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INCENTIVES DRIVING ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES—NORTH, EAST AND WEST (IDEA-NEW)

MONTHLY REPORT: MARCH 2012



MARCH 2012

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ACRONYMS

AAP	Annual Activity Plan	IVR	Interactive Voice Response
ADP	Alternative Development Program	JDA	Joint Development Associates
AGE	Anti-Government Elements	KTD	Key Terrain District
ACCI	Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries	LOP	Life of Project
AISA	Afghanistan Investment Support Agency	MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy	m	Meter
ASAP	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ASMED	Afghanistan Small and Medium Enterprise Development	MCN	Ministry of Counter Narcotics
AOI	Area of Interest	MHP	Micro-Hydro Power
CCI	Community Constructed Infrastructure	MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
CDC	Community Development Council	MPW	Ministry of Public Works
CoMo	Community Mobilization	MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
CDF	Commercial Demonstration Farm	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CfW	Cash-for-Work	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CNTF	Counter Narcotics Trust Fund	NSP	National Solidarity Program
COIN	Counter Insurgency	NTA	Nangarhar Talc Association
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.	NVDA	Nangarhar Valley Development Authority
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan	PDC	Provincial Development Council
DDA	District Development Authority	PO	Purchase Order
DoPW	Department of Public Works	PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
DOWA	Department of Women's Affairs	PSP	Private Sector Partner
EMS	Environmental Management System	RCC	Reinforced Cement Concrete
FTE	Full-time Equivalent	RFA	Request for Application
GDA	Global Development Alliance	RMHC	Rabia Mariam Handicraft Co.
GIRoA	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	SDF	Small Demonstration Farm
GME	Gender & Micro Enterprise	SPF	Small Production Farm
ha	Hectare/s	TIMER	Technology Innovations for Market-Led Economic Rehabilitation
IP	Implementing Partner	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force	USG	United States' Government
		VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
		2WT	Two-wheeled tractors

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MARCH 2012

EASTERN REGION

LAGHMAN, NANGARHAR, NURISTAN AND KUNAR PROVINCES

Started: The Sada Branch Canal is designed to irrigate over 1,500 jeribs of land, serving the farms of about 450 families, and flowing through three different villages.

Completed: Shenkorak Kariz Improvement project is located in Shegal district of Kunar, which was designed to irrigate over 1,000 jeribs of land serving the farms of about 1,070 families and flows through six different villages.

In progress: During the reporting period a total of 41,981 table eggs were produced in 30 women-owned farms and all were sold in local market that generated 230,895.5 AFN to women farmers.

Kabul AgFair: IDEA-NEW supported businesses from the eastern region that participated in the Kabul Agfair. During the AgFair different businesses facilitated new business agreements and found costumers for their products.

Sorkhrud Packing Facility: The IDEA-NEW pack house facility was officially handed over to TAK DANA, a private local company. During the ceremony different governmental officials participated in which thanked IDEA-NEW for supporting businesses.

Completed: A six-month English and computer training was successfully completed for 12 staff members of the economic directorate of Laghman.

Completed: A one-year long English training was completed for six staff members of NCCI (Nangarhar Chamber of Commerce and Industries) in Nangarhar.

NORTHERN REGION

BALKH, FARYAB, JAWZJAN, SAMANGAN AND SARI PUL PROVINCES

Started: Weed control field days targeting 207 participants at 30 annual crops training plots.

In Progress: A total of 14 new vineyards were converted into the new trellising system in Sari Pul, Faryab, and Samangan provinces.

In Progress: Training of pesticide 47 retailers in sprayers and spray application .

In Progress: Distributed 7,600 saplings(apples, almonds, apricots and cherries) to 95 farmers in Faryab province.

Completed: Training in vineyard management and pruning for 95 participants including 71 vineyard owners, 9 DAIL Extension staff, 9 agricultural retailers, and 5 students plus one faculty member from the Agricultural Department of Balkh University.

Completed: Silkworm rearing training for a total of 1,000 women in all five provinces.

NORTHEASTERN REGION

BADAKHSHAN, KUNDUZ, TAKHAR AND BAGHLAN PROVINCES

Beneficiary Selection: Staff continue to work with shuras and CDCs to identify beneficiaires for 2012 agriculture and livestock projects in all provinces. This period 2,606 beneficiaries were selected for a wide variety of activities, including spring vegetables, summer vegetables, beekeeping, orchard management, and the women's poultry project.

Voucher distribution: Distribution is underway and staff are working to distribute vouchers for selected beneficiaries. In this period a total of 843 farmers received vouchers for spring vegetables seeds, fruit tree pruning, and orchard establishment.

Orchard Management: Overall 744 orchards were pruned across all four provinces and more than 340 farmers received technical pruning training.

Women's Poultry Project: IDEA-NEW staff selected 160 new beneficiaries for the poultry project and trained 197 ongoing beneficiaries this period.

Women's Savings Groups: In the reporting period, 600 women participated in Community-based Savings Groups (CBSGs). The amount women contribute varies from a minimum of 50 AFN to up to 800 AFN per session. The average amount saved is about \$10 per person.

Farmer's Day celebration: 115 shovels, 10 wheelbarrows, 100 pickaxes, and 85 rakes were provided to DAII to celebrate Farmer's Day.

WESTERN REGION

HIRAT AND BADGHIS PROVINCES

Completed: Alanjan Canal Structures Improvement project, which is located in Injeel district of Hirat, benefits around 1,000 families in 15 different villages and irrigates 10,400 jeribs of land.

Completed: Tezan Canal Structures Improvement project is located in Guzara district of Hirat, benefits 1,250 families, and irrigates 33,750 jeribs of land.

Completed: Odwan Canal Structures Improvement project was designed to irrigate 44,450 jeribs of land benefiting 1,500 families; the main crops grown in this system are wheat, corn, rice, cotton, seasonal vegetables, and various kinds of orchards.

VALUE CHAIN INTERVENTIONS

GRAPE VALUE CHAIN

Grape trellising, along with appropriate crop management, can double or triple production in a traditional Afghan vineyard in three years. Most traditional grape growing areas in Afghanistan now have established and productive trellised vineyards and a private agribusiness sector just beginning to develop as a provider of key inputs and services crucial to continued expansion of trellised vineyards. There are opportunities for IDEA-NEW interventions in the value chain because Afghan grape productivity remains relatively low, prices for grapes are high, feasible technical solutions exist to further increase productivity, and large numbers of rural Afghan households depend on grapes as a cash crop.

DAI Eastern Region

No updates this reporting period.

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region

Vineyard Trellising Program

An international viticulture consultant provided theoretical and practical training on vine pruning and canopy management for both the T and I system of trellising. A total of 95 persons, including farmers, agricultural retailers, DAII extension workers, and students of Balkh Agriculture Faculty received this training in Faryab, Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Samangan provinces. Based on the the technical consultant's recommendations, a workplan to implement the pruning and canopy management techniques in the field



Photo: Supervision of trellis post installation – Sozma Qala, Sari Pul

was prepared and pruning at 10 vineyard demonstration plots was completed, eight plots in Faryab and two in Jawzjan. A total of 24 neighboring vineyard owners participated in the pruning of the plots and practically learned how to prune and train trellised vines. These farmers are expected to adopt the techniques in their own trellised vineyards.

In Faryab, eight new vineyards measuring 1.4 ha and using 806 posts have been trellised in Maymana, Shirin Tagab and Qaysar districts. Seven new vineyards have been surveyed for trellising in Shirin Tagab and Maymana districts and a total of 386 trellis posts have been transported to the locations.

In Samangan, two new vineyards measuring 0.36 ha and using 360 posts have been converted to the new trellising system in Hazrati Sultan district. Two new vineyards measuring 0.25 ha have been surveyed for trellis installation in Feroz Nakhchir district.

In Sari Pul, four new vineyards measuring 0.7 ha and using 511 posts have been converted to the new trellising system in Sangcharak district. Post installation has been completed in five vineyards in Sozma Qala district using a total of 854 trellis posts. The wiring of these vineyards will be completed during the next reporting period.

