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# Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP)–North Contract No. AID-306-C-14-00002

FY2015

Quarter 3



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# ACRONYMS

ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
AAEP II	Afghanistan Agriculture Expansion Project II
AGSEM	Agriculture Sectorial Meeting
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
AMA	Afghanistan Microfinance Association
AOI	Area of Interest
APS	Annual Program Statement
ARD	Agriculture and Rural Development
AVIPA	Afghanistan Vouchers for Increased Production in Agriculture
CBCMP	Capacity Building and Change Management Program
CCP	Cashmere Collection Point
CDC	Community Development Council
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DoE	Department of Economy
DoWA	Department of Women's Affairs
dTS	Development and Training Services, Inc.
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HVC	High Value Crop
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
IDEA-NEW	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
JDA	Joint Development Associates
LLL	Laser Land Levelling

MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NHLP	National Horticulture and Livestock Program
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSID	Organization for Sustainable Integrated Development
PCC	Production and Commerce Cluster
PDC	Provincial Development Committee
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan
PHH	Post Harvest Handling
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PIM	Provincial Implementation Manager
PPD	Public-Private Dialogue
PPE	Personal Protection Equipment
RADP-North	Regional Agricultural Development Program–North
RFA	Request for Application
RSI	Rahman Safi International Consulting
SEDEP	Sustainable Economic Development and Employment Promotion
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SMFM	Sell More For More
SMS	Short Messaging Service
SRHHP	Small Ruminant Herd Health Package
STICKS	Scalable Tracker for Imparting Certified Knowledge and Skills
STIP	Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnerships
ToF	Training of Farmers
ToH	Training of Herders
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
WIA	Women in Agriculture
2WT	Two Wheeled Tractor

# FY2015 Q3 REPORT: APRIL 1– JUNE 30, 2015

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Activity Start/End Dates

May 21, 2014–May 20, 2019

### Prime Implementing Partner

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI)

### Sub-Contractors/Sub-Awardees

Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA), Alcis, Development and Training Services, Inc. (dTS), Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), Joint Development Associates (JDA), Pax Mondial Risk Management Company, Rahman Safi International (RSI) Consulting, Afghan Public Protection Force

### Project Description

RADP-North advances food and economic security for rural Afghans in six Northern provinces. 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-North 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-North's holistic framework is supporting a policy environment through advocacy and dialogue that strengthens the private sector.

### Geographic Coverage

Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Kunduz and Samangan provinces

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April, CLIN 1 focused on selecting beneficiaries for its conservation agriculture and contract harvesting activities. In addition, CLIN 2 established four test plots to examine the resistance of five melon varieties to melon flies and conducted a needs assessments with seven farmer organizations and 14 lead farmers in preparation for its Sell More For More (SMFM) training. The livestock technical team conducted cashmere harvesting training of trainers (ToT) for 37 individuals who then replicated the training 3,000 goat herders.

The wheat value chain team completed its conservation agriculture training of farmers (ToF) in May as well as its contract harvesting ToT for two-wheel tractor (2WT) mechanical workshops and technicians. High value crop staff conducted a melon fly integrated pest management ToT for 36 agriculture retailers and submitted two concept notes—WorldFood Istanbul trade fair and SMFM training—to USAID for approval. They also hosted a delegation from Boustan-e-Sabz, a Kabul-based fresh fruit and vegetable wholesaler, in Mazar-e-Sharif and introduced them to five of RADP-North's lead farmers. The CLIN 3 team launched two surveys of 400 butcher shops and 21 feed banks in May and selected the locations for two new cashmere collection points

(CCPs) in Aqcha and Sheberghan districts of Jawzjan province to facilitate cashmere collection from farmers via the existing Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) network.

During the final month of the quarter, the CLIN 1 team submitted four concept notes—Nutrition, Pasta Quality Improvement, Seed Business Development, and Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) Bags Trainings. The team also facilitated an agreement between five seed enterprises and a pasta factory to sell 70 tons of Afghan Parva-2 durum wheat to the pasta producer.<sup>1</sup> CLIN 2's melon varietal trial continued throughout June and Melon Fly Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training ran in 18 districts of Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan, Baghlan, and Kunduz provinces with 3,480 farmers trained. Concept notes for Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) retailer training and Business Edge training were also developed. The livestock team began assessing 145 VFUs in June. Annual Program Statements (APS) for each CLIN were also announced in June and a pre-concept paper conference was held later in the month. Each event was well attended and RADP-North hopes to receive several strong concepts from prospective grantees in the coming quarter.

In addition, the following beneficiary- and/or activity-related surveys were conducted during the reporting period:<sup>2</sup>

- CLIN 1
  - Mechanical Workshops Survey<sup>3</sup>
  - Nutrition Households Survey
- CLIN 2
  - SME Interviews to Assess VC Stakeholders' Capabilities and Identify Areas for Improvement
  - Farmers Focus Group meetings to tailor SMFM training
  - Initial VC Finance Assessment
- CLIN 3<sup>4</sup>
  - VFU Assessment
  - Butcher Shop Assessment
  - Feed Bank Assessment

## ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

### CLIN 1: Wheat Value Chain

CLIN1 technical staff finalized its conservation agriculture training curriculum in April and selected 80 wheat farmers from Balkh, Samangan, Jawzjan and Baghlan provinces to participate in the project.<sup>5</sup> This activity aimed at increasing beneficiaries' knowledge and understanding of the principles of conservation agriculture and to start evaluating their own systems. The training methodology included presentations, group discussion, and practical

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<sup>1</sup> The pasta producers were unaware that durum wheat is produced in Afghanistan until CLIN 1 established the linkage. The five seed enterprises are Shir Abad, Khurasan Samangan, Sewida, Ensaf Jawzjan, and Amiri.

<sup>2</sup> CLINs' complete reports have also been attached as Annex IV.

<sup>3</sup> Results from CLIN 1's survey of mechanical workshops were still being analyzed as of June 30<sup>th</sup> so this report will be submitted with RADP-North's next quarterly report (FY2015 Annual Report).

<sup>4</sup> Results from CLIN 3's assessments will be available next quarter. The reports will therefore be submitted with RADP-North's FY2015 Annual Report.

<sup>5</sup> Beneficiary selection was done in coordination with Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)—registered agricultural cooperatives. Chosen farmers had to be lead farmers with an existing, good relationship with village farmers.

demonstrations to expose participants to a range of advanced soil and water conservation practices. Specific agenda topics included:

- Core principles of conservation agriculture;
- What measurable differences conservation agriculture can make;
- How differences in soil and crops grown under conservation agriculture can be measured against those cultivated using conventional methods;
- What has been done already in Balkh; and
- Discussions on the pros and cons of adopting reduced tillage, increased crop rotation and increased soil cover.

The wheat technical team conducted the three-day conservation agriculture ToF for 79 farmers from May 11–13 (27 farmers); May 18–21 (26 farmers); and May 25–27 (26 farmers).<sup>6</sup> A breakdown of participants by district is below.

Province	District	Number of Participants
Samangan	Khuram Sarbagh	4
	Aybak	5
	Firoz Nakhchir	2
	Hazrat Sultan	5
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>16</b>
Jawzjan	Faizabad	6
	Aqcha	3
	Sheberghan	6
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>15</b>
Baghlan	Puli Khumri	7
	Dahna Ghorri	2
	Baghlan Jadid	6
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>15</b>
Balkh	Balkh	4
	Dehdadi	6
	Khulm	2
	Chimtal	5
	Nahre Shahi	2
	Dawlatabad	9
	Sholgara	5
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>33</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>79</b>

One participant, Shahzada from Sholgara district (Balkh) commented “Before [RADP-North’s] training I didn’t know about the Soil and Water Conservation or crop protection. We always tilled up our land by traditional methods, and we did not understand the effects on soil and water. Right now, by this training, I know about these effects; now I know how to keep my land’s soil properly and how to use water on my agricultural fields. In this training I saw the work of the laser land leveling machine, and I hope to use this machine in the future on my land.”

<sup>6</sup> The total number of trainees was one less than originally anticipated because one farmer in Khulm district (Balkh) did not attend.

This activity continued into June when CLIN 1 linked farmers to five private sector actors in Balkh province that offer laser land leveling (LLL) and other new conservation technologies to interested farmers.

Reaping frequently represents more than 30% of total wheat production costs. Previous USAID-funded projects have demonstrated that mechanized reapers can reduce reaping costs to less than 10% of total costs, which has a major impact on the profitability.<sup>7</sup> However, equipment operators have not been adequately trained to use the reapers and they are therefore underutilized. Using relationships initially established by USAID's Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West (IDEA-NEW) project, RADP-North will link importers of spare parts and regional parts suppliers to workshops with technicians that have been trained and supported by CLIN 1.



*Hazrat Sultan Center, Hazrat Sultan District  
2WT, operator reaping on June 16, 2015.*

In preparation for its contract harvesting activity, CLIN 1 staff conducted a survey in April of 19 active mechanical workshops. It then identified six that will each serve five owners of two wheeled tractors (2WTs) with reaper attachments in Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, and Baghlan.<sup>8</sup> Selection criteria included the owner/technician's current provision of business services to farmers; their intention to enter into contract reaping as a business; and their ability—with the help of CLIN 1 Area Managers—to identify five farmers willing to purchase reaping services this year. CLIN 1 held its ToT for the following six mechanical workshops and six technicians on May 25–27.

Province	District	Number of Workshops Trained	Number of 2WT Technicians Trained
Balkh	Balkh	1	1
	Dawlatabad	1	1
Jowzjan	Sheberghan	1	1
	Faizabad	1	1
Baghlan	Puli Khumri	1	1
Samangan	Hazrat Sultan	1	1
<b>Total Selected</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

On June 9, CLIN1's staff completed training for 30 2WT reaper operators reaper's in Sholgara and Dawlatabad districts (Balkh), Aybak and Hazrat Sultan districts (Samangan), Sheberghan and Faizabad (Jawzjan) and Pull-i-Khumri (Baghlan). CLIN 1 staff then linked each trained operator to six farmers to reach a total of 180 farmers with a goal of reaping at least three jeribs per farmer for a total goal of 540 jeribs. As of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 165 farmers had used the harvesting contractors to reap 1,486 jeribs, as shown in the table below.

<sup>7</sup> Together, Afghanistan Vouchers for Increased Production in Agriculture (AVIPA) and IDEA-NEW sold 941 2WTs in Balkh (540), Jowzjan (273) and Samangan (128). These numbers are from AVIPA and IDEA-NEW project files.

<sup>8</sup> Seven shops located in six districts of Balkh province, four shops in Samangan (four districts) and five shops in four districts of Jowzjan and three shops in Baghlan. It is worth noting that IDEA-NEW did not work with mechanical shops in Baghlan but CLIN 1 identified three shops in the province and selected one to work with for this activity.

Province	District	No. of Farmers	Area Reaped (Jerib)
Jawzjan	Sheberghan	32	764
	Faizabad	32	265
Balkh	Sholgara	26	123
	Dawlatabad	15	137
Samangan	Aybak	18	78.5
	Hazrat Sultan	12	51
Baghlan	Dahne Ghori	6	29.5
	Puli Khumri	24	38
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>1,486</b>

The CLIN1 Technical Program Manager, during his June 16<sup>th</sup> visit to Sholgara district (Balkh) province, found that thirteen more tractors beyond the expected five were also reaping wheat there. The Program Manager met with a local mechanic, Mr. Jawid, who reported increases in customer requests for services assembling, and repairing their reaper units following the RADP-North training. Three added reaping tractors were active in Faizabad district (Jawzjan) province, and one more in Dahana-i-Ghur district of (Baghlan) joined the others five reapers who received the RADP-North training.

This kind of promising service copying usually takes one to several cycles or seasons, but in this case the crowding in happened quickly.



*A 2WT operator reaping wheat in Jangali village of Sholgara district (Balkh)*

At Sheberghan District, Jawzjan province, CLIN 1 staff found that the reaper operators hired binders (10 per operator with each binder earning 3 AFN/bundle) to walk behind the unit and bind the wheat. This is a new innovation for farmers and 2WT operators to consider for future activities.

By the end of the quarter, the response of the 30 2WT operators trained to the training was overwhelmingly positive. For example, Mohamad Zahir from Sar-I-Mang village in Sholgara district (Balkh) has offered reaping services to local farmers for the past few years. After being trained by a RADP-North supported 2WT technician he learned how to adjust his reaper so that he will be able to reap flax for the first time. In the first week following the training, Mohamad Zahir has reaped 21 jeribs of land for four farmers and charged 600 AFN (\$10) per jerib. He also has six farmers on his waiting list.

Through the end of the quarter, CLIN 1's field visits to seed enterprises in Baghlan, Balkh, Samangan and Jawzjan provinces continued throughout the quarter, with technical staff visiting a total of 39 organizations: 11 flour mills, 3 pasta companies, 6 cookie makers, 17 seed companies, and 2 agricultural research stations. Each agribusiness was asked:

- What quality aspects do you consider for purchased wheat? Which are most important?
- How do you test the wheat during collection?
- What do you do with your waste water?
- Do you ever receive complaints about quality from your customers?
- What type of contracts do you have with seed companies?
- Are you interested in investing in quality testing?
- Do you sample flour before buying it? How do you test it?
- Would you be interested in a higher quality of flour, even if it cost more?

