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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Regional Agricultural Development Program in Northern Afghanistan (RADP-N)

OVERVIEW

Agriculture plays a critical role in the lives of the Afghan people, employing more than 80% of the population and contributing one third of the country's GDP. However, current agricultural production falls far short of those historically achieved in Afghanistan and continue to lag significantly behind neighboring countries. As USAID Afghanistan shifts from stabilization efforts to longer term development, RADP-N is paving the way to greater, more inclusive and sustainable economic growth for rural Afghans.

RADP-N advances food and economic security for rural Afghans in the Northern provinces of Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Badakhshan. To achieve this, the program strengthens the capacity of farmers in improved production in the wheat, high value crop and livestock value chains. Its activities enable farmers to increase their commercial viability and competitiveness in response to market demand, thereby generating greater income opportunities and empowering families to better meet their household needs. RADP-N uses a value chain facilitation approach to address numerous bottlenecks and identify lead firms within area capable of leveraging positive change. The final piece of RADP-N's holistic framework is supporting a policy environment through advocacy and dialogue that strengthens the private sector.

ACTIVITIES (PLANNED)

RADP-N's activities fall into four components, each of which addresses one or more of the program's thematic areas: farmer productivity and profitability, gender, agribusiness and alternative development.

- **Wheat:** Improve the productivity of wheat cultivation to reduce farmers' losses, improve food security and boost household incomes.
- **High-Value Crops (HVC):** Invest strategically in high-value crops, such as dried fruits and nuts, melons and select orchard crops, to strengthen the market competitiveness and environmental sustainability of Afghan goods.
- **Livestock:** Support farmers in maximizing the opportunities for improving the conditions and environmental impacts associated with livestock.
- **Enabling Environment:** Promote dialogue between GIRoA officials and local producers, processors and traders to identify obstacles to and opportunities for improving the quantity and quality of Afghan goods; increasing market access and strengthening relevant policies to better support the needs of farmers and agribusinesses.

RADP-N will work with poppy free communities throughout its 26 target districts to strengthen income and profitability derived from licit crops. The program will also consider the incentives driving poppy cultivation in Northern provinces that face a resurgence of poppy farming when developing its programming.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increase beneficiaries' production of key crops by 30% and reduce post-harvest losses by 50%;
- Introduce new technologies or management practices to 140,000 farmers;
- Boost farmers' annual incomes by 20%;
- Generate \$83 million in sales of licit farm products from assisted agribusinesses;
- Train 12,000 women in nutrition, sanitary food preparation and cooking, diet diversity and the nutritional value of vegetables and pulses; and
- Collaborate with local private and public stakeholders to identify and analyze obstacles facing the agricultural sector that may be mitigated through the adjustment of national-level policies.