In order to expand the trellising program in Sari Pul province, three days of training was provided to the Sari Pul district agriculture retailer for post lay out, installation, and wiring. The trained agricultural retailer has since surveyed two new vineyards in Sari Pul center and 137 trellis posts have been transported to the location.

So far, 16.96 hectares of land have been trellised in Faryab, Samangan and Sari Pul provinces.

In support of the Vineyard Trellising project, four private businesses have been established to manufacture the required concrete posts. Trellis post production with project support and supervision has continued at two plants in Faryab and Sari Pul provinces. Production at the plant in Maimana, Faryab province, has stopped as the trellising season in the area has ended, while project support has been withdrawn for the plant in Samangan province, with the plant continuing on a fully commercial basis.

The following table gives details of the posts produced during this reporting period:

Plant Name	Province	Current Purchase Order #	Number of posts by PO	Produced Posts Mar. 1-31, 2012	Status	Total produced post to Feb. 29, 2012
Maymana	Faryab				No purchase order.	5,030
Qaysar	Faryab	3	700	520	Production was resumed by the end	2,110

					of February.	
Feroz Nakhchir	Samangan	N/A	N/A	N/A	Direct project support has been withdrawn, since IDEA-NEW has achieved its targeted hectares of trellising.	9,260
Sangcharak	Sari Pul	4	640	340	All production under 3 rd PO was completed and the 4 th PO was signed.	2,540
Total						18,940

ORCHARD CROP VALUE CHAIN

IDEA-NEW interventions in the orchard crop value chain (citrus and stone fruit in the eastern region, stone fruit, almonds, and pomegranate in the central region, and apples and stone fruit in the northeastern region) are important because Afghan fruit and nut productivity is low, farm gate prices for fruits and nuts are high, feasible technical solutions exist to increase productivity, and large numbers of rural Afghan households depend on fruits and nuts as a cash crop.

DAI Eastern Regions

Orchard Development Program

During the reporting period, 48.5 jerib orchards were sprayed using winter oil in collaboration of Ag. Depots in Khogiani district of Nangarhar. To date 724.5 jeribs (144.9 ha) of stone fruit orchards have been sprayed by 2,000 liters of winter oil via Ag. Depot members for a 200 AFN per Jerib fee in various districts of the region. The activity was stopped due to the buds sprouting.



Photo: Winter oil spraying for pest control, Khogiani district, Nangarhar.

Nursery Development Program

Different varieties of fruit and forestry seedlings were planted in three commercial nurseries established in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar provinces. 63 kg of seed of stone fruit (apricot, almond, and peach) were also planted. A total of 250 labels were tagged in Nangarhar and Kunar.

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region

Perennial Crops

Other donors and agencies are active in development of the perennial crops value chain in the North Central Region, with the exception of Faryab province. To introduce a wider range of fruit crops in Faryab, IDEA-NEW is establishing 50 ha of new commercial orchards of 0.2ha each for farmers, including almond, apricot, cherry and apple.

The planting process was completed and a total of 95 farmers received saplings during this month. In total, 200 fruit orchards, each measuring 0.2 ha, have been established in Shirin Tagab (26), Khwaja Sabz Posh (63), Pashtun Kot (45), Bilchiragh (17) and Qaysar (49) districts, and a total of 16,000 improved-variety saplings have been distributed together with the required amount of DAP fertilizer. The saplings include apples, almonds, apricots, and cherries. The planting of the saplings was done under the direct supervision of the agriculture team, who will also provide the newly-planted orchards and their owners with extension support, including provision of Lucerne seed for inter-cropping.



Photo: Distribution of saplings to the farmers– Pashtun Kot, Faryab

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Orchard Management

In the orchard management project, farmers use the voucher system to purchase pruning services and fertilizer. Farmers with existing orchards also receive training in pruning, irrigation, integrated pest management, basin digging, composting and marketing. Through the voucher system, farmers are linked with master pruners with whom they can maintain a relationship for future pruning.

The orchard management project is ongoing and during the month of March most of the pruning training was conducted or co-facilitated by the Private Sector Partners (PSPs) under the supervision of IDEA-NEW technical staff. Overall, 744 orchards were pruned in all four provinces and more than 340 farmers received technical training. In Badakhshan PSPs pruned 234 orchards in Kishem, Baharak, Argo, Jurm, Wardoi, Shuhada, Faizabad and Tishkan districts. In Baghlan, 140 orchards were pruned by four PSP pruners in Puli Khumri, Baghlan Jaded, Bano and Dehsallah districts. In addition, more than 140 farmers were trained by PSP master pruners in these same locations. In Takhar, PSPs pruned 170 orchards and 200 interested farmers participated in a practical training session. In Kunduz, 200 orchards were pruned and 50 additional orchards are on hold due to sprouting and flowering caused by the warm weather. In Kunduz there are plans to train beneficiaries to undertake post-blooming activities on their own, such as lime application, channel preparation, post-blooming fungicide application and application of fertilizers.

Orchard Establishment

Farmers dedicate one jerib of irrigated land to a new orchard and are interested in a new business activity with fruit plantations. The farmers are committed to attending trainings and undertaking the aftercare of the new orchards, and contribute to the cost of inputs through the voucher system. Farmers in the orchard establishment project purchase high quality Perennial Horticulture Development Program (PHDP) certified saplings, secateurs, barbed wire and chemical fertilizers including DAP and Urea. Barbed wire keeps the young trees safe from grazing animals.

During the reporting period, 243 fruit orchards were established, more than 160 farmers were trained, and greater linkages were established between private sector partners and farmers. Ongoing monitoring of saplings and select farmers' land has continued throughout the reporting period.

In Badakhshan, IDEA-NEW technical staff established 48 fruit orchards in Baharak and Faizabad districts. PSP members were present during the orchard design process. IDEA-NEW technical teams linked farmers with five local PSPs, facilitating farmers to purchase 3,360 saplings.

In Baghlan, voucher distribution for the orchard establishment project was completed with 58 vouchers distributed. In addition, 103 new orchards' layout and design were facilitated by the IDEA-NEW agriculture team in conjunction with PSPs in Puli Khumri, Baghlan Jaded, Bano, and Dehsallah districts. In these locations, 60 new orchards were established.

In Takhar, 160 interested farmers participated in orchard establishment training. They learned proper layout and how to plant saplings. IDEA-NEW agriculture staff monitored farmers' activities and are available to provide assistance to PSPs in need of technical support.

In Kunduz, 135 new orchards were established. IDEA-NEW staff helped farmers to deal with challenges and learn new skills, such as properly preparing irrigation channels and using correct pruning techniques. The agriculture team visited 20-25 new orchards, which are complete and in good condition.

VEGETABLE VALUE CHAIN

Since the beginning of the program, IDEA-NEW has trained more than 90,000 farmers in improved vegetable techniques, which has resulted in dramatic increases to productivity and household income. This broad promotion of improved practices also stimulated agricultural input suppliers to stock and sell a much wider selection of seed and chemicals than they did five years ago. Yet, traditional, low-input, low-yield vegetable production still prevails throughout the country. There are opportunities for IDEA-NEW to intervene in the vegetable value chain as feasible technical solutions exist to increase productivity and large numbers of rural Afghan households depend on fresh vegetable production as a cash crop.

DAI Eastern Regions

Commercial and Small Production Farms Program

The first staggering planting of Spring-Summer season 2012 crops (tomato, eggplant, pepper, squash, watermelon, green bean, and cucumber) was started. During the reporting period 45 nurseries were established and to date 145 field nurseries were established in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar provinces.

Field lay-out, fertilization, soil preparation, direct seeding, and transplanting continued for Spring- Summer season crops. To date 60 out of 230 Small Production Farms (SPFs) have been established in 28 districts of eastern region.

Training activities also continued for Fall - Winter & Spring -Summer seasons crops. During the reporting period 95 field days were



Photo: Farmers get training on land preparation and field lay out, Chowkai

conducted in which 1,624 farmers of CPFs & SPFs were trained on modern techniques in 25 districts of three provinces. 672 farmers were trained under REVAMP and intercrop SPFs programs during 40 field days districts of the region. To date 1,177 out 1500 farmers have been trained.