These discussions provided detailed information on preferred wheat varieties for various product lines. For example, of the seven processors CLIN 1 interviewed, three pasta factories produce a combined 140 tons of pasta per month using all-purpose flour. All three are interested in purchasing durum wheat (Parva-2), a variety particularly suited for pasta. The three pasta manufacturers were previously unaware that durum wheat is produced in Afghanistan. Consequently, RADP-North identified opportunities to link these pasta companies with seed companies, flour mills, and farmers to ensure a steady source of quality durum wheat to meet the pasta companies' manufacturing needs. All of this information fed into CLIN 1's seed business development concept note, which was developed in late June.

CLIN 1 also received verbal expressions of interest from 23 companies who identified villages where they would like to do extensions and marketing work in 295 Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) plots that would reach over 6,000 wheat farmers.<sup>9</sup> This would tie in with CLIN 1's efforts to increase farmers' knowledge of the available seed varieties and sales potential.

On June 30, CLIN 1 met with five seed companies producing Parva-2 durum wheat, to inform them about Armeen Pasta Company's need for durum wheat to produce pasta.<sup>10</sup> Armeen has been importing flour from Kazakhstan because they were unaware of the availability of Afghan durum wheat. The companies pooled their information about current Parva-2 inventory, and then selected Shirabad Seed enterprises as focal the point to meet and negotiate with the pasta factory. Currently Parva-2 volumes in inventory were: Babay Dehqan (16 tons), Sewida (13 tons), Shirabad (10 tons), Khurasan Samangan (15 tons), and Amiri (14 tons), for a total of 68 tons. The seed companies will provide additional Parva-2 wheat after Ramadan because the farmers postponed threshing in some areas until after Eid.

CLIN 1 also gathered baseline data in preparation for a LLL activity that would provide input towards the design of a one year work plan for on farm water management. The team found six known LLL units operating in Balkh province and CLIN 1 collected data on three of the six operators in Balkh and Nare-I-Shahi districts in late June. Data collection for the remaining three will continue in July.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, RADP-North announced its Annual Program Statement (APS) to organizations interested in submitting concept papers that propose creative and effective approaches to address opportunities and constraints in the wheat value chain. The competition for this APS is open for one year and RADP-North anticipates awarding up to 15 grants with a total funding

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<sup>9</sup> PVS gives farmers an opportunity to become familiar with and then select improved varieties of seed. Characteristics discussed during PVS training include name of the seed, environmental adaption, yield and quality of the wheat as well as its resistance to diseases.

<sup>10</sup> The seed companies are Shir abad Seed Enterprise, Khurasan Samangan Seed Enterprise, Sewida Seed Enterprise, Ensaf Jawzjan Seed Enterprise and Amiri Seed Enterprise.

ceiling of \$1 million. A pre-concept conference for prospective grantees took place at RADP-North's main office in Mazar-e-Sharif on June 9<sup>th</sup> and concept notes are due on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **CLIN 2: High Value Crop (HVC) Value Chains**

The CLIN 2 team visited 25 farmers across Baghlan province in April and chose 11 of them to serve as RADP-North lead farmers. The selected farmers are from Dahana-i-Ghur, Puli Khumri and Baghlan-i-Jadeed districts and are the most successful farmers in their communities with established links to provincial and/or regional markets. CLIN 2 has selected 53 lead farmers as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The CLIN 2 team launched its melon varietal trials in April. This activity aims to increase resistance to melon flies while also creating opportunities for women to participate in this value chain. The project trained two female and two male greenhouse owners on producing melon seedlings. They planted two local melon varieties—Arkany and Zurmati—in four greenhouses in Dehdadi district (Balkh), Khan Abad (Kunduz), Sheberghan (Jawzjan), and Puli Khumri (Baghlan). A few weeks later, the plants were transplanted to fields alongside plants grown from seeds planted directly in the ground using traditional methods. RADP-North wants to see whether growing melons in greenhouses a month earlier would increase its resistance to melon flies. In addition, three new melon varieties popular in Uzbekistan (Meiron F1, Raymond F1 and Segev F1) were planted with Afghan varieties using traditional farming methods. The Uzbek varieties are reportedly more resistant to melon fly infestation and this trial will test that assertion.<sup>11</sup>



CLIN 2 staff continued monitoring the test plots throughout May and provided guidance to test plot owners as needed. As a result, the two early-planted local varieties reached flowering stage in May and the three imported melons flowered in early June.

Through the end of June two early-planted local varieties (Arkany and Zurmati) reached 70% maturity and the imported Meiron F1, Raymond F1 and Segev F1 melons reached 50% maturity. The melons look healthy and there is no sign of infestation by melon flies except for the imported melon varieties in Puli Khumri test plot. Five melons in each test plot were placed in cubic boxes in order to produce evenly shaped square melons. CLIN 2 staff will continue to supervise progress and provide technical assistance to participating farmers until the end of the trial in late July 2015.

CLIN 2 also developed a two-day integrated pest management (IPM) training program to combat melon flies, whose infestations can devastate crops and usually result in 60-80% losses for farmers. In collaboration with RADP-North's lead farmers and existing agricultural cooperatives, CLIN 2 staff selected 36 agriculture retailers to participate in the ToT and then replicate the training to 4,000 melon farmers in 18 districts of Balkh, Baghlan, Jawzjan, Kunduz, and Samangan (222 farmers per district). This training methodology is effective for both implementation of proper technical methods to prevent melon flies as well as establishing

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<sup>11</sup> Hazera: Seeds of Growth ([www.hazera.com](http://www.hazera.com)) conducted research in Uzbekistan and subsequently imported these seed varieties. They have graciously donated seeds for RADP-North's trials.

sustainable relationships between farmers and local agriculture retailers that regularly stock the necessary inputs. CLIN 2 staff conducted the ToT for the following agriculture retailers from May 25–27 in Mazar-e-Sharif.

No.	Name of Ag Retailer	District	Province
1		Dahana Ghur	Baghlan
2		Dahana Ghur	
3		Puli Khumri	
4		Puli Khumri	
5		Baghlan -I- Jaded	
6		Baghlan -I- Jaded	
7		Dehdadi	Balkh
8		Dehdadi	
9		Nahri Shahi	
10		Nahri Shahi	
11		Chimtal	
12		Chimtal	
13		Dawlatabad	
14		Dawlatabad	
15		Sholgara	
16		Sholgara	
17		Balkh	Jowzjan
18		Balkh	
19		Sheberghan	
20		Sheberghan	
21		Aqcha	
22		Aqcha	
23		Faizabad	Kunduz
24		Faizabad	
25		Ali Abad	
26		Ali Abad	
27		Khan Abad	
28		Khan Abad	
29		Kunduz	Samangan
30		Kunduz	
31		Chahar Dara	
32		Chahar Dara	
33		Aybak	
34		Aybak	
35		Hazrat-i-Sultan	
36		Hazrat-i-Sultan	

The first day consisted of classroom-based overviews of the following topics: melon flies and their destructive effect on melon crops; currently used control measures (weeding, collecting infected melons); how to bag melons, collect melon fly pupa, apply plastic mulch and pesticides; and the importance of proper timing and safety measures when implementing these preventative measures.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Bagging young melons is an effective and safe way to control melon flies; however, it has not been adequately promoted by DAIL extension agents or other development projects so most farmers are unaware of it.

The second day focused exclusively on trainees practicing the methods presented during Day 1 and the third was a half-day session dedicated to a mock training delivered by newly-trained trainers to test their ability of conducting the training to the farmers. Interactive question and answer sessions were held at the end of each day. Participants reported that the training was quite helpful. . Mr. Abdul Kabir from Aqcha district (Jowzjan) said, “I am confident that I have learned enough about melon fly IPM and I will deliver this knowledge to farmers not only through the coming training program but also provide advice while I am selling agricultural inputs in my shop.”



*Farmers practice bagging melons in Khan Abad district (Kunduz)*

Mr. Abdul Kabir from Aqcha district (Jowzjan) said, “I am confident that I have learned enough about melon fly IPM and I will deliver this knowledge to farmers not only through the coming training program but also provide advice while I am selling agricultural inputs in my shop.”

Melon IPM ToF began on June 21 in a total of 18 districts in Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan, Baghlan, and Kunduz Provinces and continued through the end of June and will be completed in early July. It focuses on mechanical control of melon fly and promotes bagging of very young melons as the most effective technique to protect them against the fly. Each group of farmers attended two four-hour

sessions on farmer field schools with the second one specifically focused on practical application of different melon fly control methods. Each group received a training tool kit consisting of 20 melon bags, one backpack sprayer and protective clothing. Through the end of June, 178 groups of farmers received this training. Mr. Mohammad Qurban from Khan Abad district (Kunduz) said, “now that I know how melon bags protect melons from fly attack, I have decided to have my family members produce as many melon bags as we can afford”.

In preparation for its Sell More For More (SMFM) training, which aims to improve the management systems of farmer organizations, CLIN 2 staff carried out 14 focus group discussions with farmer groups in Baghlan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Kunduz, and Samangan as well as assessments of seven farmer organizations—three in Kunduz, two in Balkh and one each in Jawzjan and Samangan. Each discussion was attended by a lead farmer and four to eight subsidiary farmers and covered post-harvest handling, marketing, aggregation and other activities carried out by the groups. The CLIN 2 team customized the SMFM curriculum April throughout May based on these discussions to ensure the training addresses specific needs of beneficiaries.<sup>13</sup> CLIN 2 also developed pictorial posters called Scalable Tracker for Imparting Certified Knowledge and Skills (STICKS) for master trainers and lead farmers to demonstrate improved postharvest handling (PHH) practices to farmers they will train.

CLIN 2 finalized the SMFM concept note and submitted it to USAID for approval on May 25<sup>th</sup>. This training activity will be implemented in two stages; the first of which will be a ToT directly implemented by an ACDI/VOCA headquarters-based trainer for 14 Afghan master trainers and eight CLIN 2 staff.<sup>14</sup> The ToT includes seven days of classroom-based instruction. During the second phase, newly certified Afghan master trainers will replicate the SMFM training to 546 farmers from 26 farmer groups and six farmer associations across six provinces. Farmers will improve their knowledge of PHH and recordkeeping from SMFM training modules. The master trainers will also train 90 staff and farmers from formal farmer organizations in management,

<sup>13</sup> The training curriculum includes modules on PHH, aggregation, marketing, recordkeeping, operations and cost management.

<sup>14</sup> RADP-North will award a grant to an Afghan training firm who will provide the Afghan master trainers.

marketing, aggregation, business planning and membership. This training will include six days of classroom training and two weeks of on-the-job training that will be supervised by CLIN2 technical team members.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, USAID approved the Sell More for More (SMFM) concept note and training materials and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> a request for applications was released on the ACBAR website for interested training firms to apply for grants to directly provide SMFM training after developing their capacity to do so through RADP-North. They will receive a ToT training in early August and will start delivering direct training by the end of the month. The adapted training materials, all translated into Dari, has seven core training modules (PHH, Storage, Membership, Marketing, Money, Management & Credit) and also include a participant workbook and a Post Harvest Handling Facilitators guide.

At the beginning of the reporting period, CLIN 2 selected 12 agribusinesses to attend the 2015 World Food Istanbul exhibition, a four-day event that focuses on international food products and processing technologies. Selection criteria included having a registered business operating in a RADP-North target area; proven capability to export one or more of the CLIN 2 value chain products and the willingness to contribute at least 30% of the total cost of attending the exhibition.<sup>15</sup> The WorldFood Istanbul concept note was submitted to USAID for review on May 26<sup>th</sup> and was approved on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Subsequently, a request for proposal (RFP) was announced for interested companies to apply for a contract to facilitate preparation including pavilion design and set-up. The RFP was closed on June 25<sup>th</sup> with five proposals received. The proposals will be reviewed and a winning bidder selected by the end of July. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the CLIN 2 team conducted a one-day training at RADP-North office in Mazar to prepare 17 representatives from the 12 agribusinesses for the fair. Upon completion of the training, each company signed a commitment letter to participate in the trade fair and to cover 30% of the cost.



*RADP-North staff visiting BES pack house in Bagram (Parwan)*

In May, CLIN 2 facilitated a series of meetings between Boustan-e-Sabz (Boustan), a Kabul-based wholesaler that exports fresh fruits and vegetables to the Middle East via Dubai. Boustan reached out to RADP-North to source watermelons, other melons, and grapes from CLIN 2-supported farmers. CLIN 2 staff organized field visits on May 20<sup>th</sup> to five lead farmers—two farmers in Balkh district (Balkh) each of which grows melons, apricots and watermelons; and three grape farmers from Feroz Nakhcheer district (Samangan). Boustan confirmed that farmers' crops met their quality standards and promised to return to sign contracts for specific quantities of produce.

A follow-up meeting was held at RADP-North's office in Mazar-e-Sharif the following day where Boustan representatives expressed interest in signing pre-purchase agreements with eligible farmers early in 2016 once they knew the volume needed to fill orders. The company also stipulated that fresh produce would have to be correctly packaged in the fields, loaded onto refrigerated trucks, and delivered directly to their

<sup>15</sup> CLIN 2 recommended that participating businesses send their sales and marketing experts to the exhibition.

warehouses near Kabul. CLIN 2 staff have begun researching the availability and cost of refrigerated truck services from the North to Kabul.

