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Afghan Agricultural Research and Extension Development Program (AGRED)



Monthly Report

November, 2012

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Afghan Agricultural Research & Extension Development Program (AGRED)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT INFORMATION

AGRED PURPOSE

In partnership with Afghan farmers, the USAID/AGRED Program supports the Afghan government to build enduring, effective research and extension systems. The result will include increased agricultural jobs and incomes.

AGRED PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. **Research and Extension** - Applied research and provision of extension and advisory services.
2. **Training** - Training and capacity building of research and extension staff to deliver services to Afghan communities.
3. **Communication** - More effective communication with and increased access to improved technologies, knowledge and education with emphasis on agriculture best practices by Afghan farmers.
4. **Infrastructure** - Improved applied research and extension infrastructure in 7 target sub-national Research Centers and fifty target districts.

AGRED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of The Afghan Agricultural Research and Extension Development (AGRED) program is to increase agricultural productivity and income through the application of science and technology. AGRED will build the capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's (GIROA) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) to sustainably procure, develop and deploy productivity-enhancing technologies and good farming practices. The program will strengthen the technical skills of research and extension professionals in state-of-the-art service delivery methods through on-the-job and formal trainings. AGRED will facilitate farmers' access to improved technologies and practices, integrate research and extension systems, and rebuild critical assets of selected Research Centers.

The capacity development work will focus on MAIL and DAILs in seven provinces - Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Paktya in 50 MAIL priority districts of these and 19 other provinces: Kapisa, Parwan, Wardak, Ghazni, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzghan, Laghman, Kunar, Takhar, Baghlan, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Jawzjan, Samangan, Sar-i-Pul, Logar, Faryab and Badghis.

HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION – In the seven target provinces listed above, AGRED staff conducted introductory meetings with DAIL directors, DAIL advisors, research and extension managers, administrative managers and CBCMP staff to discuss AGRED's goals, objectives and activities.

TRAINING – In preparation for the MAIL's proposal for research and extension activities to be funded under the USAID Implementation Letters, AGRED's field staff organized and assisted MAIL and DAILs in conducting Stakeholder Workshops in each of the seven target provinces. The workshops included farmer groups, agribusinesses and government officials. The Stakeholder Workshops were held to identify the research and extension priorities for 2013. The results were summarized by province and by technical area (e.g. agronomic, horticultural and industrial crops).

AGRED OFFICES AT DAILs - AGRED has established 9 offices in the DAILs in Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Saripul, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kapisa and Samangan provinces. Another 17 offices will be established in December and January.



ACHEIVEMENTS IN NOVEMBER

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

- Follow-up meetings held with women in DAIL Extension and Home Economics to coordinate activities in target provinces.
- Introductory meetings held with DAILs in Balkh, Kunduz, Nangarhar Paktya, Kandahar, Herat and Kabul and 19 other provinces.
- Agricultural Technical Working Group meetings (ATWG) in Kandahar Province.
- Stakeholder Workshops in seven Provinces; Balkh, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktya, Kandahar, Herat and Kabul.
- Offices for AGRED staff at Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan and Badakhshan DAILs.
- Work plan for AGRED Women Farmers Program.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- **AGRED Introductory Meetings with DAILs** – AGRED staff conducted introductory meetings with DAIL Directors and managers in the seven provinces. They were briefed on project goals, objectives, target areas, target beneficiaries, DAIL responsibilities for the project at district and provincial levels. The DAIL directors promised to cooperate with AGRED throughout the program.
- **Stakeholder Workshops** - Three-day Stakeholder Workshops were conducted to identify priority crops, production constraints, and research and extension priorities for each province. Formally inaugurated by DAIL Directors, these workshops summarized the AGRED project activities which will be implemented by DAILS in the 7 key agriculture-ecological zones. 332 participants included 279 men and 53 women identified 318 potential research and extension projects addressing farmers'/herder's issues in 7 target provinces.