Mercy Corps Northeast Region

In this reporting period 785 vouchers were distributed to farmers in all four provinces for spring vegetable seeds such as tomato, onion, cucumber, and okra. Farmers will purchase certified seeds from local PSPs while taking part in trainings facilitated by IDEA-NEW and the PSPs.

Spring Vegetables Cultivation Project

In Badakhshan the IDEA-NEW team distributed 250 vouchers for onion, okra, and cucumber seeds. In Kunduz, 146 vegetable seed vouchers were distributed. In Takhar 389 vouchers for cucumber, tomato, and onion seeds were distributed. 120 onion plots were cultivated in Puli Khumri and Baghlan Jaded districts by the agriculture team. Also ongoing monitoring of onion plots has been continued, with the team visiting 80 onion cultivation plots in Puli Khumri and Baghlan Jaded districts.

Vegetables Demo plots

Within this reporting period the selection of beneficiaries has been completed in Takhar (four farmers in four districts: Taloqan, Baharak, Bangi and Farkhar) for the design and planting of demo plots of cucumber, squash, tomato, pepper, and okra. In Badakhshan IDEA-NEW's technical team selected eight farmers for demo-plots in Baharak, Jurm, Faizabad, and Argo districts.

Strawberry Demo plots

Within this reporting period the selection of beneficiaries has been completed (four farmers in four districts: Taloqan, Baharak, Bangi and Farkhar) in Takhar province.

TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN

IDEA-NEW has initiated support to rural entrepreneurs who want to restore their ancestral businesses of weaving shawls, scarves, and bulk wool cloth for hat and traditional apparel production.. The current demand for these products is five times greater than can be supplied by established workshops, all of which are working at full capacity. Therefore, IDEA-NEW's intervention in the textile value chain is important because there is a strong and unmet regional demand for the shawls and cloth that can be produced, a large pool of interested Afghans who want to start or expand their weaving business, and feasible technical solutions exist to increase production volume and quality.

DAI Eastern Region

The textile washing and pressing facility pressed and dyed 7,800 scarves which were woven by individual textile companies and weavers in Kama, Dari-Noor, Rodat, and Bihsud districts of Nangarhar. This facility is now completely sustainable and serving for local textile weavers.

Operation of five in-kind grants supported textile factories and six through direct implementation supported textile factories in Kama, Rodat, and Bihsud district continued well. These factories produce scarves and women shawls for the summer season and are generating good profit. An average of 25,000 AFN/month net profit earned by each factory. These factories are working for the sustainability of the

textile sub-sector, increase the throughputs of textile washing and pressing facility and increase the production of textile products for local market.

POULTRY VALUE CHAIN

IDEA-NEW intervention in the poultry value chain is important because Afghan poultry production is small in comparison to Pakistani imports but it is competitive in price and quality; many farmers are interested in raising broilers. Hence, there exists rapidly growing demand for birds and production assistance as imports are replaced with domestic production.

IDEA-NEW has established 79 broiler farms in the eastern region and other broiler farmers have learned from the farmers who have received training from IDEA-NEW and now are adopting the production efficiencies promoted by the program. However, challenges still exist in providing cost-effective inputs to broiler producers. Broiler farmers are vulnerable to the cross-border transport problems that affect the supply of day-old chicks and also to production problems stemming from inconsistent quality and pricing of Pakistan-sourced broiler feed. While these challenges cannot be removed entirely, they can be mitigated by supporting alternatives to these problematic components of the value chain.

DAI Eastern Regions

6,000 breeder chicks were arrived on December 30, 2011 to Hedayat Barakat breeder farm and the ongoing rearing week was 13th one. During the reporting period the required vaccine of IB88+ IBD killed and AE live were applied and up to now the mortality rate is 3.7% in the breeder farm. These chicks will produce the fertile eggs for the production of broiler day old chicks and will be distributed to local poultry farms in the eastern region.



Photo: IDEA-NEW poultry doctor visits a hatchery for checking the fertility of eggs, Surobee district, Kabul.

6,500 breeder chicks were arrived on August 17, 2011 to Nangarhar breeder farm, the ongoing rearing week is 33rd week, and the mortality rate is 10.1%. This breeder farm started the production of fertile eggs and till now the production is around 70%. During this reporting period a total of 94,553 fertile eggs were produced and 89,280 were transferred to Serobi hatchery for the production of broiler day old chicks for the local poultry farmers. The additional 7,920 fertile eggs were sold on Mazar-i-Sharif hatchery for 13 AFN which generated 102,960 AFN to NBF. The breeder farm also sold 54,074 day old chicks in local market per chick for 20 AFN that generated a total of 1,081,480 AFN for Nangrahar Breeder Farm.

Six broiler farmers put 18,600 broiler day old chicks in their farms located in Achin, Ghanikhail, Khewa and Chaperhar districts of Nangarhar. These farms were established with IDEA-NEW assistance and are sustainable.

Six broiler farmers in Ghanikhel, Dara-i-Noor, and Kuz Kunar districts of Nangarhar and Qarghayee district of Laghman sold their 15,600 broiler chicks in local market and each farmer received an average 54,000 AFN net profit. IDEA-NEW is technically supporting these poultry farms.

IDEA-NEW poultry specialist visited two poultry breeder farms and helped the farmers technically regarding feed, lighting system, and vaccination method. This is the normal visits of IDEA-NEW poultry doctors that they help the local poultry farmers technically in eastern region.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

During the reporting period 160 women were selected as poultry beneficiaries and 197 women received training in poultry rearing and coop design.

In Badakhshan province, 80 women were selected as poultry beneficiaries in Hisary village of Faizabad district. In Baghlan province's Puli Khumri and Baghlan Jaded districts, IDEA-NEW staff assisted 80 women beneficiaries with coop design and construction. Coops are 2.5 m long and 2 m wide with one window and one door. In Takhar province, with the support of CDCs, IDEA-NEW staff identified 80 potential poultry beneficiaries in two areas of Taloqan district, Nahre Sayd district, and Khetayan district, for a total of five villages. These villages are all relatively close to the main Taloqan market, which will cut down on transportation costs for the women. Takhar's poultry team started conducting training in Ganj, Ali Bek, and Eshan Oeshlag villages for 32 select beneficiaries. The training will take place over 10 days in which participants will learn about the importance of improved poultry breeds, the role of balanced feed for egg production, vaccinations, feeding and drinking systems, and hatching eggs by traditional methods. In addition, poultry team members helped beneficiaries to select the locations and layouts for coops, which will be built from local materials. In Kunduz, poultry training began in Alia Abad district and Kunduz city center for 85 beneficiaries. Coop construction plans have been designed and all 85 women have begun building coops with support from IDEA-NEW staff.

HONEY VALUE CHAIN

IDEA-NEW intervention in the honey value chain is important because Afghan honey productivity is low, domestic demand is high, and farm gate prices for honey are high. Feasible technical solutions exist to increase productivity, and honey production can provide supplemental income to thousands of households situated in the many tree-fruit growing areas of the country where bees can play a key role in the pollination of fruit trees—sometimes doubling yields. Although the Northeast has a suitable climate and terrain for beekeeping, few beekeepers exist in the region and those fail to meet the local demand, mainly due to a lack of improved honey production techniques and processing knowledge.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Beneficiary Selection

80 new beekeeping beneficiaries were selected during the reporting period. In Takhar, 30 new beekeeping beneficiaries were selected in Kalafgan district and 50 beneficiaries were selected in Farkhar district. Plans to implement this project with an additional 50 beneficiaries in Khodesh district were thwarted due to an armed clash and increasing insecurity in the area. The district Governor chose Khaf dara village in the same district as the new implementation location, but beneficiaries have not yet been selected.

Input Suppliers

In the reporting period, IDEA-NEW staff met with local beekeeping cooperatives and signed contracts to provide inputs for beneficiaries. In Baghlan two expert beekeepers were identified and IDEA-NEW will work closely with them. In Kunduz, a technical workshop about bee rearing systems, bee disease diagnosis, treatment of disease, and medication was conducted for three beekeeping PSPs, three VFUs,

and four IDEA-NEW staff to increase their technical capacity, with the aim to spread this information to farmers.