In late June, a RADP-North delegation comprised of two lead melon farmers from Balkh province and CLIN 2 staff visited Boustan in Kabul and paid their own travel expenses. During this visit, the lead farmers visited the company's pack house in Bagram district of Parwan province to observe and understand the operations of their fresh fruit packing facility. They were impressed and promised to engage in contract farming with Boustan.

The CLIN 2 team was also supported by Adam Brett, the Founder and Director of Fullwell Mill, a UK-based dried fruit and nut trading company, who visited the project during May 8-22 to assess market demand and help staff identify key players and intervention opportunities in the almond, grape, melon, and raisin supply chains.<sup>16</sup> During this two week visit, Mr. Brett visited 17 farmers, farmer organizations, agribusinesses, nursery growers, and processors in Balkh, Samangan, Jawzjan and Baghlan. These resulted in numerous potential opportunities to work with these businesses and others like them in the region, including:

- Improving the quality of raisin and almond production, addressing key problems such as aflatoxin contamination which exclude them from the global markets;
- Extending processing of raisin, almond and pistachio products, with activities such as shelling of nuts and better quality processing of raisins, improved packaging and marketing to increase market value;
- Facilitating routes to market, by helping local traders and their associations make links in the region and beyond;
- Establishing institutions and systems to regulate, audit, and certify farmers and processors to globally accepted standards, opening doors to new markets;
- Working to improve trust and transparency between sellers and buyers to encourage longer-term relationships; and
- Improving farm production and farming practices. This includes activities such as tree crop diversification (including almond, apple, peach, pistachio and apricot) to reduce losses from risks such as frost, drought, and harvest variation. Farm practices improvements include irrigation, pruning, pest management, and postharvest crop management.

The CLIN 2 team worked closely with Mr. Brett to identify several small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) as well as larger scale dried fruit and nut processors with whom there are very positive opportunities for collaboration. These businesses are eager to enable RADP-North to assist their farmers to improve output and yields and will work with program staff to facilitate introductions to their suppliers. The businesses may also be eligible for a range of other support services, including business development training, marketing, and other in-kind technical assistance. This support would aim to raise the quality and operational standards of these businesses to a level where they can sell product successfully on the regional or international markets.

CLIN 2 incorporated some of these opportunities in its APS for high value crops, which was released on May 26<sup>th</sup>. A pre-concept conference took place on June 10<sup>th</sup> that was attended by 28 representatives from 20 companies who expressed interest in applying for market development grants.

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<sup>16</sup> Mr. Brett has worked with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop dried fruit and nut supply chains in countries including Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Uganda.

CLIN 2 assessed the status of vineyard management in Baghlan, Kunduz, and Badakhshan



*RADP-North staff meeting with NHLP to assess the trellising activities in Baghlan and Kunduz provinces, Baghlani Jaded.*

provinces on more than 100 jeribs of trellised vineyards established by NHLP in Baghlan and Kunduz provinces. CLIN 2 discovered that grape farmers who trellised their vineyards lack knowledge of improved vineyard management practices. CLIN 2 will continue to promote trellising through grants and training to a larger number of farmers. DAIL experts in Badakhshan pointed out that grape production in the province is mainly for household consumption, as cold temperatures and high humidity do not support commercial production. Lack of grape production in Badakhshan province was noted in the RADP-North baseline report.

CLIN 2 developed a concept note for Business Edge training for 20 sales and marketing staff from 20

agribusinesses. Business Edge Training is a world-class proprietary training solution developed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to improve the management capacity and business performance of agribusinesses. The training will consist of a marketing module based on the training needs assessment carried out by CLIN2. The content has been designed to accommodate the learning styles of agribusinesses by using both interactive training methods and relevant case studies. CLIN 2 will select one of the eight known IFC-certified private firms in Afghanistan to conduct the Business Edge training. The concept note was submitted for concurrence on June 30.

Also in June, CLIN 2's Washington, DC-based Technical Director visited RADP-North to provide oversight during the CLIN 2 lead's leave and also conducted a limited value chain finance assessment. The purpose of the finance assessment was to better understand financial services available to beneficiaries in target value chains and to identify ways to increase their access to these services to finance the desired upgrades. The report is attached as part of Annex IV.

### **CLIN 3: Livestock Value Chain**

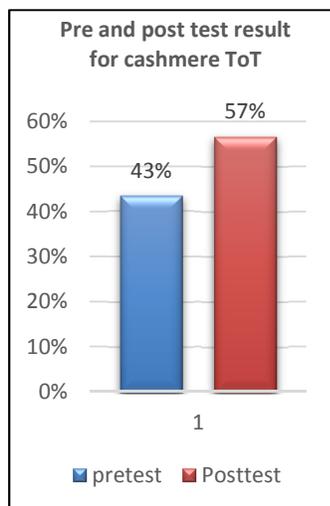
From April 6–10<sup>th</sup>, CLIN 3's Training Coordinator, Value Chain Coordinator, and the President of Herati Cashmere Processing Plant conducted a cashmere harvesting ToT for 37 individuals—17 trainees, 13 Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) extension officers and 7 CLIN 3 provincial staff members.

The theoretical portion of the ToT covered a wide range of topics including: review of harvesting methods (in and outside of Afghanistan) and their advantages and disadvantages; the effect that animal nutrition and disease can have on cashmere quality; the importance of vaccinating to prevent disease outbreaks; how to determine cashmere's quality; and improved breeding practices implemented in China and Mongolia that



*Female herders in Chimtal district (Balkh) practice combing cashmere at a ToF*

can improve cashmere quality. The classroom-based lessons were interspersed with group discussions as well as practical sessions in the field. During the latter, the three ToT instructors demonstrated how to comb cashmere on live goats, how to sort and grade the cashmere based on its yield, color, diameter and length, proper safety and waste management procedures, and also answered participants' questions. Trainees then practiced these techniques themselves.



The training started with a pre-training evaluation to test trainees' existing knowledge and skills regarding cashmere harvesting. Participants also completed a post-training evaluation; a comparison of the average pre- and post-tests showed that trainees' scored an average of 14% higher after the end of the training.

Following the ToT, each of the trainees replicated the training for herders in their targeted districts using cashmere harvesting kits which included combs, scissors, jute and plastic bags, Dettol soap, plastic cloth, and illustrated training posters. Cashmere ToF sessions ran from April 12–23. Altogether, 3,000 goat owners—including 400 women—from Balkh, Jawzjan and Samangan provinces were trained in improved cashmere harvesting methods and received a harvesting kit.

In May and June, CLIN 3 selected the locations for two new cashmere collection points (CCPs) that will facilitate cashmere collection from farmers via VFUs. Technical staff chose Aqcha and Sheberghan districts in Jawzjan province because of the untapped cashmere production potential in these districts (as gauged by farmers' positive responses to the cashmere harvesting training) the presence of a VFU involved in the cashmere value chain. Each site is also easily accessible for farmers and buyers. The final decision was made in coordination with local VFUs and Mazar- and Jawzjan-based cashmere buyers. CLIN 3's provincial personnel and VFU staff are setting up the intake and payment systems. Both CCPs are expected to be fully operational by late December 2015. CLIN 3 staff also continued communicating with cashmere buyers and with 17 VFUs that will act as intermediaries between cashmere producers and buyers to get in touch with goat owners in their respective areas to deliver cashmere to those CCPs.



*CLIN-3 technical team VFU assessment in Samangan province.*

The livestock team launched its assessment of feed banks in May to determine those best placed to be integrated into RADP-North's livestock activities. Technical staff interviewed 21 feed banks to gauge the quality of their infrastructure (feed processing, storage capacities, etc.), access to suppliers, management capacity, and strength of their customer base.

Province	District	Village
Balkh	Shortepa	Toqai
	Chimtal	Yangi Qala
	Chimtal	Asyab-e-Sharaf

Province	District	Village
	Charbulak	Center
	Dawlatabad	Center
	Khulm	Center
	Keshindy	Aqkoprok
	Marmol	Pestaglich
Jawzjan	Khoja Dokoh	Khoja Dokoh
	Khanaqa	Qlich Abad
	Mordyan	Jangal Ariq
	Qarqeen	Khantepa
	Khammab	Qarnas
Samangan	Hazrat Sultan	Dawlatabad
	Hazrat Sultan	Shulokto
	Roy Doaab	Doaab
	Dara-i-sof Payan	Koshkak
	Dara-i-sof Payan	Toqsan
Kunduz	Kunduz Center	Zarkharid
Badakhshan	Kishim	Center
	Yafta Payan	Shakarlab

Feed banks play a critical role in improving livestock production. In addition to providing herders with winter feed for their livestock, feed banks will also play a major role in future CLIN 3 activities such as lamb fattening and marketing feedlots, to improve the quality and quantity of meat supplies to local butchers. The feed bank survey was completed on June 30<sup>th</sup> with analysis set to begin in early July.

CLIN 3's provincial staff evaluated 175 butcher shops in four districts of Kunduz province during the month of May; however, results were unclear so staff surveyed an additional 54 Kunduz-based butcher shops in the latter half of June. A total of 297 visits to butchers were completed in June in Kunduz, Balkh (45), Badakhshan (45), Baghlan (65), Jawzjan (36) and Samangan (54).

From late May through June, CLIN 3 staff also interviewed 145 VFUs in Badakhshan (34), Baghlan (22), Balkh (31), Jawzjan (11), Kunduz (34) and Samangan (13) provinces to assess their capacity.<sup>17</sup> The questionnaire addressed VFU services, number of small ruminants in its coverage area, market activity, and producers' consumption.<sup>18</sup> The results of this survey will help livestock staff assign northern VFUs to one or more of its activity areas (cashmere, karakul, meat and wool). Final activity allocations will be based on current farmers' needs and also staff capacity to branch out into new areas, such as lamb fattening, feedlots and livestock-related gender training packages. Results of the VFU, butcher and feed bank surveys are all expected in early August.

The APS for CLIN 3 was released on June 1<sup>st</sup> and a pre-concept conference for interested livestock value chain stakeholders was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> and was attended by 15 organizations. After the pre-concept conference, CLIN 3 received questions from the interested organizations

<sup>17</sup> Three VFUs were inaccessible to program staff due to poor security. They will be visited once the security situation has improved.

<sup>18</sup> Producers' consumption refers to the amount of goods consumed by a farmer's household can determine the amount that farmers take to the market for sale. This information can also help identify the number of subsistence livestock owners versus market oriented producers.

that were answered by the RADP-North grants team and CLIN 3 technical staff. The deadline for grant concept note applications was June 28 with evaluations scheduled for early July.

#### **CLIN 4: Enabling Environment**

In May, USAID requested that RADP-North complete an assessment of constraints for CLINs 1–3 to guide the project’s CLIN 4 enabling environment interventions. This approach was emphasized in a May 21 implementing partner meeting in Kabul, i.e., projects should work to improve the enabling environment by focusing on solving value chain development constraints. USAID further reiterated that RADP-North is not to work directly on central GIRoA related policy and regulatory issues. Instead, policy constraints are to be submitted to RADP-South which has greater exposure to and interaction with MAIL. All CLINs began working on their respective constraints analysis in May. As of the end of June, the analysis for CLINs 1 and 3 were completed, but the completion of CLIN 2 will be done upon completion of Mark Mitchel’s assignment in early July.

As part of RADP-North’s efforts to increase donor coordination, the COP has had a series of meetings with staff from the Sustainable Economic Development and Employment Promotion (SEDEP) project, which is funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). One promising area for cooperation is in SEDEP’s public-private dialogue (PPD) component which could integrate with RADP-North’s CLIN 4 activities. SEDEP will establish two types of PPD groups to identify and assess the impacts of key value chain constraints and raise awareness of these constraints among MAIL and DAIL staff:

- Horizontal farmer groups
- Vertical groups (“guilds”) of individuals representing various nodes in SEDEP’s value chains.<sup>19</sup>

SEDEP will share its PPD action plan with RADP-North in June and has requested that RADP-North nominate a staff person to participate in PPD meetings and related functions. As of the end of June, SEDEP had not shared its PPD action plan.

Also in May, RADP-North received a request to comment on MAIL’s 100 Day Plan to improve agriculture. The COP provided feedback on the 100 Day Plan to USAID in late June, and on June 29<sup>th</sup> joined a meeting at the MAIL Minister’s office which included Minister Zamir, Wayne Nilsestuen (OAG Director), Mac Homer (Deputy Director OAG), Brian Rudert (COP CMCMP II), Terry K. Hutchens (acting COP AAEP II), Matthew Weber (acting COP RADP-South), Charles Oberbeck (COP RADP-West), and several members of the Ministers team. The 100 Day Plan was discussed and each of the RADPs presented on their activities.

#### **Gender**

RADP-North’s Gender Advisor joined the program on April 13. In late April, she met with two female Mazar-e-Sharif-based entrepreneurs who purchase fresh produce and preserves from women’s cooperatives in Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, and Kunduz provinces and supply them to the Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul markets. The purpose of the meeting was to begin collecting information on the disadvantages that reduce women’s effectiveness as stakeholders in RADP-North’s target value chains. Both entrepreneurs agreed to mobilize other female businesswomen from RADP-North’s target provinces to participate in a focus group and gender value chain mapping, both of which make up part of RADP-North’s ongoing gender analysis.

