills in range management, and kitchen gardening, and raised their environmental awareness. Restoration of rangeland will improve livestock production, for the benefit of the local community; as well as conserve biodiversity and natural resources. Kitchen gardening is already a very popular intervention with the local communities. It improved the quality of food for households, and provided surplus for sale, thus promoting food security and reducing poverty. And by so doing, reduces the pressure on natural resources.

Strengthening MAIL and the University farms infrastructure by building deep wells, and rehabilitating others which will enhance teaching and research and improve their capacity to serve the community.



Agropyron Field Test in Herat



## Strengthening Capacity of MAIL and its Partners for Integrated Food Security and Livelihoods Programming in Afghanistan

### Objective:

The Government of Afghanistan applies a coordinated rights-based framework for sustainable livelihoods, food security, and nutrition for all interventions in the agricultural sector and beyond, contributing to the achievement of the 1st MDG Goal (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger).

### Achievements:

- 30 newly recruited MAIL staff trained in project and programme planning;
- A study tour for 8 senior female MAIL officers to Iran organized;
- A series of short training and awareness sessions on Right to Food issues were provided;
- Organized jointly with GTZ a Food and Nutrition security Policy Seminar and 3 weeks Food and Nutrition security Training;
- Workshop for 25 participants from MAIL, MRRD, MoPH and MEW conducted.
- Supported the establishment of MAIL's Food and Nutrition Security Working Group.

### Impact:

Participants of the supported training programmes are actively involved in the review and preparation of MAIL project documents. Members of the Food and Nutrition Security Working Group are also participating in the preparation of provincial (agriculture) development plans.

Food and Nutrition Security have become important considerations in MAIL's policy, programme and project formulation discussions.



Food Security Training Workshop

## FAO's mandate:

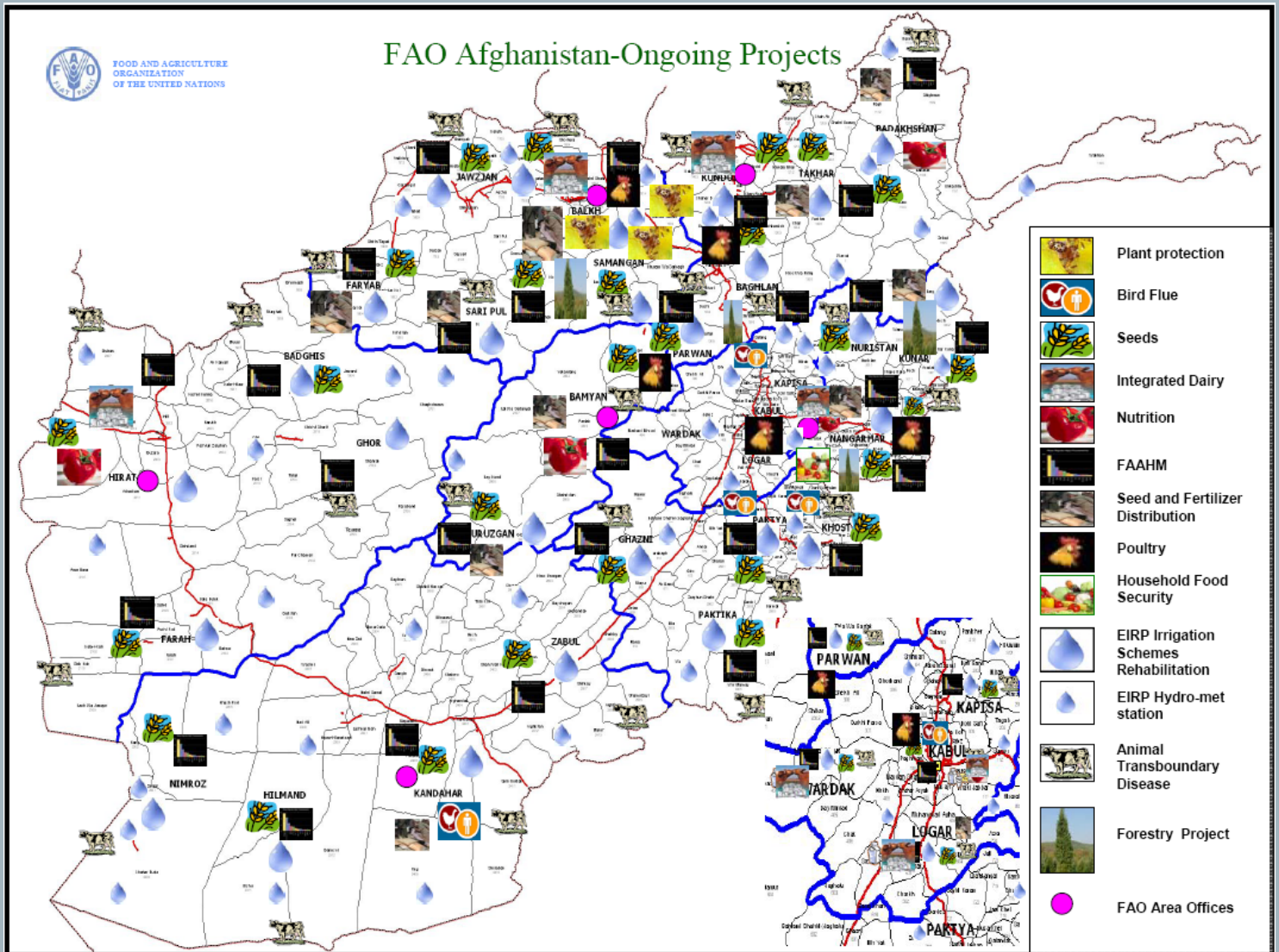
To raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy; to introduce simple, sustainable tools and techniques; to provide the legal advice to smooth the way; to mobilize action; and in a complex world of competing needs, we provide a neutral meeting place.



### FAO Newly Started Long Term Projects:

1. **The Programme for Improvement of Irrigation Systems and Construction of Micro-hydropower Facilities in Kabul and Bamyan Provinces**
2. **Feeding the Children of Afghanistan Together (MDGF-2008)**
3. **Support to household food security and livelihood of vulnerable and Food insecure farming families**
4. **Backyard Poultry Development in Balkh and Jawzjan Provinces**
5. **Development of Integrated Dairy Schemes in Nangarhar Province**

# FAO Afghanistan Projects' Activities Map



# FAO WORKS TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURE AFGHANISTAN





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