WHEAT VALUE CHAIN

Most wheat is grown for household consumption, and for that reason, it will always be a major crop. Oilseeds (flax, sesame, safflower, and canola) produce oilcake and vegetable oil, which are also in high demand. As access to markets improves, there will be an opportunity to encourage diversification into these more drought-resistant crops. IDEA-NEW intervention in the staple crop wheat and oilseed value chain is important because Afghan crop productivity is low, there are substantial imports of wheat and oil to make up for low productivity in Afghanistan, feasible technical solutions exist to increase productivity, and nearly all rural Afghan households depend on their own wheat production—and to a lesser extent oilseed—for a part of their household diet.

DAI Eastern Regions

Training activities continued in wheat CPFs in which 15 farmers were trained. To date a total 440 out of 750 farmers have been trained on modern techniques.

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region

Training of Farmers on Improved Agronomy of Annual Crops (2011-2012)

Planting field days were conducted at four annual crops training plots located in Balkh, Sangcharak, Pashtun Kot, and Bilchiragh districts, and were attended by a total of 388 farmers. These planting field days are one of the important stages of the annual crop development program and have now been completed in all 30 training plots established for the current growing season.

With the completion of planting field days, weed control field days have commenced. Three weed control field days were conducted in Kaldar and Khulm districts of Balkh province and in Aybak district of Samangan province. A total of 207 farmers attended the field days which covered types of weeds, impact of weeds, methods of weed management, using sprayers, and practical demonstration of spraying by farmers.

The sowing of later-planted crops continued in the training plots. Chickpea, lentil, and flax were sown at the plots located in Khulm, Kaldar, Balkh and Dihdadi districts of Balkh province, Khwaja Do Koh, Shibirghan, Fayzabad and Aqcha districts of Jawzjan province, Feroz Nakhchir district of Samangan province, and Khwaja Sabz Posh district of Faryab province.

Conservation Tillage Training

A total of seven one ha training plots have been established, three in Balkh, one in Faryab, two in Jawzjan and one in Samangan province, under a sub-award with JDA for the annual crops development program. The zero-tillage seed drill with the mulch management machine will be assessed at JDA's hub locations.

The agriculture team monitored the growth the zero-tillage demonstration plots and they are in normal status of growth.

The following table shows details of this program:

Demo Plot Location	District	Province	Type of Land	ha in Zero-tillage Seed Drill (Plowed and unplowed)	Ha in Bed Planter (Plowed)
Damulla Lashkari	Khulm	Balkh	Semi-irrigated	0.4	0.2
Oljattoo	Khulm	Balkh	Rainfed	0.6	0
Shirabad	Dihdadi	Balkh	Rainfed	0.6	0
Khwaja Paitakht	Maymana	Faryab	Rainfed		
Arab Qorloq	Khwaja Do Koh	Jawzjan	Semi-irrigated	0.6	0
Sansiz	Fayzabad	Jawzjan	Semi-irrigated	0.4	0.2
Larghan	Aybak	Samangan	Rainfed	0.6	0

Small-scale Mechanization (Provision of Subsidized 2WTs)

Three farmers, two from Shibirghan district of Jawzjan and one from Kaldar district of Balkh bought subsidized 2WTs from IDEA-NEW. The 2WTs were handed over to them after they had received the required five days of operation and maintenance training. In addition, two reapers were also sold at a subsidized price to two farmers in Jawzjan province.

Since the start of the 2WT program, 157 farmers have bought 2WTs at a subsidized price and been trained in operation and maintenance.



Photo: Two Wheel Tractor Training – Shibirghan, Jawzjan

Establishment of 25 Maintenance and Repair Workshops for 2WTs

IDEA-NEW has contracted Osiyo Hamkorlik Company (OHC) to establish 25 privately owned and managed repair and maintenance workshops in the region to support farmers who invest in 2WTs. OHC completed the 7th series of the supervision visits to all workshops in 25 districts of the five provinces on March 5, 2012. The sales report show that the 25 workshops had sales revenue of 83,641 AFN during the previous two month period.

The IDEA-NEW agriculture officer visited and supervised the 2WT repair workshop in Aybak district of Samangan province. The work progress and services provided to the 2WT owners were checked. The workshop had sales revenue of 15,000 AFN from selling of spare parts and repairing 2WTs.

SILK VALUE CHAIN

Household silk production is a traditional activity in the northern region, where the silk is processed and used to manufacture carpets and textiles. Silk production is an ideal activity for increasing the incomes of poor households because production costs are low and a family may, for six weeks' work, earn enough to ensure their food security for the whole year. It is also a great multiplier of employment, creating work for spinners, dyers, weavers, carpet makers, and garment makers. All of these jobs are suitable for women and others who, for any reason such as disability, are unable to do heavy manual work. IDEA-NEW intervention in the silk value chain is important because Afghan silk productivity is low, there is a strong demand in the regional carpet and textile industry, feasible technical solutions exist to increase productivity, and silk production provides rural Afghan women with employment that is both profitable and culturally appropriate.

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region Silkworm Rearing Training for Women

The project aims to train 1,000 women within four months (from Feb 1, 2012 to May 31, 2012) in the five Northern project provinces to rear silkworms and to produce raw silk cocoons.

Province	District	Village	Number of Trained Beneficiaries	End date of Training
Balkh	Dihdadi	Chardang	49	Feb. 23, 2012
Balkh	Dihdadi	Wardakabad	58	Feb. 28, 2012
Balkh	Dihdadi	Hazar Jerib	63	Mar. 09, 2012
Balkh	Dawlat Abad	Sadir Abad	49	Mar. 14, 2012
Samangan	Aybak cent	Joyzendan	56	Feb. 28, 2012
Samangan	Aybak cent	IshanQeshlaq	48	Mar. 09, 2012
Samangan	Aybak cent	Khoja Esmail	17	Mar. 14, 2012
Samangan	Aybak cent	Dari Zendan	10	Mar. 14, 2012
Jawzjan	Shibirghan	Morghab	25	Feb. 23, 2012
Jawzjan	Shibirghan	Kilik&Ghora	25	Feb. 28, 2012
Jawzjan	Shibirghan	Nawabad	27	Mar. 04, 2012
Jawzjan	Shibirghan	Arabkhana	23	Mar. 09, 2012
Jawzjan	Aqcha	Qomarigh	25	Mar. 09, 2012
Jawzjan	Fayzabad	Sanses	48	Mar. 14, 2012
Jawzjan	Mangajek	Charchangho	50	Mar. 14, 2012

Jawzjan	Shibirghan	Aqcha	26	Mar. 09, 2012
SariPul	Sari Pul	Yakabdasht	25	Feb. 23, 2012
SariPul	Sari Pul	Asia Abad	25	Feb. 28, 2012
SariPul	Sari Pul	Afardi	50	Mar. 04, 2012
SariPul	Sari Pul	Silbordkocha	25	Mar. 09, 2012
SariPul	Sari Pul	Ochikhord	75	Mar. 14, 2012
Faryab	Khwaja Sabz Posh	Namazjai	42	Feb. 23, 2012
Faryab	Khwaja Sabz Posh	Dehnaw	42	Feb. 28, 2012
Faryab	Khwaja Sabz Posh	Badghisi	100	Mar. 09, 2012
Faryab	Shirin Tagab	Gorziwan	17	Mar. 14, 2012
Total		25	1000	

Silkworm rearing training was completed by mid-March in all five provinces. A total of 1,000 women received five days of training on how to rear silkworm eggs to the cocoon stage. This includes sanitization of the room where silkworms are reared, incubation of silkworm eggs, mulberry leaf collection and cleaning, and the four stages of the silkworm life cycle (egg, larva, pupae and adult). All courses were regularly monitored and with the completion of training the project shows 50% progress. At the start of the silkworm production season in early April each trainee will be provided with one box of eggs.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Beneficiary Selection and Ongoing Support

In the Fabrika area of Baghlan Jaded district, 50 farmers were selected to participate in the silkworm rearing project, which will run from March 20th to July 20th. The silkworm rearing project is a quick income generation project with the goal of increasing cocoon production for the rearers. Each beneficiary will provide their own rearing tools and IDEA-NEW will provide support through training. In Kunduz, IDEA-NEW plans to hire four technical experts on a service contract to support the 600 ongoing beneficiaries. Government officials in both provinces have voiced support of the project.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVED

IDEA-NEW implements community-constructed infrastructure (CCI) projects that serve a two-fold purpose: to restore and build productive infrastructure, and to inject cash into local economies in unstable and insecure areas helping to reduce communities' reliance on illegal activities including narcotics and insurgency.