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<sup>19</sup> SEDEP’s areas of intervention are wheat, poultry products, dairy products, horticulture and almonds/nuts.

In May, the Gender Advisor developed a concept note for a detailed gender analysis that will focus exclusively on the different roles, experiences, needs, obstacles and opportunities facing men and women along RADP-North's target value chains. RADP-North proposed to contract with a qualified organization to conduct the study, which will collect sex-disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data at the macro and micro levels using both a gender and a value chain perspective. Preliminary topics include:

- Division of labor
- Decision-making
- Control over household and/or business resources
- Identify legal and cultural barriers and constraints that obstruct men and women from actively participating in RADP-North's value chains
- Recommend strategies to address these barriers and constraints

This analysis will then guide RADP-North's gender strategy and programming for Years 2-5. The Gender Advisor finalized the concept note with support from the COP in late June.

### **Nutrition**

CLIN 1's nutrition team continued fine tuning its nutrition curriculum in preparation for this activity, which is scheduled to begin in early August. This activity will target 2,600 women a year over four years. The objectives are to:

- Empower women with the knowledge to be effectively involved in hygiene, nutrition and agriculture;
- Develop an awareness of proper nutrition that results in appropriate behavior change in individuals and their families;
- Build participants' capacity to share effective nutrition intervention in their communities;
- Link the role of agricultural choices on the impact of household nutrition; and
- Introduce Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags, which provide a simple, low-cost method of food storage, as well as reduce post-harvest losses.

RADP-North's nutrition training consists of ten lessons that will be delivered by a pair of trainers to groups of 25 women over the course of six weeks.<sup>20</sup> Each session is scheduled for two hours, and allows time for discussions with trainees following each lesson.

The curriculum currently includes the following lessons:

- Lesson 1: Good and Bad Hygiene Behaviors
- Lesson 2: Chain of Infection with fly movie and F Diagram
- Lesson 3: Safe Water Chain, Water Treatment and Hand washing
- Lesson 4: Cycle of Diarrhea and ORS Preparation
- Lesson 5: Good and Poor Nutrition
- Lesson 6: Food Groups
- Lesson 7: Mother and Child Nutrition
- Lesson 8: Cooking Techniques
- Lesson 9: Seed Selection and Seed Cleaning

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<sup>20</sup> One pair of trainers per province (Balkh, Baghlan, Jowzjan and Samangan). Each training pair can conduct seven lesson cycles each year, during which the pair will train 26 groups.

- Lesson 10: PICS bag, Food Storage and Wheat Information<sup>21</sup>

This provides an integrated package of hygiene, nutrition and agricultural lessons that will promote dietary diversity and improve household nutrition in rural communities. RADP-North submitted the concept note, budget and curriculum for CLIN 1's Hygiene & Nutrition Training to USAID on May 12 and received approval on June 25.

Pictorial teaching aids for each of the training's 10 lesson plans were developed in May that break down complex concepts into concrete ideas and, as much as possible, link them to village life and cultural practices. The majority of lesson activities are interactive and inquiry-based. Training materials were branded and will be submitted to USAID for review and approval mid-July.

CLIN 1 staff finalized its household survey template for conducting the nutrition survey in May. The questionnaire consisted of three categories—hygiene, nutrition and agriculture—and asked the following questions:

#### Hygiene

- What is the main source of drinking water for members of your household?
- How do you store drinking water?
- When is it important to wash your hands with soap?
- How many children age 5 and under have had diarrhea in the past 2 weeks?
- What do you think can cause diarrhea in young children?
- Do you think diarrhea can be prevented?
- If yes, how do you think diarrhea can be prevented?

#### Nutrition

- Did you see changes in your baby after 6 months when you started to give them food?
- Do you think what your family eats affects their health?
- Do you think hot and cold foods are harmful at different times?
- What type of food do your meals consist of?
- How many glasses of fluid do you drink in a day?
- When do you give breast milk after the baby is born?
- How long do you ONLY give your baby breast milk?
- At what age do you stop breastfeeding your baby?
- How often is the baby exposed to sunlight?
- Can you tell me what first foods you give your babies?
- What sweets does your child eat?

#### Agriculture

- Who is responsible for seed production?
- Would you be interested in receiving training about growing different varieties?
- What jobs do women do in growing wheat seed?
- What is the maximum time period you can store pulses for?
- Why you cannot store for longer time?
- How do you store your grains?

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<sup>21</sup> CLIN 1's agricultural team conducted a PICS bag training on April 8 in Mazar-e-Sharif for nine nutrition trainers, who were unfamiliar with PICS bag technology. PICS bags are an inexpensive storage system that preserves pulses for months. They are made from two inner high-density polyethylene plastic bags and an outer nylon sack. The key principle of PICS bags in the nutrition curriculum is the preservation of food to preserve its nutritional value.

- How many seer (=7 KG) of pulses do you harvest each year?

Nutrition trainers launched the survey, which targeted 1,200 households in 22 villages from 16 of CLIN 1's 18 target districts in mid-May. The survey was conducted in coordination with CDCs to identify prospective trainees and form training groups in selected villages.

The survey of Balkh province started on May 3 and ended on June 1–3. It covered 10 villages spread across seven districts and surveyed a total of 195 households. A breakdown of locations is presented in the table below.

District	Village	Number of Households Surveyed
Balkh	Dehrazy	35
Balkh	Ayaraan	40
Dehdadi	Negary	33
Dehdadi	Shir Abad	22
Nahre-I-Shahi	Takhta Pul	15
Nahre-I-Shahi	Langar Khana Kalan	10
Khulm	Jahan Noma	10
Chimtal	Sar Aseyab	10
Sholgara	Baba Ewaz	10
Dawlatabad	Char Bagh Saydan	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>

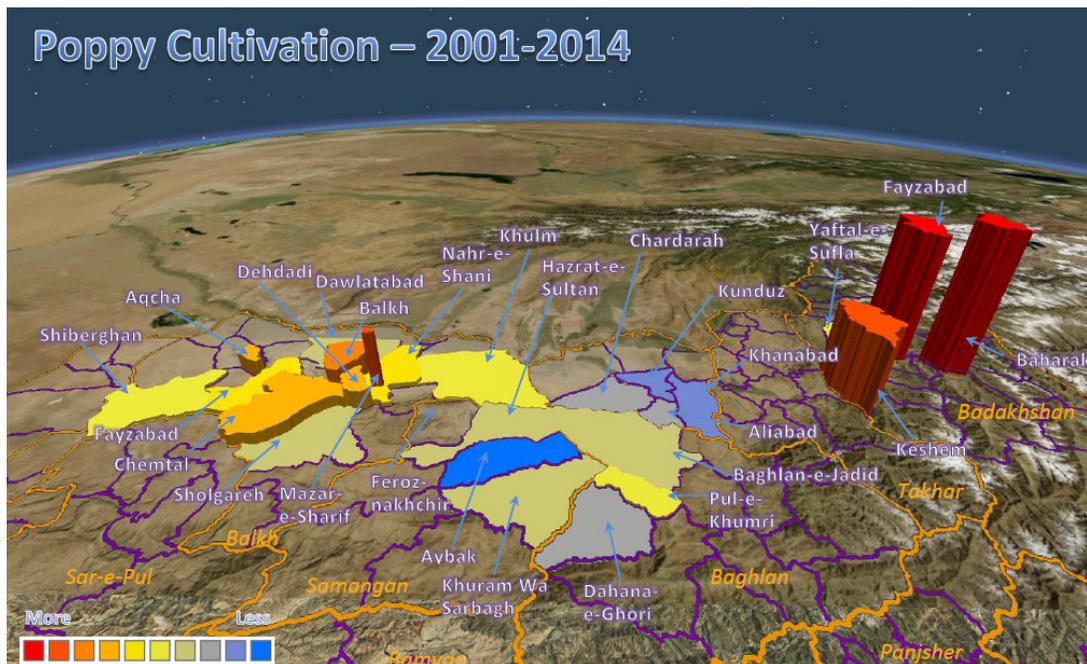
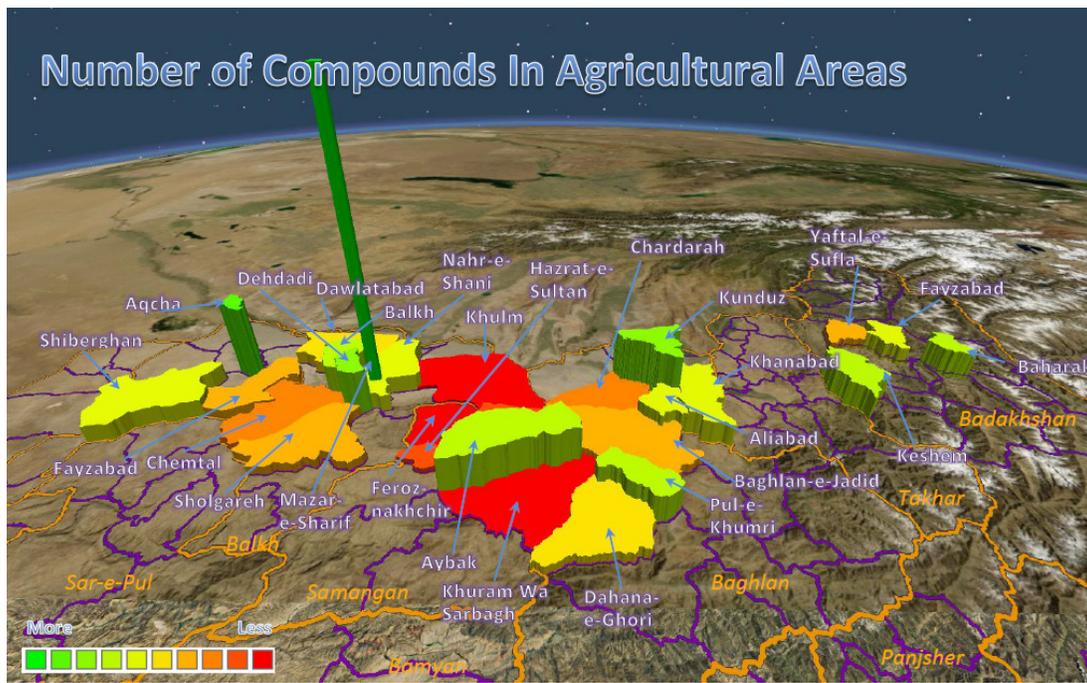
#### Science, Innovation, Technology and Partnerships (STIP)

CLIN 2 staff finalized a concept note to introduce SMS as a marketing tool for Afghan wholesalers and retailers to increase customer loyalty by providing targeted information to their customers, increase sales by promoting their products, and increase repeat sales. RADP-North will accomplish this with two to four grants to interested and qualified agribusinesses.

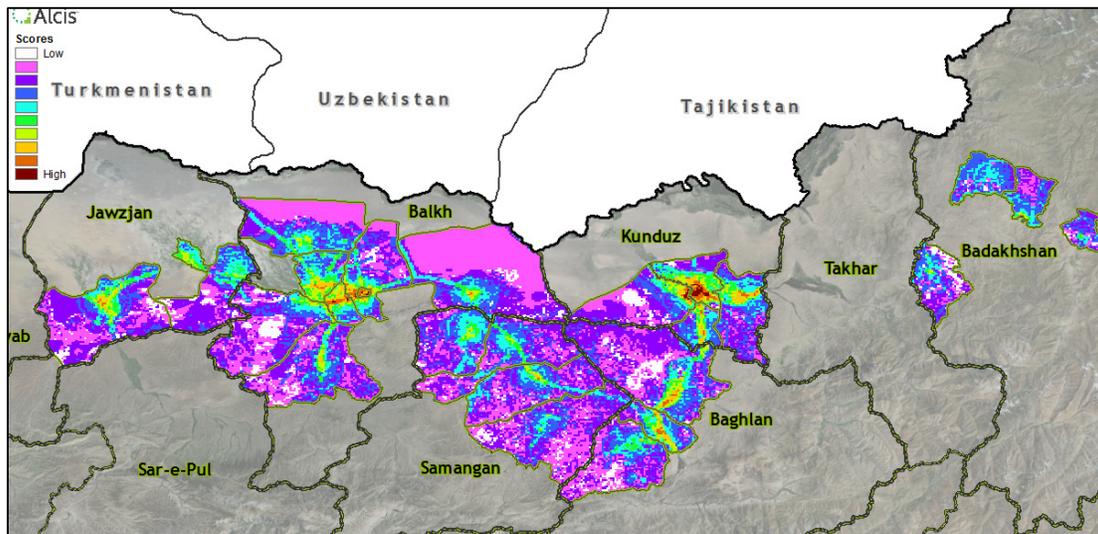
RADP-North received USAID approval of its SMS Marketing concept note on May 11<sup>th</sup> and held a pre-application conference for interested agricultural retailers in Mazar-e-Sharif on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from 15 prospective grantees attended.