Kandahar Stakeholder Workshop

Participants in Seven Stakeholder Workshops to identify Research and Extension Priorities

No.	Agencies	Number of participants
1	DAIL staff	141
2	University representatives	14
3	Private companies	15
4	Women Affairs Departments	42
5	Agricultural cooperatives	45
6	NGOs	10
7	Lead farmers	45
8	Commerce Departments	7
9	AISA	5
10	Transportation Departments	3
11	USAID representatives	2
12	Provincial Councils	3
Total		332

- **Offices for AGRED Staff** – AGRED established 9 offices in Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Saripul, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kapisa and Samangan provinces. The DAIL directors in the remaining provinces promised to allocate rooms for AGRED offices.
- **Agricultural Technical Working Group Meeting (ATWG) in Kandahar Province** - The Agriculture Technical Working Group Meeting was conducted on November 11 in the Governor's house in Kandahar Province. The AGRED representatives summarized introduced the project's goals and objectives to representatives from GIRoA, UN agencies, NGOs, Kandahar PRT and other USAID program staff.
- **Meeting with MAIL Minister in Kandahar DAIL Office** - The H.E. Mohammad Asif Rahimi the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, along with his senior delegation visited the Kandahar DAIL. Minister Rahimi met with DAIL, Capacity Building and Change Management Program (CBCMP) and AGRED staffs. The Minister received an update on AGRED activities in Kandahar province and the project orientation workshop handout from AGRED staff.

- **Mini-Proposals** - Research and Extension staff drafted 32 mini proposals (14 Research and 18 Extension) which were selected during the Stakeholder Workshops. These projects included the research and extension needs on cereal crops, vegetables, industrial crops, oil crops, and livestock.
- **Meetings with DAIL Directors and Extension and Research Managers and Women's Programs in Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, and Herat provinces** – AGRED Director of Women's Program, Dr. Rasuli, and Regional Gender Coordinator Dr. Amiri, met with DAIL Directors, DAIL Research and Extension, and managers of the Departments of Home Economics and Livestock. These meetings introduced AGRED's Women Farmers Program, designed to integrate women into research, extension, and livestock projects. Women farmers play critical roles in crop and livestock production, generating household income, addressing nutritional needs, ensuring food security and raising the contribution of agriculture to the national economy.

AGRED will identify women leaders in villages, provide training and educational opportunities for women to study agriculture, increase their involvement in research and extension at provincial levels.

As result, the DAIL Directors confirmed their collaboration with the AGRED Women Farmers Program and their commitment to include more women in extension and research programs at both the provincial and district levels.

- **Participation of women in Stakeholder Workshops in Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, Paktya, Kandahar, Kunduz and Herat Provinces** - Stakeholder workshops were held in seven target provinces to recognize research and extension priority projects .Workshops were held in Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif on November 4–6, in Kunduz and Paktya on November 11-13 and in Kandahar and Herat on November 18-20.

Fifty-three women from MAIL and DAILs, MoWA and DoWAs, NGOs, agriculture faculties and institutes, traders, private companies and farmer cooperatives participated in the workshops. Women participated actively in identifying extension and research projects for their provinces.



The female participant explains and defends the women programs

- **Coordination with MoWA and DoWAs to identify women for AGRED Regional Extension Coordinators positions in target provinces-** AGRED will have Women Extension Coordinators located in its seven target provinces. Women will work with MAIL and DAILs and the AGRED field team to ensure that women farmers benefit directly from extension and research projects. There are many qualified women in the provinces but many lack access to the internet to get job postings and submit applications via

email. AGRED coordinated with MAIL's Home Economics Department and the Ministry of Women's Affairs to increase AGRED's access to qualified women candidates, particularly in conservative areas like Kandahar, Kunduz, and Paktya.

CHALLENGES

- Unavailability of computers and internet facilities for women in the provinces to send their CVs for AGRED extension positions announced in AGRED.
- AGRED's Women Farmers Program must overcome cultural barriers to training women farmers, meeting women farmers in groups, addressing women farmers in public meetings, and encouraging collaboration between the field staffs of the Home Economics Directorate and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.
- Misconceptions that Afghan women are not in agriculture, and that information provided to men farmers will filter down to women.
- Difficulty in accessing women farmers at provincial and district levels due to the low number of women extension and research personnel at provincial and district levels.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

PRIORITIES

- Stakeholder Workshops conducted in 7 provinces Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, Paktya, Kandahar, Kunduz and Herat by AGRED and MAIL facilitators.

ACTIVITIES

- During November, AGRED conducted seven workshops in Balkh, Nangarhar, Paktya, Kunduz, Kandahar, Herat and Kabul provinces. The aim of these workshops was to identify priority of research and extension activities for 2013 for each province. Public and private sector representatives participated in these workshops. Women, including farmers and field staff of NGOs and government organizations, represented approximately 20% of the participants.