IDEA-NEW is actively working on 16 community-constructed infrastructure (CCI) projects throughout its areas of operation. It paid \$72,791 in wages and created more than 45 labor-intensive rural jobs. To date, the project has paid \$7 million in wages, creating 4,484 FTE jobs for local laborers on infrastructure projects.

DAI Eastern Regions CCI Summary Chart – March 2012

Province	Active Projects	Approved Projects	Completed Projects	Temporarily Stopped Projects	Cancelled Projects	Total Person-days	Total FTEs	Total Wages
Kunar	3	12	9	-	-	3,242	12.5	18,439
Laghman	1	8	7	-	-	2,118	8.14	12,429
Nangarhar	5	44	33	-	6	3,049	11.73	16,310
Nuristan	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Badghis	-	35	23	8	-	-	-	-
Hirat	-	4	4	-	-	2,572	9.9	20,122
Totals	9	104	77	8	6	10,981	42.27	67,300

The projects in Badghis province are temporarily stopped due to winter weather:

Completed: Alanjan Canal Structures Improvement project

The project, which is located in Injeel district of Herat province, benefits around 1,000 families in 15 different villages and irrigates 10,400 jeribs of land.

Completed: Tezan Canal Structures Improvement project

It is located in Guzara district of Herat province which benefits 1,250 families and irrigates 33,750 jeribs of land. The project built following structures:

- A total of 1,479 meters length of intake and canal protection walls
- Five small weir structures
- One spill way
- A control gate

Completed: Odwan Canal Structures Improvement project

The project is designed to irrigate 44,450 jeribs of land benefiting 1,500 families; the main crops grown in this system are wheat, corn, rice, cotton, seasonal vegetables and various kinds of orchards.

Completed: Shenkorak Kariz Improvement project

It is located in Shegal district of Kunar province which was designed to irrigate over 1000jeribs of land serving the farms of about 1,070 families and flowing through six different villages in the district of Shegal. The project rehabilitated about 1300 m long underground irrigation channel channel for supplying the water to agricultural lands inside the villages.

Started: Sada Branch Canal :

The Sada branch canal irrigation system is located in Kama district of Nangarhar. The system is designed to irrigate over 1500 jeribs of land serving the farms of about 450 families and flowing in three different villages. The project will improve a 2,535 m length of branch canals and 21 number turnouts.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Province	Active Projects	Approved Projects	Completed Projects	Stopped Projects	Total Person-days	Total FTEs	Total Wages
Badakhshan	2	23	20	1	108	.42	1,069
Baghlan	0	40	40	1	-	-	-
Takhar	3	18	13	-	658	3	4,422
Kunduz	2	11	7	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	92	80	2	766	3.42	\$5,491

IRRIGATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Seven projects were ongoing during the month of March in Badakhshan, Takhar and Kunduz provinces, with no projects completed or starting during the month.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

GENDER

DAI Eastern Regions

Input distribution for women’s kitchen gardens was completed in which all 107 women beneficiaries received the respective inputs. Land preparation, lay-out, fertilization, and nursery establishment for kitchen garden plots started and to date 52 out of 107 kitchen garden farms have been laid-out.

IDEA-NEW supported 30 women layer farms in Ghanikhel, Khewa, Bihsud, Momandara, Rodat, and Noorgal districts of Nangarhar and Kunar. A total of 41,981 table eggs were produced in these farms and were sold in local markets, generating 230,895.5 AFN for women farmers.

Business Plan training under TARAQI SABA program was completed for 300 female high school students. 60 business plans were evaluated by a committee and 15 winners were selected for awards. IDEA-NEW plans to have a closing ceremony for this program.

IDEA-NEW facilitated the sale of 275 kg of fresh cheese that generated a total of 82,470 AFN net profit to eight local cheese centers that are located in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman. Also during this reporting period 10 female retail shopkeepers sold their goods in local market that generated an average 2,957 AFN net profit to each retailer.

Six female garment and finishing centers were established with in-kind grants from IDEA-NEW. Five existing centers sewed clothes for women and sold them in local markets, generating 5,144 AFN net profit to each center.

Soil preparation, animal manure application, seed preparation, lay out, sowing, and transplanting of cucumber, tomato, squash, and okra was finished in off season vegetable green houses. 30 out of 30 green houses were laid-out in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Women's Poultry Project

Beneficiary selection is ongoing, with 80 women selected in Hisary village of Faizabad district and another 80 potential poultry beneficiaries selected in two areas of Taloqan district, Nahre Sayd district and Khetayan district in Takhar province for the 2012 season. IDEA-NEW staff continue to provide ongoing support for the 2011 poultry project beneficiaries.

Community-Based Savings Groups Training

A total of 600 women are participating in savings groups. There is a large range of contributions coming in at each savings session, from the minimum of 50AFN to over 800 AFN. Women are beginning to save enough to make loans. One CBSG in Khasaba village, Yaftal Payeen district, Badakhshan province held a meeting and decided to give a 10,000 AFN loan from their group savings to support a fellow member who is suffering from kidney disease and needs additional money for treatment. CBSGs can serve to support the growth of members' businesses, but can also serve as social support network for members. The women are encouraged to invest in longer term assets, as well as using the fund to deal with emergencies such as this one.

Women's Home-based Greenhouse Project

Five greenhouses have been constructed in Kunduz province for women beneficiaries, with plans to expand to other areas. Four greenhouses have been built in Baghlan province. These greenhouses will also serve as demonstration greenhouses to teach others in the communities about the benefits of this type of agriculture production. Ongoing monitoring took place during March, with many of the greenhouses beginning to sprout vegetables.



Photo: Women kitchen garden operators get training on soil preparation and lay-out, Qarghayee district, Laghman.

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region

Establishment of 10 Village Milk Collection and Processing Centers

Supervision of the milk processing centers continued with visits to seven centers, Baba Evaz and Koshkak in Balkh, Emam Sahib in Sari Pul, Deh Now in Faryab and Ghazniqak and Joye Zendan in Samangan province. The centers have been active and the amount raw milk collected is increasing. A total of 19,027 liters of milk was collected from 458 members for 312,445 AFN (average 16.5 AFN per liter of milk). BLDU conducted a meeting with managers of all ten processing centers in which the representatives of IDEA-NEW were also present. The main purpose of the meeting was to work on a plan to improve the amount of milk collection.

The following table shows the amounts of milk collected and processed at each center.

Processing Center	District	Province	Milk Collected (liter)	Bulk Yogurt kg	Dairy Products Processed and Sold						
					Yogurt cup-400 gr	Yogurt Cup -200 gr	Chaka kg	Butter kg	Cheese kg	Butter milk (bottle)	Bulk Milk (liter)
Juee Zandan	Aybak	Samangan	1705		3420		30	2	30		97
Baba Evaz	Sholgara	Balkh	1085		1713		60	5	20		
Koushkak	Balkh	Balkh	3131		0		90		353		
Ghazniqak	Hazrati Sultan	Samangan	775	770	0						
Yank Ariq	Aqcha	Jawzjan	806		503						605
Scinsus	Fayzabad	Jawzjan	1359		2100		120				
DehNow	Khwaja Sabz Posh	Faryab	1240		3100						
Jamshidi	Pashtun Kot	Faryab	2280		5700						
Emam Sahib	Sari Pul	Sari Pul	1650		4100						
Yaka Bagh	Shibirghan	Jawzjan	4960		12388						
TOTAL	10		18,991	770	33,024	0	300	7	403	0	702

Cattle Management Training for 500 Women Member Dairy Farmers:

The house-to-house follow-up of women dairy farmers continued, as well as the upgrading of cowsheds, of which a total of 37 were completed during this month. So far 369 cowsheds out of 500 have been

upgraded, which includes installation of a lighting window, ventilator and mud plastering of the walls to prevent echo-parasites.