#	Name of Agribusiness	District	Province
1	[REDACTED]	Mazar-e-Sharif	Balkh
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7		Sheberghan	Jawzjan
8			
9			
10			
11		Aqcha	Samangan
12		Aybak	
13			

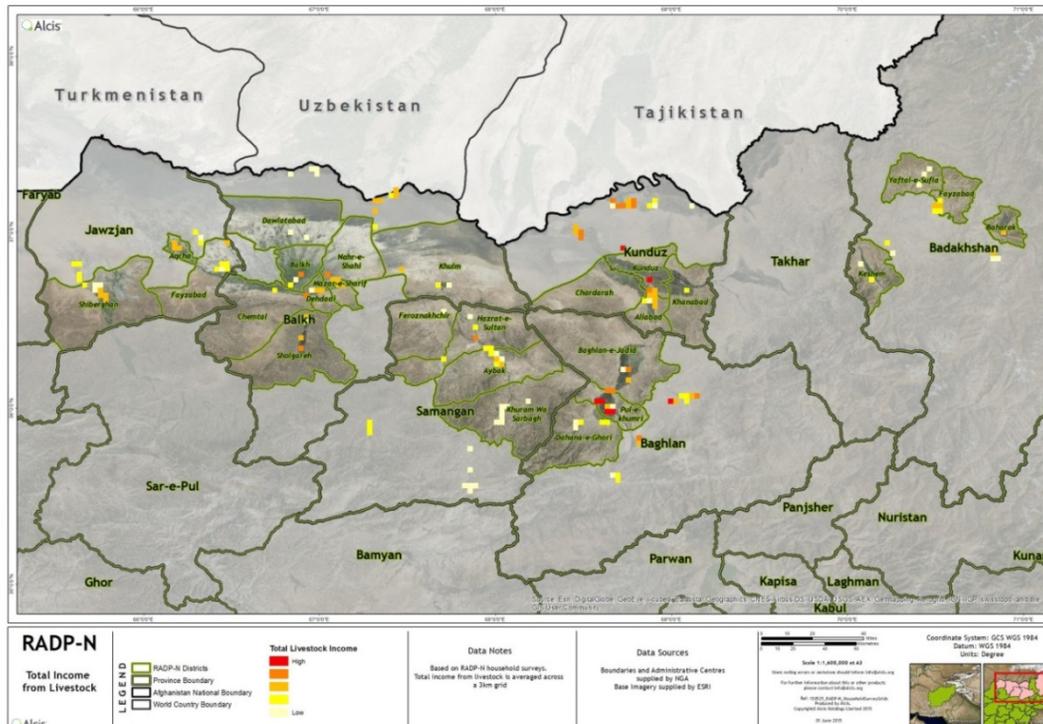




In order to better understand its operating environment, RADP-North requested that Alcis collect and process available spatial data representing a range of different factors, relevant to an agriculture-based Production and Commerce Cluster (PCC). This data has been consistently scored in the range 1-10 depending on how positive the situation is at every point across the Area of Interest (AOI) and normalized so that layers can be overlain on each other to identify where factors occur in the same space, e.g., where you find good quality vegetation, water supply infrastructure, and tarmacked roads near a market. RADP-North will be able to identify PCC nodes that meet particular criteria and provide the evidence base to support the selection of particular locations. The image below shows the initial un-weighted scores when all the layers have been added together.

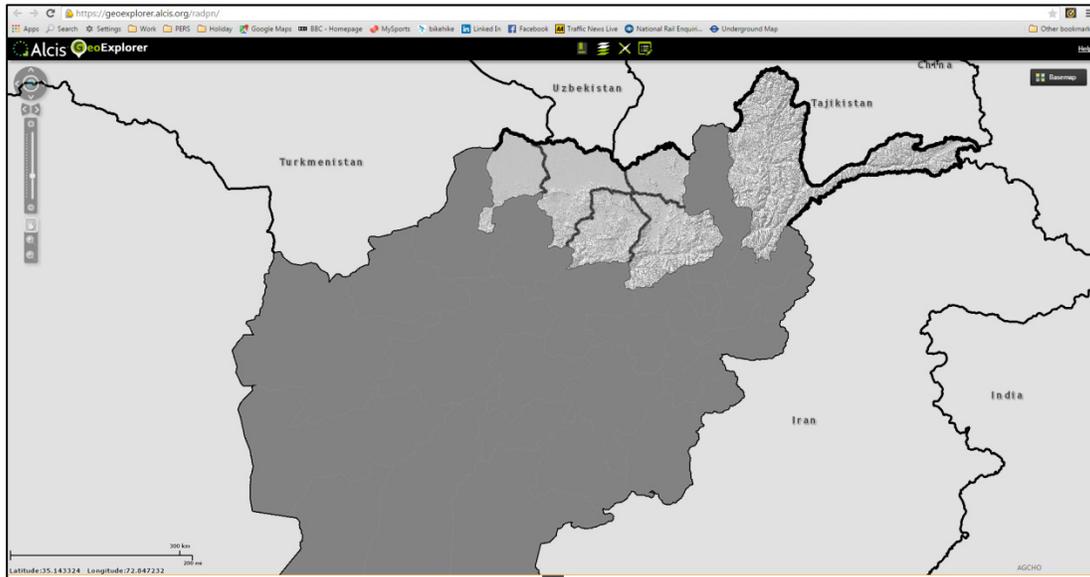


Alcis also received the household baseline survey data that contains information collected from RSI field surveys that cover a wide range of factors for households both within (treatment) and outside (control) RADP-North’s area of operations. The data also contains a GPS coordinate for the household where each interview was conducted. Using this component, Alcis has been able to map the locations and metrics for that household. Since the point data is so dense, values have been averaged to a three km grid in order to maintain the geospatial location, but be able to present the values in a way that is meaningful and from which insight into patterns can be determined. The image below shows the results of income from livestock across the survey respondents.



In May, Alcis began developing a geospatial platform that covers the RADP-North AOI and will allow users to view the various spatial data that Alcis has collected and processed, as well as RADP-North generated spatial data. The platform is a web based system that will allow

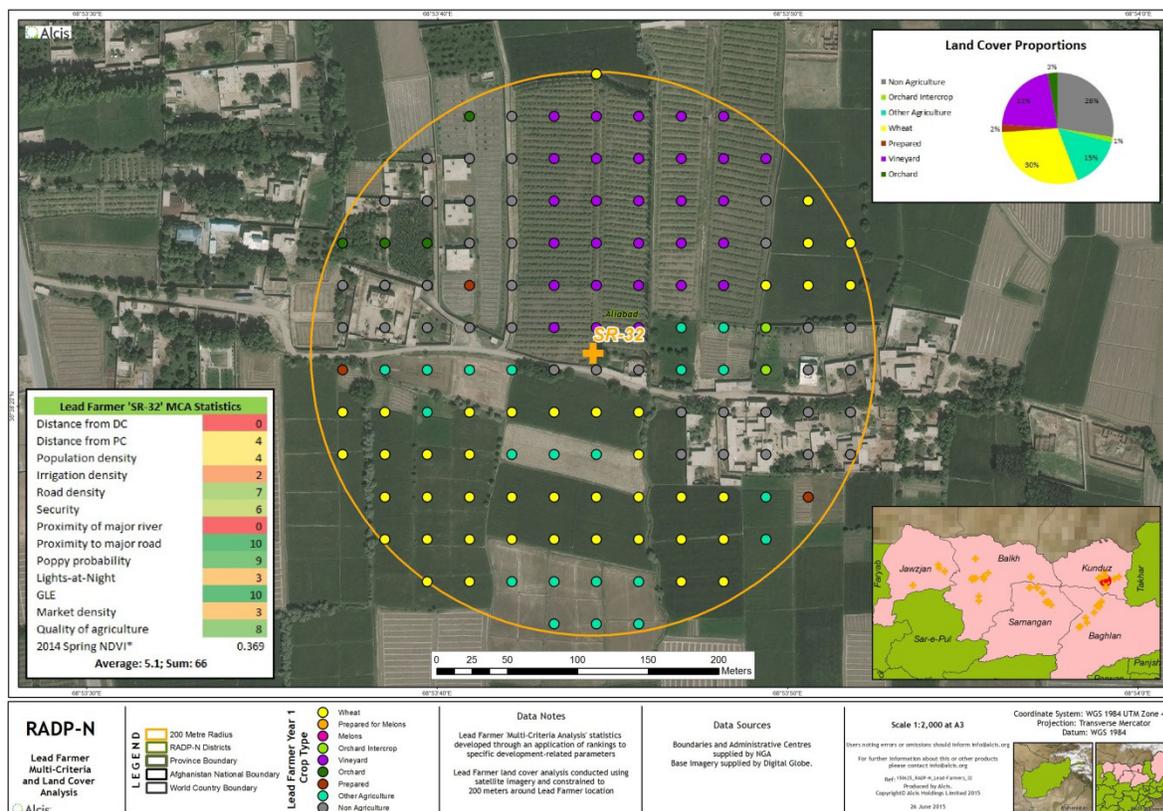
authorized users to see mapping and imagery of their AOI, along with a range of other data layers. Tools in the system will allow users to add annotations, take measurements, toggle layers on and off and generate maps to use in presentations and documents. In order to provide this, during the reporting period, Alcis has been processing and symbolizing data layers and building and configuring the back end server and system to deliver the platform. An image of the beta phase platform is below.



Alcis continued to develop the functionality and carry out bug fixes throughout June. Additional data layers, generated through the on-going project work for RADP-North, were prepared published on Geo Explorer, including layers generated through the lead farmer crop mapping and household survey locations.

Alcis used RADP-North's GPS coordinates and other attribute data to begin plotting the locations of CLIN 2's 53 selected lead farmers. Alcis then conducted a crop inventory for each lead farmer and the surrounding area using satellite imagery. The image below is indicative of the final output. This process will be repeated annually to assess changes in crop types and quantities and to identify other observable features.

With the methodology established and co-ordinates confirmed, work continued through the month classifying crop types around the lead farmer locations. Where no vegetation foliage is observed in the imagery, Alcis has liaised with RADP-North staff to assist in the identification of crops based on the pattern of field preparation. This has been particularly useful for crops such as melon, where the pattern tends to be obvious and unique. At the end of the reporting period, Alcis mapped 42 of the farms from existing archive imagery, and nine farms remain to be mapped for which imagery was not available. Alcis has procured a dedicated collection which should be provided by mid-August. Outputs, such as the image below, will be generated for each lead farmer.



## Upcoming Plans

RADP-North's key expected activities in the coming quarter include:

### CLIN 1

- Activity 1.1: Develop private sector systems for input and technology supply
  - Sub-activity 1: Identify ways for seed companies to market and distribute directly to farmers
    - Identify seed companies for pilot marketing exercise
    - Identify a pack size and price point that will induce farmers to trial the seed
    - Measure farmers' willingness to buy and trial the new product offering
  - Sub-activity 2: Marketing seed through new alternative outlets
    - Identify candidate wheat seed varieties and produce brochure on candidate variety characteristics
    - Identify seed company partners and prepare alternative seed distribution strategies
    - Identify target markets and retail outlets
- Activity 1.2: Facilitate delivery of extension services to improve farming techniques
  - Sub-activity 1: Weed control training/transitioning from project-led to private sector delivery
    - Impact survey
    - Harvesting samples and focus group impact assessment
  - Sub-activity 2: Wheat variety extension using participatory approaches
    - Identify seed companies, hold partner meetings and sign MOUs
    - Identify target locations and train implementers

- Training on variety specification; give samples; identify and plant the mother site
- Activity 1.3: Promote improved post-harvest handling techniques by farmers
  - Sub-activity 2: On-farm, scalable storage solution: PICS training for women linked to 1.6
    - Implement first training
    - First impact assessment: adoption rate / trainee perceptions
- Activity 1.4: Improve market linkages among farmers, agribusinesses and consumers
  - Sub-activity 1: Assist seed enterprises in adapting their costs for a new market
    - Through interviews, identify seed enterprises motivated to adapt business model to farmers
    - Review financial and operational reports, identify opportunities to offer new services
    - Mentor the seed enterprises in repricing their products and services to target the farmer market
  - Sub-activity 3: Linkage meetings between farmer groups, seed companies and mills
    - Map mill buying patterns and introduce millers to high potential producers
- Activity 1.5: Provide technical assistance to enterprises focused on value addition
  - Sub-activity 1: Participatory seed and grain quality evaluation (an industry working group activity)
    - Evaluate available samples with quality testing protocols; document results
    - Catalogue grain traded by variety, volume, price, and quality
- Activity 1.6: Improve household health and nutrition
  - Sub-activity 3: Pilot the course (48 groups of 20 beneficiaries)
    - Train women in project locations

## **CLIN 2**

### Grapes/Raisins Value Chain

- Activity 2.1: Work with farmers to increase production<sup>22</sup>
  - Sub-activity 3: Promote new grape varieties
    - Conduct survey to assess demand of current and alternative varieties
- Activity 2.2: Improve management of farmer organizations
  - Sub-activity 1: Provide planning, business planning, HRM and member services development training
    - Carry out TOT for training provider on SMFM curriculum
  - Sub-activity 2: Improve management capacity of organizational leadership to build membership
    - Roll-out SMFM training to RADP-N farmer organizations and other key stakeholders including MAIL/DAIL
  - Sub-activity 3: Assist farmer organizations to aggregate commodities and link to buyers
    - Provide technical assistance<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Regarding Sub-activity 2: Train farmers and work with MAIL/DAIL extension workers in collaboration with AAEP, CLIN 2 has found that there is no grape production in Badakhshan province and significant trellising demos have been conducted by NHLP in Kunduz and Baghlan so there is no need for RADP-North to duplicate these training efforts. CLIN 2 has identified trellised vineyards that we can use as demo sites and will directly start implementation of the cost-share trellising grants to farmers as planned in Year 2.