CHALLENGES

- Due to poor communications between MAIL and DAILs, the notifications of Stakeholder Workshop were delayed. In some provinces, AGRED staff personally delivered the

MAIL letters to DAIL Directors in order to get their support and to invite stakeholders for the workshops.

COMMUNICATIONS

PRIORITIES

- Participation in Kabul AgFair.
- October monthly report preparation.
- Development of AGRED banner and program brochure.

PLANS

- **Participation in Kabul AgFair** - AGRED participated in the November AgFair in Kabul to introduce its programs to agribusinesses, public sector, and NGOs involved in agricultural development. The Communications Department developed a banner for the AgFair event.
- **October Monthly Report** - during the reporting period, the Communications Department had several meetings with AGRED COP to talk about the new format for monthly reports. After developing the new format, required information for the October monthly was collected and the report was finalized to be sent for USAID approval.
- **AGRED Banner and Program Brochure** – In November, the first AGRED banner designed by the Communication Team. In coordination with the ROP home office, t AGRED designed a brochure and it will be sent to USAID for approval.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

PRIORITIES

- Write mini-proposals for AGRED projects working with DAILs.
- Participate in Agricultural Technical Working Group (ATWG) meetings in target provinces.

- Begin meeting with research and extension departments' managers to discuss mini-proposals in targeted provinces.
- Conduct inventories of Kabul, Balkh, Jalalabad and Herat Research Centers.
- Recruit Women Extension Coordinators for Nangarhar, Kunduz, Balkh, Paktya, Herat and Kandahar provinces.
- Coordinate with women working in MAIL extension, research, livestock and Home Economics about the upcoming National Conference.
- Identifying women farmers from seven targeted provinces to participate in the extension trainings in Kabul DAIL.
- Meet with MAIL Home Economics about their activities and potential collaboration in the target provinces.

PLANS

- Write mini-proposals for DAIL research and extension programs in 2013.
- Participate in Sectorial Working Group (SWG) meeting in Kandahar Province.
- Participate in ATWG (Agricultural Technical Working Group) meetings in target provinces.
- Interview candidates for Women Extension Coordinators in Nangarhar, Kunduz, Balkh, Paktya, Herat and Kandahar provinces
- Meet with MAIL Extension and Home Economics departments about the National Conference and extension trainings.

CHALLENGES

- Security constraints in the Kandahar, Paktya and Nangarhar provinces.
- AGREED will work with MAIL, DAILs, MoWA and DoWAs to ensure that women participate in the upcoming extension trainings.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

PRIORITIES

- Arrangements for the National Workshop in Kabul.

- AGRED sub-contractors WSU, UCD and TAMU to Kabul from USA to define their training plans.

PLANS

- During December, AGRED Training Department will plan a National Workshop in which to discuss provincial research and extension priorities. The result will be used in a proposal to USAID. Representatives of Washington State University and UC Davis will meet with MAIL to discuss the arrangements for the Extension Leadership Training to be held in January 2013.

CHALLENGES

- Getting MAIL to identify appropriate participants for the extension trainings.

COMMUNICATIONS

PRIORITIES

- Approval of October Monthly Report.
- Finalization of first AGRED quarterly report.
- Development of mini-proposals.

PLANS

- Finalize October Monthly Report and send it to USAID for approval.
- Meet with field staff to support mini-proposal development, including research and extension projects, for seven target provinces.
- Work with Home Office Program Specialist to develop reporting templates and report submission schedules.

CHALLENGES

- Develop a template for more than 50 mini-proposals for research and extension activities in seven target provinces.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

PRIORITIES

- Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP).
- Recruiting an M&E manager.
- USAID approval for short-term M&E Specialist Maheed Ullah.
- Recruiting a manager for AGRED's M&E program.

PLANS

- **PMP** - AGRED's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) will include targets for AGRED and MAIL. USAID proposed to extend the submission deadline for AGRED's PMP to design a PMP that provides useful guidelines for future projects involving on-budget funding to ministries in Afghanistan and other countries.

AGRED will identify senior M&E Specialist to work with USAID to develop AGRED's PMP.