Cattle husbandry training for 50 women dairy farmers continued in Yaka Bagh milk processing center in Jawzjan. The training was supervised by IDEA-NEW agriculture officer. All trainees have been present and learning improved husbandry practices.



Photo: Woman receiving the cattle management training –Shibirghan, Jawzjan

Native Cattle Breed Improvement through AI:

A total of 38 cows were inseminated during this reporting period.

FMD Vaccination:

The third cycle of the vaccination campaign against foot and mouth disease began during the month in six of the ten centers, with a total of 878 cows vaccinated against FMD.

The following table includes details of achievements in each village milk processing center:

Center Name	Liters of Milk Collected	Price of Per Liter (AFN)	Total AFN Paid to the member	Members brought milk	Cattle Sheds Improved	Total Income (AFN)	Total Expenses (AFN)	Inseminated Cows
Juee Zandan	1705	14	23,870	50	3	48544	39620	0
Baba Evaz	1085	13	14,150	39	7	22917	21101	8
Koushkak	3131	16	50,096	60	0	72470	60096	4
Ghaznigak	775	15	11,625	13	10	13860	12125	0
Yank Ariq	806	14	11,284	46	0	15111	13344	0
Scinsus	1359	15	20,925	46	8	28200	26937	7
Deh Now	1240	25	31,000	15	4	46500	34574	2
Jamshidi	2280	20	25,600	75	0	91200	76600	15
Emam Sahib	1650	18	29,700	45	5	57400	48240	2
Yaka Bagh	4960	19	94,240	69	0	161044	144330	0
Totals	18,991	N/A	312,490	458	37	557,246	476,967	38

USG AND GIROA COORDINATION

DAI Eastern Regions

An Agriculture Project Integration Senior Officer presented a presentation on IDEA-NEW activities in MAIL and answered raised questions to the floor.

A workshop was held on sharing technical ideas for developing policies and strategies regarding horticulture programs. Nangarhar provincial governor advisor, Mr. Ghamsharik, welcomed the participants and said that Nangarhar is fortunate to have such an important workshop. He also promised that government staff will be at our disposal any time and will provide facilities.

IDEA-NEW Agriculture Project Integration Senior Officer also participated in Laghman Farmer's Day celebration and presented IDEA-NEW activities. Mr. Dawlatzai, provincial director of agriculture, thanked IDEA-NEW for good coordination and support.

IDEA-NEW agriculture team participated in a meeting with ACE, CHAMP and the Fruit Grower Association. The purpose of the meeting was to select the best commercial size growers for Farmer's Day and Ag fair of Kabul. Four of the best farmers were selected among 20 of the best producers of the eastern region.

Six of businesses support by IDEA-NEW in the eastern region participated in the Kabul Ag Fair.

During the Ag Fair businesses met, engaged in business deals and found customers for their products. For instance, the Herati Cashmere & Skin Processing Plant president visited textile booths and told the vendors that Herati Cashmere will deliver raw thread to their factories. After processing this thread into a product, they would be taken by Herati Cashmere & Skin Processing Plant. At the same time textile businesses supported by IDEA-NEW made a total of 99,000 AFN.

The IDEA-NEW pack house facility was officially handed over to TAK DANA, a private local company. During the ceremony different government officials participated and thanked IDEA-NEW for supporting businesses.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Baghlan IDEA-NEW staff participated in the Festival of Farmers and received an official letter of appreciation from DAIL and the Baghlan Governor's Office for IDEA-NEW's activities in the province.



Photo: Participants during Farmer's Day celebration, Laghman.



Photo: Ribbon cutting of Surkhrod Packing Facility, Surkhrod district,

IDEA-NEW's staff engineer in Takhar province attended a meeting with the provincial water management department on March 27, 2012. The meeting's purpose was to prepare for seasonal floods and discuss how to protect irrigation infrastructure from destruction and agricultural land from erosion.

Takhar's program manager attended a USAID meeting at the Takhar government meeting hall.

The Community Mobilization unit manager met with CDC members in Yrogtash and Badalashlog villages in Kalafgon district, Takhar province, regarding the distribution of agriculture vouchers.

Takhar's Community Mobilization unit manager met with the Farkhar district governor to discuss the problem with the women's beekeeping project (2011) in Naharab village, where vouchers were collected from the women and exchanged for cash.

A meeting was conducted with the Irrigation Department in Kunduz province, including the head of the Irrigation Department from Aliabad district, regarding program updates and better coordination for project implementation in Aliabad district.

A meeting was held with the Khan Abad DDA in Kunduz province to share information about the progress of agriculture business development projects in the Khan Abad district.

A meeting was held with the Iman Sahib DDA and CDC to share the new value chain approach for 2012.

Badakhshan staff met with USAID staff on March 5th and March 14th to discuss the status of activities and the Zardew canal handover.

IDEA-NEW Badakhshan met with the Narcotics Department to discuss implementation of alternative livelihoods projects in the province. All NGOs should coordinate these types of projects with the Narcotic Control Department and DAIL.

On March 14th, IDEA-NEW staff in Badakhshan met with the Baharak district governor and provincial council members to discuss the Sakha canal challenges and work progress.

On March 29th and 31st Badakhshan staff met with DAIL to discuss the handover of saplings to the department.

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region

On March 7th Mr. David Strine, Mr. George Melton and Mr. Mohammad Zia attended the monthly coordination meeting of the Agricultural Retailer Associations, held in the IDEA-NEW office.

On March 27th Regional Manager Dr. Andrew Harvey, Deputy Regional Manager Mr. Tony Treen and Program Manager Engineer Khalid participated in the celebration of Farmers' Day which was held by the Agriculture Department of Balkh in DAIL compound. On behalf of IDEA-NEW, Eng. Khalid gave a speech which was prepared by Dr. Harvey regarding the project's contribution in agriculture development sector in the region, especially Balkh province. At the end of the event, an appreciation letter was given to Dr. Harvey for his active



Photo: Dr. Harvey, IDEA-NEW North Regional Manager, receiving the appreciation letter— Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh.

contribution to agriculture development and maintaining a good coordination of the IDEA-NEW program with DAIL.

On March 27th the IDEA-NEW agriculture officer in Faryab province attended UNAMA Inter-Agency coordination meeting, during which the UNAMA security responsible updated NGOs about security issues. The NGOs representatives gave information about their projects and its whereabouts.

On March 12th the Community Development Officer attended the agriculture sector meeting in Jawzjan province in DAIL department. The CDO updated the participants about IDEA-NEW activities over the last month. At the end of the meeting, all NGOs representatives submitted their monthly reports to the responsible person.

On March 14th, based on a written invitation letter from Sari Pul DoE and Provincial Council, the CDO attended the coordination meeting held in Sari Pul provincial council office. All NGOs reported their activities during 2011 and gave information about the 2012 plan.

SUSTAINABILITY/CAPACITY BUILDING

DAI Eastern Regions

Accounting trainer for SMEs visited 12 textile factories in Kama, Rodat and Bihsud districts of Nangarhar to ensure they keep their financial records. The owners of these SMEs had been trained theoretically about accounting and bookkeeping and now they have received a practical training on it. The prime objective of this program is to improve the financial management system of the SMEs and poultry farms in the eastern region.

A six-month English and computer training course was successfully completed for 12 staff members of the economics directorate of Laghman province. Also a one-year long English training course was successfully completed for six staff members of Nangarhar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (NCCI) in Nangarhar province. The objectives of such trainings are to develop the capacities of the staff of NCCI to respond rapidly and appropriately to the needs of the business community.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

IDEA-NEW's livestock team in Badakhshan province conducted a two-day Training of Trainers (ToT) training for Concern's poultry team, consisting of 9 women and 3 men, per Concern's request. The training consisted of one day of instruction in the office on topics such as poultry business, advantages and importance of coops, coop construction and design, site selection, required tools, coop sanitation, proper feed and its effects on production, infectious diseases and parasites, vaccination, and linkages to FVUs, feed suppliers and markets to sell eggs. The second day consisted of a site visit to an IDEA-NEW poultry project for practical training.

A one-day poplar production and cultivation training took place at the Puli Khumri office, Baglan province. Five IDEA-NEW staff were trained, including Agriculture and Business Development (ABD) officers, the ABD Unit Manager and Community Mobilization officers.