<sup>23</sup> Please note that grants for equipment and infrastructure will be provided in Year 2.

- Activity 2.3: Promote Improved Post Harvest Handling Techniques
  - Sub-activity 1: Promote effective PHH systems
    - Link lead farmers/associations with PHH system vendors
    - Conduct PHH training as part of SMFM curriculum
  - Sub-activity 2: Demonstrate proper raisin threshing and drying on tarps and mats
    - Design demos based on best practices from previous programs
  - Sub-activity 3: Promote post-harvest vine maintenance<sup>24</sup>
- Activity 2.4: Develop lead farmers to mentor other farmers in their communities
  - Sub-activity 1: Identify lead farmers
    - Train lead farmers and their outgrowers on PHH, aggregation and marketing (SMFM)
    - Encourage extension agents to participate in all ToT events, demos, and workshops delivered to farmer groups in collaboration with AAEP
  - Sub-activity 2: Mentor lead farmers in GAP
    - Demonstrate GAP using manuals and programs (SMFM)
    - Train and support lead farmers to demonstrate GAP to farmer groups (SMFM)
  - Sub-activity 3: Support farmer organizations
    - Link with existing grape/raisin organizations
- Activity 2.5: Improve market linkages among farmers, agribusinesses and consumers
  - Sub-activity 1: Trade Fairs
    - Select among domestic and international trade fairs and exhibitions
    - Promote awareness/interest in trade shows with importers, exporters, processors, and large traders/wholesalers
    - Provide training to trade show participants
    - Send VC stakeholders to national and international trade fairs
  - Sub-activity 2: Application of product quality standards
    - Conduct awareness campaign to encourage adoption of standards
  - Sub-activity 3: Matchmaking events
    - Buyer visits to farmer groups through demo field days
  - Sub-activity 4: SMS marketing for input suppliers, farmers, and traders/aggregators
    - Design SMS marketing concept note for RADP-N beneficiaries that builds on IDEA-NEW's existing service to reach farmers through higher level VC stakeholders.
- Activity 2.6: Increase agribusinesses' management and technical capacities
  - Sub-activity 1: Conduct Business Edge training for agribusinesses
    - Identify target agribusinesses
    - Release Request for Application for IFC-certified training providers

### Melon Value Chain

- Activity 2.1: Work with farmers to increase production<sup>25</sup>
  - Sub-activity 1: Introduce new melon varieties based on market demand
    - Test new varieties for melon fly susceptibility and new technology adoption through demos in Balkh, Kunduz, Jawzjan and Baghlan
    - Assess buyer demand for new varieties

<sup>24</sup> This will be done as part of the SMFM PHH module and will not be a separate farmer field day activity.

<sup>25</sup> Sub-activity 3: Promote IPM by conducting training through farmer field days during the growing season was completed in early July.

- Sub-activity 3: Promote IPM
  - Conduct training through farmer field days during growing season
- Activity 2.2: Improve management of farmer organizations
  - Sub-activity 1: Provide strategic planning, business planning, HRM and member services development training
    - Same as Grapes/Raisin Value Chain
  - Sub-activity 3: Assist farmer organizations to aggregate commodities and link to buyers
    - Identify technical and logistical constraints
- Activity 2.3: Develop lead farmers to mentor other farmers in their communities
  - Sub-activity 1: Identify lead farmers
    - Train lead farmers and outgrowers on PHH, aggregation and marketing (SMFM)
    - Encourage extension agents to participate in all ToT events, demos, and workshops delivered to farmer groups in collaboration with AAEP
  - Sub-activity 2: Support farmer organizations
    - Link with existing melon organizations
- Activity 2.4: Improve market linkages among farmers, agribusinesses and consumers
  - Sub-activity 1: Trade Fairs
    - Select among domestic and international trade fairs and exhibitions
    - Promote awareness and interest in trade shows with importers, exporters and wholesalers
    - Provide training to trade show participants
    - Send VC stakeholders to national and international trade fairs
  - Sub-activity 2: SMS marketing for input wholesalers
    - Design SMS marketing concept note for RADP-N beneficiaries that builds on IDEA-NEW's existing service to reach farmers through higher level VC stakeholders.
- Activity 2.5: Increase management and technical capacity of agribusinesses
  - Same as Grapes/Raisin Value Chain

#### Nuts/Dried Fruits Value Chain

- Activity 2.1: Improve management of farmer organization
  - Sub-activity 1: Provide strategic planning, business planning, HRM and member services development training
    - Same as Grapes/Raisin Value Chain
  - Sub-activity 2: Assist farmer organizations to aggregate commodities and link to buyers
  - Provide technical assistance<sup>26</sup>
- Sub-activity 3: Improve management capacity of organizational leadership to build membership
  - Same as Grapes/Raisin Value Chain
- Activity 2.2: Promote Improved PHH Techniques
  - Sub-activity 1: Introduce shelling practices (increasing women involvement)
    - Confirm gaps and needs in shelling and develop training program for Yr 2 rollout
- Activity 2.3: Develop lead farmers to mentor other farmers in their communities
  - Sub-activity 1: Identify lead farmers

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<sup>26</sup> Technical assistance for six farmer organizations will be provided via the SMFM management module and grants will be provided in year 2 once the APS evaluation is finished.

- Train lead farmers and their outgrowers on PHH, aggregation and marketing (SMFM)
    - Encourage extension agents to participate in all ToT events, demos, and workshops delivered to farmer groups in collaboration with AAEP
  - Sub-activity 2: Support farmer organizations
    - Link with existing dried fruit/nut organizations
- Activity 2.4: Improve market linkages among farmers, agribusinesses and consumers
  - Sub-activity 1: Trade Fairs
    - Select among domestic and international trade fairs and exhibitions
    - Promote awareness/interest in trade shows with importers, exporters, processors and large traders/wholesalers
    - Provide training to trade show participants
    - Send VC stakeholders to national and international trade fairs
  - Sub-activity 2: Application of product quality standards
    - Conduct awareness campaign to encourage adoption of standards
  - Sub-activity 3: Matchmaking events
    - Buyers visits to farmer groups through demo field days
  - Sub-activity 4: SMS marketing for input suppliers, farmers and traders/aggregators
    - Design SMS marketing concept note for RADP-N beneficiaries that builds on IDEA NEW's existing service to reach farmers through higher level VC stakeholders
- Activity 2.5: Increase agribusinesses' management and technical capacities
  - Same as Grapes/Raisin Value Chain

### **CLIN 3**

- Activity 3.2: Increase the availability of feed and fodder
  - Sub-activity 2: Integrate existing feed banks into RADP-North
    - Assess 23 existing feed banks
  - Sub-activity 3: Establish three new feed banks
    - Demonstrate feed banks services to new RADP-N beneficiaries
    - Assess market viability of various types of feed for new RCC beneficiaries
    - Establish three new feed banks
  - Sub-activity 4: Facilitate the development of market systems for processed feed
    - Identify sellers of different types of feed available to new feed banks
    - Facilitate sales to feedback to establish community-to-feed producer linkages
- Activity 3.3: Improve market linkages among farmers, agribusinesses and consumers
  - Sub-activity 2: Facilitate sales deals through matchmaking, trade events, and other mechanisms
    - Contact potential buyers and identify their interest
- Activity 3.4: Increase management and technical capacity of agribusinesses
  - Sub-activity 1: Provide technical assistance, training, and funding to existing and aspiring entrepreneurs
    - Conduct ToT with VFU staff and extension officers using SRHHP
    - Conduct ToF on SRHHP
    - Assess viability of re-establishing a cashmere collection point (CCP)
    - Re-establish CCP
    - Identify meat slaughtering improvement opportunities
    - Develop training curricula to improve meat handling sanitation practices

- Train butchers in meat processing practices
- Identify technology needs to establish fee-based services for VFUs

RADP-North's M&E field staff will also conduct monitoring missions of selected project activities throughout the upcoming quarter.

## PROGRAM APPRAISAL

### Evaluations, Assessments or Audits

COMPLETED AND/OR PLANNED	MAJOR FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN/ PLANNED TO BE TAKEN
RADP-North Household Baseline Survey Report	N/A for the reporting period	USAID sent a third round of feedback on the baseline survey report on April 22 <sup>nd</sup> . RADP-North addressed these comments and updated its LOP and annual targets in the fourth draft of the baseline report submitted on May 16 <sup>th</sup> . USAID approved the baseline report on June 9 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Monthly Monitoring Missions of RADP-North Activities (Tier 2)</b>		
<b>APRIL 2015</b>		
CLIN 3's Cashmere ToT in Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The training was well organized and, based on interviews with ToT participants, the training methodology was satisfactory as it contained complete information on producing quality cashmere.</li> <li>▪ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including masks and gloves, were provided for the practical training, but safety goggles were not provided.</li> <li>▪ The site visit revealed that except for safety goggles, all mitigation measures were followed during the practical phase of the ToT Cashmere training. Safety glasses/goggles should be included in future trainings.</li> </ul>	Monitoring reports are shared with the relevant CLIN team so they can adjust future programming.
CLIN 3's Cashmere ToH in Chimtal (Balkh), Aybak, Feroz Nakhcheer and Hazrat-i-Sultan (Samangan) and two training sessions in Shibirghan (Jawzjan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participants/herders reported that the objectives were clearly identified and followed during the training, and the curricula contents were well organized.</li> <li>▪ The training materials visuals, leaflets, brochures, and a cashmere harvesting kit (including combs, scissors, jute bags, plastic sheeting [150cm X 200cm], Dettol soap, and face mask) were distributed to each participant.</li> <li>▪ Participant surveys showed that the training was very useful for herds by enhancing their knowledge of cashmere production. The training method was effective, well organized, and met their expectations.</li> <li>▪ The field mission observed that ground spikes and cotton rope for restraining animals were not provided in five of the trainings.</li> <li>▪ Proper mitigation measures were followed during the practical phase of the cashmere harvesting training.</li> </ul>	

COMPLETED AND/OR PLANNED	MAJOR FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN/ PLANNED TO BE TAKEN
CLIN 3's Karakul ToH in Aqcha (Jawzjan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The training was organized like a discussion group with trainer and participants sharing ideas and practical work approaches on a piece of previously harvested and washed karakul pelt.</li> <li>▪ Training materials were three pieces of karakul pelt and the trainer instructed the participants both practically and theoretically.</li> <li>▪ Interviews with participants revealed that the training methodology was good and participants said they would be able to produce good quality karakul pelts in the future.</li> </ul>	
CLIN 2's Melon Seedling Transplantation in Shibirghan (Jawzjan), Dehdadi (Balkh) and Puli Khumri (Baghlan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The activity was performed correctly and according to the requirements of the approved concept note.</li> <li>▪ While optional PPE was provided to each field owner, while transplanting the seedlings, neither the field owner nor his laborers applied this provided PPE.</li> <li>▪ In Dehdadi, the field was not irrigated before the time of planting so, due to the condition of the field, the cultivation of new seed varieties was not fulfilled during the monitoring mission. However, the land owner assured CLIN 2 staff that after the field absorbs the water, he will follow instructions from the trainer to cultivate the new varieties alongside the greenhouse seedlings.</li> </ul>	
<b>MAY 2015</b>		
CLIN 1's Soil and Water Conservation Agriculture ToF in Dehdadi district (Balkh); two sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participant surveys and interviews showed that the training methodology was well received and the trainer was well prepared. The ToF was beneficial, and participants report learning new techniques for soil and water conservation.</li> <li>▪ The ToF training materials including stationary, posters, white board, projector, flip chart, and brochures were provided and the contents were well organized.</li> <li>▪ Training participants commented that they gained new skills and learned new methods of conservation agriculture that would help them be more successful.</li> </ul>	
CLIN 1's Wheat Reaping ToT in Dehdadi district (Balkh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The monitor noted that a discussion-based training was implemented, which contained both theoretical and practical sections.</li> <li>▪ During the training the required materials including stationary, flip charts, some visual posters, refreshments, projector for presentation, and reaping kits were provided for all participants.</li> <li>▪ Practical field training on maintenance and safe operation of the 2WTs was conducted and 2WT parts/assembly was explained.</li> <li>▪ Participants disclosed that the training methodology was well received as it presented improved ways for farmers to reap their wheat.</li> </ul>	
CLIN 2's Melon Fly IPM ToT in Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The field monitor confirmed that the training was well organized and noted the use of visual aids. Training</li> </ul>	

COMPLETED AND/OR PLANNED	MAJOR FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN/ PLANNED TO BE TAKEN
	materials, stationery, and refreshments were provided in an appropriate learning atmosphere. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The field monitor confirmed that 36 field trainers from 18 districts (2 from each) of 5 provinces participated.</li> <li>▪ Interviews with the trainees disclosed that the training methodology was quite satisfactory as it taught them new ways of controlling melon flies.</li> </ul>	
<b>JUNE 2015</b>		
Melon Fly Abrogation: IPM in Shibirghan district (Jawzjan) and Hazrat-i-Sultan district. (Samangan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The field monitor confirmed that 20 farmers participated in each of the visited melon fly IPM ToF sessions</li> <li>▪ The Field Monitor confirmed that the training was well organized and training materials included instructional flipcharts and sufficient date for evening refreshment were provided for all participants.</li> <li>▪ Trainees revealed that the training methodology was quite satisfactory as it was focused on both theoretical and practical sessions</li> <li>▪ USAID promotional materials were present in the training hall via a banner. However, the training agenda was not provided to participant by CLIN 2 during the two days of the training.</li> <li>▪ The full PPE and pesticide application tools package were distributed for each participants. The package included gloves, rubber boots, a set of safety clothing, safety glasses, face mask, and 1 back pack sprayer.</li> <li>▪ The applied evaluation checklist indicated that the training methodology was satisfactory and that trainees learned new skills, both theoretical and practical.</li> </ul>	

### Lessons Learned

While hiring and training staff, establishing provincial offices and setting internal project procedures in the first quarter of FY2015, CLIN 3 prioritized implementing its cashmere and karakul activities, which are seasonal, over conducting its initial field assessments. Consequently, these were not started until May 2015. In retrospect, Mazar-based staff should have begun these assessments simultaneously in October-December 2015 so that constraints within the livestock value chain (many of which are also seasonal) could have been identified earlier in year 1.