Recruiting a STTA M&E Specialist and a Long-term M&E Manager - AGRED identified short-term M&E Specialist Maheed Ullah to design an M&E tracking system for AGRED activities and for MAIL projects financed under implementation letters. He will also assist in identifying AGRED's long-term M&E Manager.

AGRED Year-1 Target Provinces and Districts

#	Province*	Priority Districts
1	Kabul	Shakar Dara, Char Asyab
2	Bamyan	Bamyan
3	Ghazni	Ghazni Center, Khoja Omari, Jaghori
4	Kapisa	Khohistan 2 nd
5	Parwan	Charikar, Sayed Khil
6	Wardak	Maidan Shar
7	Nangarhar	Mohmand Dara, Kama, Sorkhrood, Rodat
8	Kunar	Narang, Khas Kunar
9	Laghman	Qargae
10	Paktya	Gardiz, Ahmad Aba
11	Logar	Mohammad Agha
12	Kandahar	Dand, Daman, Arghandab
13	Helmand	Nadali, Garmsir
14	Urozgan	Trinkot
15	Zabul	Qalat, Shahjoy
16	Herat	Gozara, Pashton Zarghon
17	Badghis	Qadis
18	Balkh	Nahre Shahi, Dehdadi
19	Faryab	Khoja Sabzposh
20	Jawzjan	Aqcha
21	Samangan	Aybak
22	Sar-i-Pul	Sancharak
23	Kunduz	Kunduz Center, Khan Abad
24	Takhar	Taloqan
25	Baghlan	Markazi Baghlan
26	Badakhshan	Kishim

*The seven initial target provinces are highlighted in bold

CALENDER OF EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2012

Proposed Date	PSSP Results Framework Activity	Events/ Activities	Purpose	Person Responsible	Venue	Partner/s and Expected Level of GOP Representation	Applicable for Branding & Marketing
Nov 4-6	IR 1: More effective communication with and increased access to improved technologies, knowledge and education with emphasis on agriculture best practices by Afghan farmers.	Stakeholder Workshops	AGRED introduction workshop to ID stakeholders' research and extension needs	ROP Country Dir. Osmani, AGRED Training Dir. Anwari	Jalalabad	DAIL research and extension: Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman	USAID/AGRED Banners
Nov 4-6					Mazar-e-Sharif	DAIL research and extension: Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, Saripol	
Nov 11-13					Kunduz	DAIL research and extension: Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, Bamyar, Badakhshan	
					Paktya	DAIL research and extension: Paktya and Logar	
Nov 18-20 Nov 18-20					Herat	DAIL research and extension: Herat and Badgis	
Nov 25-27	Kandahar	DAIL research and extension: Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzghan					
	Kabul	Kabul, Ghazni, Wardak, Bamayan, Parwan and Kapisa					
Nov 3-4	MAIL capacity development	Meeting with CBCMP	Learn about CBCMP activities in target provinces	AGRED COP	MAIL	CBCMP	N/A
Nov 7-9	Introduction of AGRED	AgFair	Establish contacts with agribusinesses	Communication	Kabul	MAIL	USAID /AGRED Banner
Nov 13	Training extension officers	USAID Gender Team Meeting	Discussion about women programs				
Nov 18	Training extension officers	Meeting with CBCMP	Identify holding study tours for women extension managers	AGRED COP and DCOP Operations	MAIL	CBCMP	N/A
Nov 20	Training extension officers	Meeting with AAEP	Coordination with AAEP	AGRED COP	MAIL	AAEP	N/A