Photo: *NCCI members pose in picture after completing the English language & Computer training, Jalalabad*

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region



Photo: *Pesticide application training—Shibirghan, Jawzjan (Note: water only was used during the spraying training)*

Motmaen Association in Samangan province procured pesticides and animal medicines worth 750,000 AFN out of their working capital from Kabul and Mazar from reputable and reliable wholesale companies in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif. Motmaen association is one of the three associations who have demonstrated good performance in turning over the working capital by procuring quality inputs and reselling them to its members.

An additional four two-day pesticide retailer spray application training courses were completed for 13 members of Balkh-e-Bastan Association in Balkh, 12 members of Motmaen Association in Samangan, 10 members of Bahar Association in Sari Pul and 12 members of Khurasan Association in Jawzjan province. Pre- and post-course evaluations of the participants showed an average 33% improvement in scores, from 35 to 68%. So far 86 people have received this training, which will be completed in April 2012.

NON-VALUE CHAIN PROJECTS

DAI Eastern Regions

Aryan Marble processing factory is a private and registered factory with Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA). This factory is located in Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province. IDEA-NEW assisted Aryan marble factory through in kind grant of \$60,000. During this reporting period Aryan marble factory completed the installation of machinery and started test production with new machinery. This factory will create job opportunities for local Afghans, increase the production of marble, substitute the imports of marble from abroad and provide market opportunities for unprocessed marble. The owner of this factory hired seven employees for the new machinery which were granted by IDEA-NEW.

IDEA-NEW assisted Arman Baby bicycle factory located in Jalalabad city of Nangarhar province through direct implementation of \$7,884 and provided training materials for their employees. The factory operates well and has created job opportunities for local Afghans. Arman Baby factory will increase the production of bicycles and substitute imports from Pakistan and China.

IDEA-NEW assisted Dari-Noor and Kawoon potato chip factories through in kind grant of \$17,250 to each factory. During this reporting period Kawoon potato chip factory installed machinery and started the production of chips for local market. These factories created job opportunities for 14 local Afghans and will provide market opportunities for the local potato farmers who are growing chip variety potatoes in their agriculture lands.

Spinghar Poultry Farmers Association (SPFA) participated in an agricultural products exhibition in Kabul and Jalalabad. The association exhibited all poultry related products that were produced in the eastern

region. The association also met with government and non government senior representatives and discussed the problems of the poultry sector.

During this reporting period Nangarhar Talc Association (NTA) exported 765 trucks of talc to Pakistan that generated 191,250 AFN to NTA, The association also accumulated 2,600 AFN in registration and membership fee from one new member.

Nangarhar Nursery Grower Association (NNGA) participated in the agricultural products exhibition and farmers day celebration in Kabul and Jalalabad and they exhibited agricultural products.

Laghman Nursery Grower Association (LNGA) sold 1,000 sweet orange saplings to different gardeners of Laghman province. The association director and association manager visited 40 nurseries of Laghman province and recommended necessary plant treatments to the nursery owners.

Eight live Karkila Aw Maldari (agriculture and livestock) radio shows were aired via Sharq Radio in Nangarhar. During the shows 33 farmers and listeners called IDEA-NEW experts and asked questions they had about their orchards, vegetables, and livestock.

Four live agriculture and livestock shows were aired via Kawoon Ghag in Laghman and 43 farmers from different parts of the province posed their questions to IDEA-NEW experts.

During reporting period Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) received its first milestone payment amount of \$ 20,000.00 from the total amount of \$ 149,494.00.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Commercial Timber and Timber Nursery

The project is ongoing with monitoring and site visits to current and past beneficiaries. In the reporting period, the Baghlan agriculture team surveyed farmers to locate new beneficiaries who meet the criteria for the 2012 timber cultivation project. In Takhar, project staff linked 45 interested farmers with current poplar owners. These farmers purchased poplar cuttings from IDEA-NEW beneficiaries and planted these cuttings in 23.5 jeribs of land. In addition, 120 farmers received practical training in poplar production.

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region

Support to Veterinary Field Units (VFUs)

A total of 42 VFUs, one in Balkh, nine in Jawzjan, eight in Sari Pul and 24 in Faryab, were monitored with respect to the regular extension training sessions conducted by the paravets in the field and their vaccination and medication registration books, while extension support was provided. These deliver animal health services for livestock owners in all districts of the region, including insecure and very remote areas.

Seventeen paravets (thirteen in Balkh and four in Samangan), together with farmers, were trained in mixing urea with straw to improve nutritional quality as part of the regular monthly farmer training.

A two-week Pregnancy Diagnosis course was conducted and attended by three paravets, two from Balkh and one from Samangan.

A five day Poultry Husbandary course was conducted, attended by six paravets, two from Balkh, one from Sari Pul and three from Faryab

DAIL Pure-Bred Karakul Flocks

Technical support continued to the two Karakul farms in Dihdadi district, Balkh, and in Shibirghan district, Jawzjan.

Establishment of Feed Banks:

Twenty-five livestock feed banks have been established in 23 districts of the region. During this reporting period, 11 feed banks were monitored, three in Jawzjan, three in Sari Pul and five in Faryab. The sales records show that in Jawzjan province Khaniqa feed bank sold 70kg, Mardyan sold 7.5 tons and Khwaja Do Koh sold 6 tons, while in Sari Pul, Sozma Qala sold five tons, Sangcharak sold all 8 tons, and Gosfandi sold 5.5 tons of feed stuff. The managers of the feed banks were instructed to record the sales and finance issues properly.

Retailers and Input Suppliers

The 19th monthly association coordination meeting was attended by the boards of directors of all six associations from five provinces. Three officials from USAID, Mr. David Strine, Mr George Melton and Mr. Mohammad Zia also attended. The main points discussed were:

- The result of the financial analysis of the six associations in which three associations had good performance especially Samangan association which was ranked at the top.
- Motmaen Association from Samangan applied for a sharia-compliant loan of over \$100,000 from ACE/ADF project, which is in the final stages of approval. The association presented a comprehensive business plan for ACE/ADF.
- The pesticide application safety posters were reviewed by the participants and some comments were given for the correction of captions and pictures.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. George Melton from USAID expressed appreciation in supporting such associations which serve farmers through selling and renting agricultural and livestock inputs. He said that leading non-profit associations towards sustainability is a challenging job but is possible with effort and hard-work. He also said he would do all he could to support the associations with some technical trainings in agronomy and he is interested in attending the next monthly coordination meeting.

Land Laser Leveling Program

1.2 ha of agricultural lands were leveled by Sabze Baba Yadgar cooperative in Nahri Shahi district of Balkh.

So far, 57.7 ha of agricultural lands have been leveled using the four laser land leveling machines in three provinces.

A sub-agreement modification for a “no-cost-time-extension” was signed with DCA to extend the “Strengthening the Livestock Production Project” to June 2012 from the current ending date of March 2012.



Photo: *Leveling the land of the farmers – Balkh, Balk*

An Invitation to Quote was advertised in the Peace Dividend Trust (PDT) Afghanistan website and IDEA-NEW website for the supply of: (i) 1 No Multi-end Reeling unit (capacity 10 kg/day), (ii) 5 Nos Charkha reeling units, hand-operated (capacity 1.5 kg/day).

Purchase orders were signed with nursery owners from Baghlan, Takhar and Mazar for the supply of: (i) 12,800 Nos apple saplings (MM111 and M25 rootstock) (ii) 1,760 Nos almond saplings (iii) 1,200 Nos apricot saplings (iv) 240 Nos cherry saplings. The saplings and fertilizer were distributed to eligible farmers under the 40Ha of Fruit Orchards Project in Faryab.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

DAI Eastern Regions

Beneficiary: Haji Shah Jahan

Project Name: Shenkorak Irrigation Channel

From: Shegal district, Kunar

“Our village is at the end of this canal and the agriculture land was lacking, so our crops were collapsed several time and the annual income was very low. But our problem is solved now and don’t have any problem with shortage of water. We are really thankful to IDEANEW for implementation of this canal project.”