Farmers and farmer organizations interviewed by CLIN 2 have never borrowed money and are reluctant to borrow from financial institutions. The reason quoted is their perception of interest as forbidden by Islam, despite the existence of Islamic financial products in Afghanistan. One ag retailer dealer interviewed was in the process of taking his very first loan from the ADF. Financing of farmers by value chain actors (buyers and agri dealers) is very short-term and does not always cover all working capital financing needs of the farmer. The buyers and agri-dealers, who are also cash strapped, will not finance long-term investments in the upgrades required by RADP-North's partners to pursue market opportunities.

CLIN 2's rapid assessment of access to finance carried out in May identified financing constraints and proposed project interventions. One critical recommendation is that RADP-North needs to obtain the budgets for the upgrades that the project is promoting to understand costs and benefits of these upgrades. For example, while grape trellising can double and even triple grape yields, farmers' upfront investment is substantial. It is important to know how much time it takes for an average farmer to breakeven. What would be a return from this investment in five years? If factoring the cost of funding and the time value of money, would this investment still be profitable? How does it compare with other investment choices that a farmer can make? These budgets need to be reviewed for accuracy as prices of crops and inputs may have changed due to changes in the markets and technology.

When CLIN 1 staff monitored its reaping activities in Jawzjan and Samangan provinces in early June they learned that reaping activity should have been started about 20 days earlier. Farmers noted that the earlier start date would have allowed them to reap their barley with 2WT.

## **COLLABORATION WITH GIROA, OTHER DONOR AGENCIES AND OTHER USAID PROJECTS**

### **RADP-N and GIROA Coordination**

April 1: Kunduz-based CLIN 2 staff that joined RADP-North in March met with the Director of the Baghlan DAIL office to introduce themselves and RADP-North's planned CLIN 2 activities. The Director thanked them for coordinating with DAIL and promised his continuous support of activities in the project's target districts.

April 4: The Kunduz-based Regional Manager met with Baghlan DAIL staff at their office to submit RADP-North's introduction letter from MAIL and give a brief progress report of RADP-North's activities. Representatives from CLIN1 and CLIN 3 also attended.

April 7: RADP-North's Badakhshan Regional Manager participated in the NGO coordination meeting chaired by the DAIL Director. He presented MAIL's letter introducing RADP-North to the DAILs in its target provinces and gave a brief overview of the programs objectives and planned activities. The DAIL Director requested that RADP-North coordinate with him throughout program implementation to avoid duplicating activities implementing by other organizations or projects. Representatives from FAO and CBCMP II were also present.

April 9: The CLIN 1 Wheat Value Chain Specialist attended the monthly Agriculture Sectorial Meeting (AGSEM) at the DAIL office in Mazar-e-Sharif and updated attendees on RADP-North's CLIN 1 activities in March and planned activities for April.

April 12: CLIN 1's Area Manager for Samangan province attended the AGSEM meeting hosted by DAIL. He gave a brief overview of RADP-North's wheat-related planned activities.

April 13: CLIN 1's Baghlan Area Manager gave an update of RADP-North's wheat activities at the monthly AGSEM meeting in the DAIL office. Other attendees included Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), CLIN 3, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), NHLP, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), HELVETAS, National Environmental Science Program, International Center for Agriculture Research in Dry Areas and the Departments of Economy (DoE), Women Affairs (DoWA) and Counter Narcotics.

April 13: The Kunduz Provincial Implementation Manager (PIM) participated in the Provincial Development Committee (PDC) meeting hosted by the Deputy Governor. GIRoA officials came from the Departments of Water and Irrigation, Labor and Social Affairs, Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Public Health as well as DAIL, DoE and the provincial council. Representatives from the Panj Amu River Basin Program, GIZ, National Environmental Protection Agency, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNAMA and the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund. The agenda focused on the status of ongoing development projects operating in Kunduz province. The Deputy Governor also reviewed whether decisions from the previous PDC meeting had been implemented and GIRoA department heads voted on proposed projects to be implemented by the Embassy of India.

April 15: The Kunduz PIM participated in the DAIL-hosted AGSEM meeting which was also attended by representatives from the governor's office, NHLP, Perennial Horticulture Development Program, the Organization for Sustainable Integrated Development, UNAMA, AFK, CLIN 3, the Departments of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, DoWA, DAIL as well as DAIL's Cooperative and Household Economic Development departments.

April 19: RADP-North's Gender Advisor and Deputy Chief of Party met with the Balkh DoWA Director to introduce the new Gender Advisor. Key highlights of the meeting were both sides expressing their wish to work together closely in order to build on women's existing capacities and address constraints to their increased empowerment. The Director suggested that RADP-North train both men and women from rural farming communities on nutrition and hygiene to obtain larger impact and, hopefully, higher buy-in from training participants. The Gender Advisor passed along this suggestion to CLIN 1 in her review of the nutrition curriculum.

April 22: CLIN 1's Wheat Value Chain Specialist attended the Balkh AGSEM meeting at DAIL's Dehdadi sub-office. DAIL asked every project and NGO working in Balkh to coordinate with DAIL staff before and after activity implementation.

April 22: The Kunduz Regional Manager participated in the UNAMA-organized NGO coordination meeting so organizations could present their activities to the Kunduz Governor. RADP-North's representative updated the Governor of current activities and anticipated activities for 2015. The Governor expressed appreciation for all of the organizations operating in the province's difficult security situation and promised his full support should it ever be required.

April 22: The Gender Advisor invited the sole female board member of the Balkh Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss the opportunities and challenges faced by women in agriculture. Two major constraints that need urgent consideration were identified: basic numeracy training for downstream women actors, and improved post-harvest and processing technology for efficiency gains.

April 27: CLIN 3's Provincial Coordinator and Provincial Extension & Value Chain Officer gave updates on RADP-North's livestock activities in March to participants at the Baghlan DAIL NGO coordination meeting.

April 29: The CLIN 1 management team met with the Balkh DAIL Director in Mazar-e-Sharif to discuss increasing coordination between RADP-North and DAIL staff for upcoming project activities, in particular the issues of participating in DAIL's monthly sectorial meetings, informing DAIL of field activities, and on time reporting.

April 29: Nine nutrition trainers met with the Balkh Deputy District Governor and representatives from two local cooperatives to explain RADP-North's nutrition training program and implementation timeline.

May 4: CLIN 3's Provincial Coordinator attended the Badakhshan agriculture sectorial (AGSEM) meeting and gave a short presentation on the importance of the livestock value chain and its impact on farmers' livelihoods. He also met separately with the DAIL Director to present the remainder of CLIN 3's FY2015 work plan.

May 4: CLIN 3's Samangan-based Provincial Coordinator and Provincial Extension and Value Chain Officer met with the Provincial DAIL Director and briefed him on RADP-North's current and planned livestock activities.

May 4–6: CLIN 3's M&E Officer met with staff from the Jawzjan, Samangan and Baghlan DAILs to discuss future joint monitoring of RADP-North activities by CLIN 3 technical staff and DAIL extension workers.

May 5: The Kunduz-based Regional Manager participated in the NGO coordination meeting. The Agha Khan Foundation hosted representatives from the provincial council, UNAMA, DoE, DoWA, NHLP, the Organization for Sustainable Integrated Development (OSID), Afghan Development Association (ADA), CLIN 3, People in Need, Ghazni Rural Support Program, and the Afghanistan Agricultural Inputs Project at its Kunduz office. UNAMA chaired the meeting, the agenda of which included a provincial political and security update and status updates by the assembled NGOs and programs.

May 13: CLIN 3's Samangan Provincial Extension and Value Chain Officer shared RADP-North's June livestock activities with the DAIL staff in Aybak at the monthly DAIL coordination meeting.

May 13: CLIN 2 staff represented RADP-North at the Jawzjan AGSEM meeting that was chaired by the Jawzjan DAIL Director. There were 15 people in attendance from five GIRoA departments and three other donor programs.

May 13: CLIN 3's Regional Field Coordinator briefed attendees at the monthly DAIL coordination meeting in Sheberghan on RADP-North's upcoming livestock activities in the province.

May 14: CLIN 3's Regional Training Coordinator attended the Balkh DAIL coordination meeting in Mazar-e-Sharif. The discussion focused on coordination among the various organizations operating within the agriculture sector.

May 17: RADP-North's Samangan Area Manager for wheat met with the provincial head of the DoE to present CLIN 1's planned activities for the remainder of the fiscal year. This meeting was in response to a request by the Samangan DoE.

May 17: The CLIN 3 Provincial Coordinator for Kunduz province represented RADP-North at the monthly DAIL coordination meeting.

May 18: RADP-North's Kunduz Regional Manager attended the AGSEM meeting at the Kunduz DAIL. The Acting DAIL Director invited OSID to present on its Integrated Kunduz Food Security Program, which is jointly implemented by Organization for Human Welfare and Skills, Training

and Rehabilitation Society and funded by Cordaid and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its goal is to improve the productivity, food security and household incomes of farmers in Imam Sahib, Khanabad, Alia Abad and Kunduz districts. It also attempts to increase farmers' capacity and access to services. Participants included officials from DoE, DoWA, DAIL, the Governor's Office, Provincial Council, ADA, CLIN 3, UNAMA, Agha Khan Foundation (AKF), NHLP, Perennial Horticultural Development Program and the WHO.

May 18: CLIN 1's Baghlan Area Manager attended the AGSEM meeting at DAIL's office and gave a short update on RADP-North's upcoming wheat-related activities. Other attendees included UNAMA, DCA, GIZ, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, HELVITAS, NHLP, AKF and the National Environmental Science Project.

May 19: CLIN 2 represented RADP-North and attended the Provincial Development Committee meeting chaired by the Deputy Governor of Balkh Province. The meeting mainly focused on the problems and challenges of the development programs in Balkh province and the deputy governor emphasized to have more practical PDC meeting with tangible outcomes.

May 20: RADP-North's Provincial Coordinator and Provincial Extension and Value Chain Officers for livestock in Samangan province visited the district head for Hazrat-i-Sultan district to discuss CLIN 3's progress and the important role the livestock value chain can have on farmers' livelihoods.

June 3: RADP-North Kunduz Regional Manager participated in the ARD/ SWG meeting DAIL Badakhshan to coordinate the IPM activities through relevant departments of DAIL in that province

June 3: RADP-North Kunduz Regional Manager participated in the ARD/ SWG meeting DAIL Badakhshan to coordinate the IPM activities through relevant departments of DAIL in that province.

June 7: Three CLIN 3 staff including the Regional Field Coordinator, the Extension and Value Chain Coordinator and the M&E Officer presented an overview of CLIN 3 activities to approximately 20 NGO representatives and DAIL staff at the DAIL office in Mazar-e-Sharif.

June 7: CLIN-3's provincial coordinator in Jawzjan attended the monthly DAIL coordination meeting held in DAIL's Sheberghan office.

June 10: The CLIN 2's PIM met the Head of the Agricultural Services Affairs of Baghlan Provincial DAIL at his office in Puli Khumri and discussed RADP-North's plan on grapes/raisins value chains in the target districts of Balkh Province. The idea of training farmers on improved PHH and strengthening of the trellising program was welcomed by DAIL, which recommended coordination with NHLP.

June 10: The CLIN 2 PIM met with NHLP's Provincial Coordinator for Kunduz and Baghlan provinces at his office in Baghlan Jaded district (Baghlan) and discussed planned interventions in grapes/raisins value chains. The NHLP coordinator explained that they have been working mainly on establishing new vineyards; they have trellised over one hundred jeribs in Kunduz and Baghlan provinces. CLIN2 established that there is an existing

foundation of trellised demo plots which will help RADP-North start the trellising and PHH activities.