CALENDER OF FUTURE EVENTS: December 2012

Proposed Date	PSSP Results Framework Activity	Events/ Activities	Purpose	Person Responsible	Venue	Partner/s and Expected Level of GOP Representation	Applicable for Branding & Marking
Dec 8	Training and capacity building of research and extension's staff to deliver quality services	Meeting with US university trainers	Training of trainers for upcoming extension activities	AGRED, US university representatives	Kabul	MAIL, US university representatives	N/A
Dec 9	Training and capacity building of research and extension's staff to deliver quality services	Meeting with CBCMP and MAIL Representatives	Long term approach to training plans	MAIL	Kabul	MAIL Research and Extension Departments, CBCMP, Home Economics Department	
Dec 11	Training and capacity building of research and extension's staff to deliver quality services	Visit the training site with AAEP	Preparation for the training	Badam Bagh	Kabul	AAEP	
Dec 4 Dec 17 Dec 19 Dec 24	Sharing agricultural information	ATWG meetings	Coordination with DAILs	DAIL	Kunduz Balkh Nangarhar Herat	DAIL, UN agencies,	N/A
Dec 8	Staff trained in project design and proposal development	Report writing workshop	Teach report writing skills	Communication	Kabul	AGRED Extension and research coordinators	USAID
Dec 12	Brief update about AGRED	Meeting with MAIL Minister in Paktya	Updating and receiving advice from Minister	Paktya DAIL	Paktya	DAIL, CBCMP	N/A
Dec 17	M&E systems development	Submission of PMP to USAID	Contract deliverables	M&E	Kabul	AGRED	N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE

AGRED field staff includes 23 Provincial Extension Coordinators, 2 Regional Research Coordinators and 1 Regional Extension Coordinator. The total AGRED team includes three expats and 38 local staff. (See Table 1 for AGRED Kabul and Table 2 for AGRED field staff in November. The organization chart is in Appendix A).

Table 1: AGRED Kabul Staff in October-November 2012

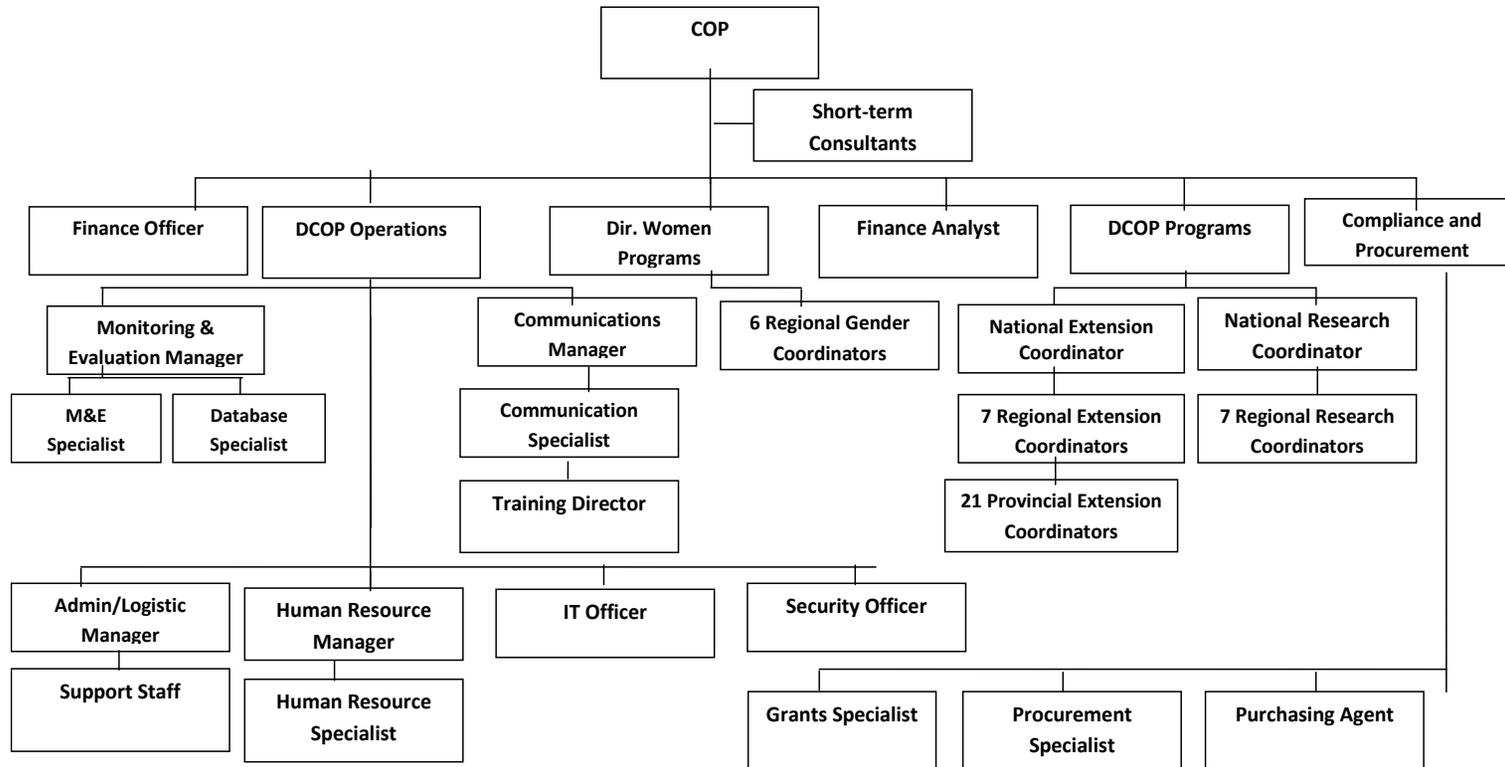
No.	Name	Position
1	Kingsley Bash	COP
2	Hasina Rasuli	Gender Programs and Communications
3	Sharif Osmani	External Relations Specialist
4	Hamed Sultani	Admin/Logistic Manager
5	Tamim Qazizada	HR Manager
6	Nabil Rahil	Human Resource Specialist
7	Nisar Ahmad	National Extension Coordinator
8	Mohammad Haris Mujadidi	Financial Analyst
9	Abdul Maroof	Procurement Agent
10	Mohammad Shafi Anwary	Training Director
11	Mona Kamel	Procurement and Compliance Mgr
12	Fatemeh Rahimi	Communications Manager
13	Dr. Shahla Amiri	Regional Women's Program
14	Nazim	IT Assistant
15	Haji Najeebullah	Guesthouse Manager
16	Aziz	Guest house Cleaner
17	Mohammad Essa Ramin	Driver
18	Shair Shah	Driver
19	Zahra Raghuzar	Accountant