Beneficiary: Mohammad Rahim

Project Name: Kawoom potato chips factory

From: Sorkhrud district, Nangarhar

“I am very happy to have these machinery granted by IDEA-NEW, now I am able to increase the production of chips and also help the local farmers growing potatoes,” said Mohammad Rahim, the owner of Kawoon potatoes chips factory.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Beneficiary: Haje Nazar

Project Name: Orchard Management

From: Agplag village, Kalafghan district, Takhar province

IDEA-NEW’s orchard management project is helping farmers learn about the importance of pruning and proper care for their fruit trees to increase the quality and quantity of fruit production. Farmers receive vouchers to help cover the cost of the services of a master pruner and receive training in pruning, irrigation, fertilizer use and pest control. Haje Nazar told IDEA-NEW staff that his fruit production has increased 100% this year. He said, “I can see that I am now producing more fruit, and also that the fruit are fresh and healthy, and free of disease. IDEA-NEW trained me well and now I am able to assist other farmers to maintain and improve their fruit orchards.”

ACDI/VOCA North Central Region

Beneficiary: Ghulam Sakhi

Project Name: 40 ha commercial orchard in 2012

From: Nishar village, Bilchiragh district, Faryab province

Ghulam Sakhi, one of the beneficiaries who received apple saplings, said: “IDEA-NEW has given 80 saplings for establishing orchard in my land. I already learned how to plant the saplings with standard norms of agriculture. This is an opportunity which is really new and useful for us.”



Photo: *Ghulam Sakhi, farmers who received saplings – Bilchiragh, Faryab*

BIWEEKLY MONITORING & EVALUATION DATA

Performance Indicators

Outputs are tracked through 25 Performance Indicators. Regional implementing partners use the same forms to capture data, and it is reported into a central database. Depending on the indicator, results are reported on a biweekly, quarterly or annual frequency. There are 16 biweekly indicators, seven quarterly indicators and two annual indicators. The tables below give the results for the reporting period by partner as well as by the program as a whole, and are charted against “targets” by Fiscal Year.

Impact Evaluation

Output indicators by themselves are not a basis for rigorous performance measurement; IDEA-NEW also conducts impact evaluation for some of its largest projects. With the flexibility to conduct specific impact assessment at regular intervals, this plan serves to measure program effectiveness and give management the right information to make better-informed decisions about IDEA-NEW’s work, as well as give USAID Afghanistan a clear picture of IDEA-NEW’s outcomes and impacts over the life of its project.

The project also conducted a baseline household study in July 2009, and will follow up at intervals to assess household impacts in areas where IDEA-NEW is working. This will be done on a biennial basis, and will include those items measured in the household economic baseline. The baseline report, which gives a full economic picture of households in provinces where it was implemented, is available by request.

Field Missions

Field Missions are undertaken to provide contextual information, as well as QA/QC. On infrastructure projects, engineers assess construction quality and project progress, and laborers are asked if their wages are paid in a fair and transparent way. For non-infrastructure, overall quality, transparency, and effectiveness are assessed. All field missions are conducted to inform program managers about areas of improvement. All missions also review environmental compliance with USAID, and ensure that GPS grid points for projects are captured. Approximately six to eight missions are conducted weekly.

Some explanations on indicators

All definitions and data collection methods for all indicators below are available at request. Some answers to common questions:

Full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs: These are calculated in two ways. For CCI projects, 260 labor days = 1 FTE. For agriculture projects 0.25 ha under licit cultivation = 1 FTE. For enterprises, a new employee reported by an IDEA-NEW assisted business to be “full time” = 1 FTE. Existing employees at the start of IDEA-NEW intervention does not count. There is a one-month lag time for CCI wage reporting.

Increased sales of licit farm and non-farm products are tracked in different ways. Farm product sales are tracked through surveys of key agricultural interventions programs involving 10,000 people or more. Non-farm products are tracked through bi-annual sales reports from assisted enterprises; only increases over the baseline are reported.

All data reported to USAID has “back-up” documentation, including training sign-in sheets, contracts, export documentation and enterprise forms that detail sales and employee information.

ANNEX I: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE (SEE ATTACHED)

ANNEX II: CCI PROJECT DATA BY REGION (SEE ATTACHED)

ANNEX III: FARMER TRAINING SUMMARY

March 1-31, 2012

Province	Districts	CPF		TIMER	REVAMP	Orchard Dev Program	Total
		Wheat	Vegetables	Vegetables	Vegetables		
Nangarhar	Behsood	15	16	15			46
Nangarhar	Chaparhar		96			18	114
Nangarhar	Dari noor			42			42
Nangarhar	Dihbala			41			41
Nangarhar	Ghanikhil			108	57	23	188
Nangarhar	Goshta			35	60	16	111
Nangarhar	Kama			53	32	14	99
Nangarhar	Khogyani			124	33	18	175
Nangarhar	Kot			34	36	38	108
Nangarhar	Kuz Kunar			83	21	15	119
Nangarhar	Momandara			156	102	23	281
Nangarhar	Pachir Wa Agam					19	19
Nangarhar	Rodat			94	18	19	131
Nangarhar	Surkhrod			70	63		133

	Sub-total	15	112	855	422	203	1607
Kunar	Asad Abad						
Kunar	Chawky						
Kunar	Khas Kunar						
Kunar	Manogai						
Kunar	Marawara						
Kunar	Narang						
Kunar	Noorgal						
Kunar	Serkaney						
Kunar	Shegal						
	Sub-total						
Laghman	Alingar						
Laghman	Alishang						
Laghman	Mehtarlam						
Laghman	Qarghaee						
	Sub-total						
Total							

ANNEX IV: MONTHLY SALES DATA

March 1-31, 2012

Products	Local Market		High Value Market		Export Market		Total	Weight & Value	
	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	
Vegetable	109,000	30,000	20,102	34,155	650,000	28,888	779,102	93,043	
Fruits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Herbs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cheese	275	1,649	0	0	0	0	275	1,649	

Masroor Foods	0	2,700	0	0	0	0	0	2,700
Textile	0	12,600	0	0	0	0	0	12,600
Snacks	0	12,257	0	0	0	0	0	12,257
Chicks Hatched	0	20,787	0	0	0	0	0	20,787
Cartoons Riaz	0	1,109	0	0	0	0	0	1,109
Table Eggs	0	4,617	0	0	0	0	0	4,617
Vermicelli	32,000	18,285	0	0	0	0	32,000	18,285
Soap	27,000	16,680	0	0	0	0	27,000	16,680
Total	168,275	120,684	20,102	31,155	650,000	28,888	838,377	183,727

July 1, 2009- March 31, 2012

Products	Local Market		High Value Market		Export Market		Total Weight & Value	
	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$
Vegetable	5,314,150	1,136,850	169,713	205,427	14,145,000	3,642,648	19,628,863	4,984,925
Fruits	187,386	55,108	6,530	16,461	22,500	22,583	216,416	94,152
Herbs	709	200	0	0	0	0	709	200
Cheese	15,243	51,475	0	0	0	0	15,243	51,475
Masroor Foods	0	149,526	0	56,352	0	0	0	205,878
Textile	0	169,982	0	0	0	0	0	169,982
Snacks	0	105,696	0	4,392	0	0	0	110,088
Chicks Hatched	0	231,374	0	0	0	0	0	231,374
Cartoons Riaz	0	95,240	0	0	0	0	0	95,240
Table	0	114,021	0	0	0	0	0	114,021

Eggs									
Vermicelli	214,500	126,551	0	0	0	0	214,500	126,551	
Soap	118,000	77,719	0	0	0	0	118,000	77,719	
Total	5,849,988	2,313,742	176,243	282,632	14,167,500	3,665,231	20,193,731	6,261,605	

ANNEX V: NON-CCI PROJECT LIST

(SEE ATTACHED)

ANNEX VI: GRANTS UPDATE

(SEE ATTACHED)

ANNEX VII: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT INFORMATION

Project.....IDEA-NEW
Start Date.....March 2, 2009
End DateMarch 1, 2014
Cooperative Agreement Number.....306-A-00-09-00508
AOTR/USAID Program Manager.....Mohammad Aslam Amiri, +93 (0) 700.066.583
Agreement OfficerBruce McFarland
Geographic CoverageNorthern, Northeastern, Eastern and Western Afghanistan

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