Joint Development Associates International

Catalyzing Transformational Development

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Strengthening Farmers' Knowledge

Investing in agriculture in Afghanistan is critical as the sector accounts for a quarter of the national economy, and plays an important role in the livelihoods of approximately 76% of the population, nearly 90% of the poor living in rural areas, and 50% of all households in the country deriving part of their income from agriculture (worldbank.org). This is why we give great importance to strengthening farmers' knowledge in agriculture. Through various activities, we provide the necessary training to improve their skills and knowledge.

Kitchen Gardening Program

A major issue in Afghanistan is the lack of knowledge and affordable resources on how to grow and prepare healthy foods for families. The Kitchen Gardening Program is designed to directly combat the lack of knowledge and understanding about ways to incorporate fresh grown vegetables and fruits, to improve nutrition in Afghan families. This program is educating 8,000 women on the creation, benefits and implementation of healthy kitchen gardens. Our goal is for women to establish, plant, harvest and produce their own kitchen garden. In addition, this provides an opportunity to sell surplus vegetables and herbs in the community for additional family income.



working in her garden.

Kitchen Garden Training Participant

and her husband live in a village in the Sheberghan district. was accepted to be part of the Kitchen Gardening Program, where she eagerly planted nine types of seed. Unfortunately, due to salty soil and water, she did not have any yield. She then purchased her own seed and followed the advice from kitchen gardening trainers and horticultural specialists on how to manage the salty soil and water. She obtained a good result from the second round of planting. She said, "I have been able to sell vegetables from my garden and purchase oil and rice to feed my children. I am thankful for the Kitchen Gardening Program. Now, I have my own garden and I am busy with watering, weeding and harvesting. It makes me very happy that I can include vegetables with all my family's meals."

Weed Control

Farmers loose more than 30% of their wheat yield to weeds. While many farmers understand that weeds are a significant problem, they have little knowledge or understanding of how to deal with the issue. In addition, herbicides are used unsafely and ineffectively.



Farmers learning about proper herbicide use for weed control.

Weed control has become a core activity of our work in the wheat value chain. We have seen the immediate impact on wheat yields and the importance of training farmers in safe handling, storage, and use of chemicals, which are already in use, but not safely or efficiently managed.

Through this activity, we train farmers on both mechanical and chemical methods of weed control. Wheat control beneficiaries experience up to 33% yield increase. 28,000 farmers have benefited in the first three years of implementation and another 30,000 farmers have been selected to attend future lessons.



Farmers in Balkh Province learning about laser technology.

Land Laser Leveling (LLL)

Uneven fields have a significant impact on the germination, stand and yield of crops. LLL requires leveling the field within a certain degree of desired slope using a guided laser beam . LLL technology can save a farmer 20-25% of the water needs and the time and energy of irrigating uneven fields. It also improves wheat yields by increasing the area under more optimum growing conditions, reduces fertilizer requirements and reduces costs. Our goal is to raise awareness for 12,000 farmers through demonstrations.

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Land laser leveling participant

When land was leveled, he understood the advantages. began to level the other two plots of land he owned. He is very happy now and says, ”since leveling, the amount of water for irrigation of my entire wheat land has decreased to half. Before, I was irrigating my land for one hour, now I can easily do it in half an hour.“