Table 2: AGRED Field Staff in October-November 2012

No.	Location	Name	Position
1	Balkh	Mohammad Farhad	Provincial Extension Coordinator
2	Balkh	Baktash Hakimi	Regional Research Coordinator
3	Jawzjan	Mohammad Fawad Saqib	Provincial Extension Coordinator
4	Samangan	Mohammad Eisa Tabish	Provincial Extension Coordinator
5	Sar-i-pul	Jayoon	Provincial Extension Coordinator
6	Kunduz	Fazal Rahman	Provincial Extension Coordinator
7	Takhar	Mohammad Nader	Provincial Extension Coordinator
8	Baghlan	Asadullah Dahi	Provincial Extension Coordinator
9	Badakhshan	Abdul Rahim Sherzad	Provincial Extension Coordinator
10	Nangarhar	Mohammad Naeem	Provincial Extension Coordinator
11	Kunar	Ajmal Azam	Provincial Extension Coordinator
12	Laghman	Abdul Shakoor	Provincial Extension Coordinator
13	Paktya	Raz Gul	Regional Research Coordinator
14	Paktya	Mohammad Din	Regional Extension Coordinator
15	Logar	Mohammad Maroof	Provincial Extension Coordinator
16	Kandahar	Mohebullah Alokozai	Provincial Extension Coordinator
17	Heart	Fzel Ahmad Ahmadi	Provincial Extension Coordinator
18	Kabul	Ahmad Sear Azimi	Provincial Extension Coordinator
19	Ghazni	Ahmad Farid Azizi	Provincial Extension Coordinator
20	Kapisa	Emamuddin Eshaqzai	Provincial Extension Coordinator
21	Parwan	Mohammad Arif	Provincial Extension Coordinator
22	Wardak	Mirdad Arbab	Provincial Extension Coordinator

Appendix A: AGRED Organizational Chart

AGRED ORGANISATION CHART - November 2013



Acronyms

AAEP	USDA Afghan Agricultural Extension Program
ACBAR	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief
ADT	US Military Agriculture Development Team
AGRED	USAID Afghan Agriculture Research & Extension Development
AISA	
CBCMP	USDA Capacity Building and Change Management Program
CHAMP gram	USAID Commercial Horticulture & Agricultural Marketing Pro-
COP	Chief of Party
CDC	Community Development Council
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DoWA	Directorate of Women Affairs
EC	European Community
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LOE	Level of Effort
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RADP	USAID Regional Agriculture Development Program
ROP	Roots of Peace
TAMU	Texas A&M University
UCD	University of California, Davis
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
WSU	Washington State University