June 11: CLIN 2 met the Director of Balkh Provincial DAIL and was introduced as a focal point for high value crops. He was added to DAIL's partners' email circulation list to permit timely invitations to coordination meetings. The CLIN 2 staff explained the upcoming melon fly IPM and SMFM training.

June 14: The CLIN 2 focal point attended the Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster meeting that was chaired by Balkh DAIL Director at DAIL office. The partners described their ongoing and planned activities. DAIL insisted that the partners submit to them timely monthly reports. In this meeting, the MAIL's 100 Day Plan was also presented to the donors and a copy of the plan was later circulated to the participants.

June 15: CLIN 1 Samangan Area Manager attended the DAIL Sectorial Meeting. The DAIL Samangan office hosted the meeting for representatives of GIZ, SEDEP, Afghan Aid (AA), Agha Khan Foundation (AKF), Relief International (RIF), CLIN 3, AAEP II, and Agency for Rehabilitation & Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA). DAIL briefed the participants on flooding in some areas of Samangan and requested support to protect the land from erosion. The CLIN1 Area Manager discussed RADP-North's weed control, conservation agriculture, and reaping activities in Samangan. The Samangan DAIL director objected to the activities and requested that RADP-North share concept notes with DAIL first for recommendation and changes before submitting to USAID for approval.

June 15: The CLIN 2 PIM met with the Head of Agricultural Services Affairs of Badakhshan Provincial DAIL and discussed planned activities in grapes/raisins value chains. The DAIL officer reported that grape production is not commercial in Badakhshan province due to adaptability problems of grape vines in Badakhshan climate.

June 22: CLIN1 provincial manager for Baghlan attended the Agriculture Sectorial meeting at the DAIL Baghlan office. Representatives from ICARDA, CLIN 3, GIZ, National Environmental Science Project (NESP) participated in the meeting. DAIL explained its activities and the CLIN 1 manager briefed the participants on wheat value chain activity implementation, goals to improve productivity and reduce losses, improve food security, and boost household incomes.

June 25: RADP-North's Wheat Team Leader and Nutrition Director met with MAIL's Family Economy Department Manager to present CLIN 1's nutrition training curriculum and request assistance in finding the Dari-language nutrition curriculum developed in 2008 by Charlotte DuFour and Emily Levitt at FAO.

June 29: RADP-North's COP and DAI's Sarah Weatherby attended a meeting at the MAIL office in Kabul which included USAID representatives and staff from RADP-South and RADP-West. The 100 Day Plan was discussed and each of the RADPs summarized their activities.

### **Links with Other Donor Agencies**

April 23: The Kunduz Regional Manager accepted an invitation to attend a meeting at UNAMA to introduce UNAMA's new Social Affairs Officer to Kunduz-based development organizations. He gave a short overview of RADP-North's goals, implementation approach, and planned activities in the province.

April 26-27: CLIN 1 staff met with project staff from People in Need and Save the Children to exchange ideas on nutrition issues and share nutrition curriculum, as both organizations have implemented nutrition projects of their own in the North. CLIN 1 found People in Need's curriculum very useful and participant friendly, particularly the learning aids. Save the Children's program focused on clinic staff and malnutrition case management.

May 6: CLIN 1's Samangan Provincial Manager hosted SEDEP's Provincial Team Leader and Provincial Manager to share RADP-North's current and planned wheat activities. SEDEP's team was collecting information from other programs, NGOs and GIRoA departments to aid in its donor mapping for the northern region.

May 21: CLIN 2 representatives met with the Business Development Advisor for New Market Development (NMD), a GIZ and World Bank funded program that provides Mazar-e-Sharif-based agribusinesses with market development and business planning support. RADP-North requested that NMD share a list of agribusinesses it has worked with so RADP-North could determine if it could offer further support to those companies.

May 24: RADP-North's COP and M&E/Communications Manager attended a meeting with USAID, GIZ and SEDEP representatives at Camp Marmal. The discussion focused on areas where RADP-North and SEDEP could work together. One key area for collaboration is SEDEP's public private dialogue (PPD) program which could integrate well with CLIN 4 enabling environment activities. Following the meeting, the COP shared the 3 APSs and requested that SEDEP encourage their beneficiaries to attend the APS kick off conferences. A follow up coordination meeting was scheduled for June 29, which was subsequently postponed to early July.

June 16: The CLIN 2 focal point attended the USAID Projects Monthly Coordination meeting that was facilitated by CBCMP II at Balkh Provincial DAIL. The MAIL's annual work plan was discussed and the USAID projects were asked to consider MAIL's annual planning in their projects' work plans

June 22: CLIN 3's Project Manager met with the Livestock Project Manager for the Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development - Facility project (CARD-F) and shared their livestock activities and discussed potential coordination of field activities. CARD-F focuses on the poultry and dairy value chains.

### **Collaboration with Other USAID Projects**

April 28: RADP-North's Gender Advisor met with the AAEP II team at their Mazar office to explore the possibility of RADP-North working through the social structures established by AAEP's Women in Agriculture (WIA) component. Potential coordination areas include nutrition advice to women involved in WIA's gardening activities. WIA staff will ask several of its lead farmers and extension workers to attend RADP-North's focus group and gender value chain mapping exercises.

April 29: The Acting COP, CLIN 2 Lead, and Gender Advisor were invited to join AAEP II representatives - including the COP, Regional Site Manager, WIA Director and Executive Committee member—to FAO-supported mushroom demonstration site at the Balkh DAIL compound, a kitchen garden demonstration farm, and a silkworm demonstration facility at the Provincial Model Teaching Farm compound in Dehdadi district (Balkh).

May 25: The CLIN 2 team met with NHLP's Regional Coordinator in RADP-North's Mazar office. The NHLP Regional Coordinator gave an overview of the project's activities that aim to further develop orchard crops. CLIN 2 staff presented its current activities and long-term objectives. Both parties agreed that RADP-North should further assist those NHLP-supported farmers that have recently established orchards. In order for NHLP to share its list of farmers, lead farmers and training materials, a memorandum of understanding needs to be signed with RADP-North. The CLIN 2 team will work with the COP and NHLP to develop this document.

May 26-27: The CLIN 2 Technical Director met with representatives from the Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) program in Kabul as part of her access to finance assessment. The meeting agendas focused on the following issues: financial services offered by microfinance institutions and banks, participation in FAIDA's round tables and other events related to access to finance, and cooperation with the Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA). RADP-North will reach out to AMA's representative in the North and will participate in relevant FAIDA and AMA events.

## MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

### Personnel

The following table lists the permanent personnel changes that occurred during the reporting period.

NAME	IP	STTA/ LTTA	POSITION	ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE
<b>Expatriate Staff</b>					
Sarah Weatherby	DAI	STTA	Project Manager		4/1/15
Peter How	JDA	STTA	Agriculture Program Director		4/10/15
Michelle Stern	ACDI/VOCA	STTA	Value Chain Advisor		4/12/15
Nirvana Pradhan	dTS	LTTA	Gender Advisor	4/13/15	
Oscar Samso	DCA	LTTA	Deputy Director	5/1/15	
Nadia Namken	ACDI/VOCA	STTA	Technical Director	5/6/15	6/5/15
Tom Brown	DAI	STTA	Senior Technical Advisor	5/6/15	5/13/15
Adam Brett	ACDI/VOCA	STTA	Fullwell Mill Market Linkages Specialist	5/8/15	5/21/15
Rajesh Sail	DAI	STTA	Grants Advisor		5/30/15
Adam Brett	ACDI/VOCA	STTA	Fullwell Mill Market Linkages Specialist	6/3/15	6/21/15
Peter How	JDA	STTA	Agriculture Program Director	6/7/15	6/21/15
Sarah Weatherby	DAI	STTA	Project Manager	6/10/15	6/28/15
Teresa Hart	DAI	STTA	Senior Manager, Procurement	6/11/15	6/17/15
Mark Mitchell	ACDI/VOCA	STTA	Melon Value Chain Consultant	6/29/15	
<b>National Staff</b>					
	DCA	N/A	Guard (Jawzjan)	4/1/15	
	DAI	N/A	Security Coordinator	4/1/15	
	DAI	N/A	Chawkidar	4/5/15	
	DAI	N/A	Chawkidar	4/5/15	

NAME	IP	STTA/ LTTA	POSITION	ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE
	DAI	N/A	Chawkidar	4/5/15	
	DAI	N/A	Chawkidar	4/5/15	
	DAI	N/A	B6 Driver	4/12/15	
	DAI	N/A	B6 Driver	4/12/15	
	DAI	N/A	Driver	4/16/15	
	DAI	N/A	Driver	4/16/15	
	DCA	N/A	Provincial Coordinator (Badakhshan)	4/21/15	
	JDA	N/A	Cook/ Cleaner	4/22/15	
	DAI	N/A	Driver	4/22/15	
	DAI	N/A	Driver	4/22/15	
	DAI	N/A	Driver	4/22/15	
	DAI	N/A	Driver	4/22/15	
	ACDI/VOCA	N/A	Admin Training Specialist	4/26/15	
	DAI	N/A	Procurement and Grants Assistant	4/26/15	
	DAI	N/A	Provincial Implementation Manager		4/28/15
	DAI	N/A	Provincial Implementation Manager		4/28/15
	DAI	N/A	Regional Manager		4/28/15
	DAI	N/A	Finance Assistant	5/3/15	
	ACDI/VOCA	N/A	Senior Business Development Specialist	5/10/15	
	ACDI/VOCA	N/A	Senior Finance and Admin Manager	5/10/15	5/21/15
	JDA	N/A	HR Assistant	5/11/15	
	DCA	N/A	Regional Admin Manager	5/17/15	
	JDA	N/A	Security Officer	5/17/15	
	DAI	N/A	Security Operations Officer	5/17/15	
	DAI	N/A	B6 Driver	5/17/15	
	DAI	N/A	B6 Driver	5/17/15	
	DAI	N/A	B6 Driver	5/17/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Samangan	5/20/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Samangan	5/20/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Samangan	5/20/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Samangan	5/20/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Baghlan	5/20/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Baghlan	5/20/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Baghlan	5/20/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Baghlan	5/20/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Jawzjan	5/25/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Jawzjan	5/25/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Jawzjan	5/25/15	

NAME	IP	STTA/ LTTA	POSITION	ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE
	DAI	N/A	Driver	5/31/15	
	JDA	N/A	Guard – Jawzjan	6/11/15	
	JDA	N/A	M&E Specialist		6/15/15

### Adaption of the Activity

Several of CLIN 3's activities that were originally planned to be completed by the end of the third quarter will take place in the fourth quarter (July-September) or have been rescheduled to FY2016. These activities are listed below with short explanations provided in italic.

#### Activity 3.2: Increase the availability of feed and fodder

- Sub-activity 1: Promote production of natural forage crops  
*This has been rescheduled as a Year 2 activity to allow enough time for CLIN 3 to assess current feed and fodder actors in its target districts and then select viable candidates to receive project support. It will also reach out to CLINs 1 and 2 to coordinate on fodder production (cottonseed, alfalfa, etc.) for livestock and intercropping.*
- Sub-activity 3: Establish three new feed banks
  - Demonstrate feed banks services to new RADP-N beneficiaries
  - Assess market viability of various types of feed for new RCC beneficiaries
  - Establish three new feed banks  
*These activities' design will stem from the assessment of feed and fodder actors mentioned in Sub-activity 1. Their success will determine the need for new feed banks and, if yes, where. As such CLIN 3 intends to postpone the third bullet point to Year 3.*
- Sub-activity 4: Facilitate the development of market systems for processed feed
  - Identify sellers of different types of feed available to new feed banks
  - Facilitate sales to feedback to establish community-to-feed producer linkages  
*These activities will be developed according to the feed and fodder assessment results.*

#### Activity 3.4: Increase management and technical capacity of agribusinesses

- Sub-activity 1: Provide technical assistance, training, and funding to existing and aspiring entrepreneurs
  - Conduct ToF on SRHHP
  - Assess viability of re-establishing a CCP
  - Re-establish CCP
  - Identify meat slaughtering improvement opportunities
  - Develop training curricula to improve meat handling sanitation practices
  - Train butchers in meat processing practices  
*CLIN 3 staff implemented its karakul training activity in April, which was not originally planned. As such the above six bullet points were rescheduled to the fourth quarter.*

### Modifications and Amendments

RADP-North submitted an updated draft of its proposed Technical Deliverables and Milestones revisions on May 16. The changes coincided with USAID's comments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the baseline survey report as well as feedback received during meetings at Camp Marmal on May 4 & 20. USAID sent questions on June 8 and RADP-North submitted a revised draft on June 27.

# **ANNEX I: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE**

Please see the attached Excel document to view RADP-North's actual achievements versus targets for its performance indicators.

# **ANNEX II: ENVIROMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORT**

Please see the attached Excel document.

# **ANNEX III: GRANTS REPORT**

Please see the attached Excel document.

# **ANNEX IV: CLIN SURVEYS**

Please see the attached pdf documents for full copies of CLINs' beneficiary- and/or activity-related assessments conducted during the reporting period.

# **ANNEX V: RADP-NORTH ACTIVITIES AS OF 30 JUNE 2015**

Please see the attached Excel document.