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

## MONTHLY REPORT: JUNE 2012



Honey production in Kunduz

**JUNE 2012**

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by DAI.

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# ACRONYMS

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

# BACKGROUND

DAI, in alliance with Mercy Corps and ACDI/VOCA, has been working to achieve the broad objective of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) agricultural development and alternative livelihood strategy since 2009. USAID's country strategy objective for agricultural programming is "a sustainable, thriving agricultural economy," and under this objective USAID's agricultural programs contribute to both stabilization and counternarcotics policy goals through promotion of a thriving and licit agricultural sector in Afghanistan.

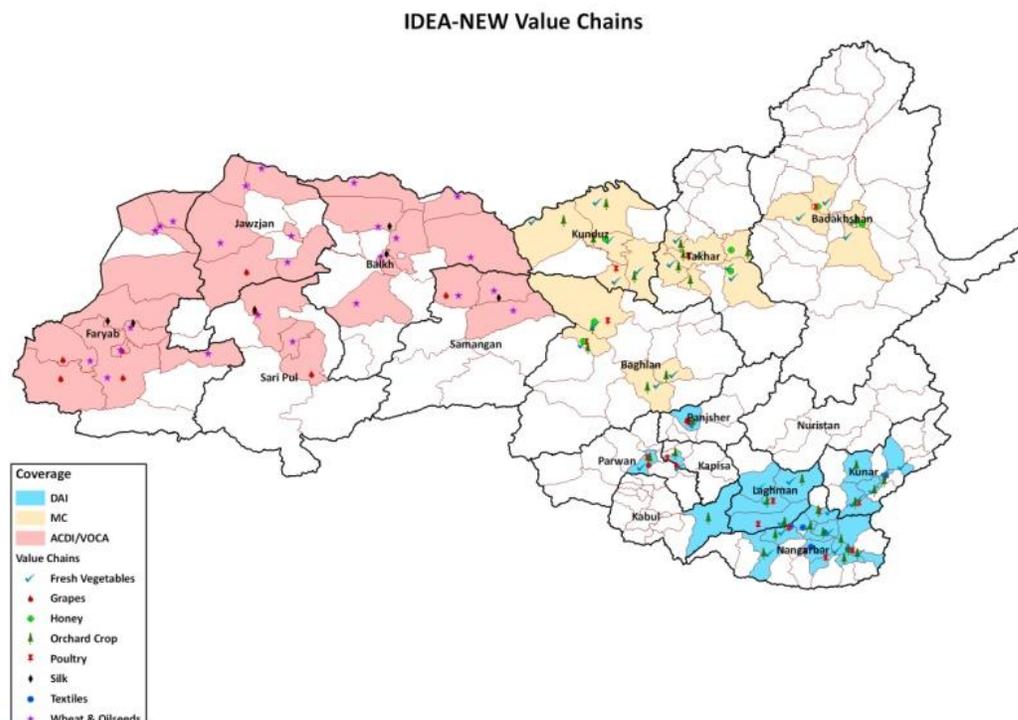
As part of this strategy, the Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East, and West (IDEA-NEW) program has focused on activities that promote income generation and job creation through increased commercial agricultural opportunity for Afghan farmers in poppy production-prone areas. The program further contributes to supporting growth in the Afghan agricultural economy by strengthening farm to market linkages in economic development corridors in the northern, eastern, and western regions of the country. Working to grow viable agribusinesses, IDEA-NEW facilitates connections between producers, traders, and buyers through market information activities and sales promotion.

Three partners implement IDEA-NEW: DAI, ACDI/VOCA, and Mercy Corps:

- DAI works in the East and West (Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan, Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir, the Sarobi District of Kabul, Badghis, and Hirat);
- ACDI/VOCA in the North (Faryab, Sari Pul, Jawzjan, Balkh, Samangan) and
- Mercy Corps in the Northeast (Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan).

The program works closely with provincial- and district-level governments and within local communities, capitalizing on the successes of previous USAID projects in the area, which built strong relations among local stakeholders, and have given IDEA-NEW the ability to scale-up rapidly.

## ***GEOGRAPHIC REACH OF IDEA-NEW***



# MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## JUNE 2012

### EASTERN REGION

#### *LAGHMAN, NANGARHAR, NURISTAN, KUNAR, KAPISA, PARWAN, AND PANJSHIR PROVINCES AS WELL AS THE SAROBI DISTRICT OF KABUL*

**In Progress:** IDEA-NEW trained 144 orchard owners during nine field days on the importance of Flexi Flume and its installation, pruning, mulch use, irrigation and liming, and distributed 3,850 cartons and 748 plastic baskets to 80 fruit growers in various districts.

**In Progress:** 53 Agriculture Faculty students of Nangarhar University received theoretical and practical training on modern techniques in Behsud district of Nangarhar.

**In Progress:** IDEA-NEW trained 1,162 farmers from 59 districts on modern techniques.

**In Progress:** 19,654 fertile eggs were produced in Nangarhar breeder farm and 17,711 were transferred to the Serobi hatchery for the production of broiler day old chicks. Serobi Hatchery sold 19,512 day old chicks in local market which generated 409,752 AFN.

**In Progress:** 11 broiler farmers added 25,850 broiler day old chicks to their farms in Shinwari, Bihsud, Dara-i-Noor, Achin and Chaparhar districts of Nangarhar.

**In Progress:** 48,578 table eggs were produced in 30 women layer farms and all were sold in local market generating 242,890 AFN for woman farmers.

**In Progress:** Senior Provincial Liaison Officer of IDEA-NEW, Noor Sadat, joined the Nangarhar Provincial Development Council meeting in which government, national, and international organizations participated. At the end of the meeting the provincial Director of Economy shared his appreciation of IDEA-NEW's quality infrastructure projects in Chaparhar district.

**Started:** Karim textile washing and pressing facility was established and continues operation in Behsud district of Nangarhar province.

### NORTHERN REGION

#### *BALKH, FARYAB, JAWZJAN, SAMANGAN AND SARI PUL PROVINCES*

**Started:** Field days on disease management, irrigation and fertilization of vineyards have started in vineyard demonstration plots and five field days were conducted training 113 vineyard owners.

**In Progress:** A total of 25 harvesting field days were conducted for 2,350 farmers using the reaper and small thresher, powered by 2WTs.

**Completed:** 24 field days on potato demonstration plots were completed and 360 farmers were trained.

**Completed:** Milking hygiene kits were distributed to 50 female dairy farmers in Yaka Bagh milk processing center in Jawzjan province.

### NORTHEASTERN REGION

#### *BADAKHSHAN, KUNDUZ, TAKHAR AND BAGHLAN PROVINCES*

**In Progress:** Five infrastructure projects are ongoing in the northeastern region: Badakhshan (two canal projects) and Takhar (one irrigation structure and two roads).

**In Progress:** This period 27 self-selecting farmers groups (SSFGs) were formed in all four provinces with the goal of facilitating better access to markets for farmers and increasing leverage with buyers and input suppliers to negotiate better prices.

**In Progress:** Women’s poultry project participants purchased feed and finalized coop construction. This period 295 women received additional training in topics such as disease control, coop design and improved production practices.

**In Progress:** Beneficiary selection, voucher distribution and training for summer crops (watermelon and cauliflower) are ongoing. In this reporting period 100 new beneficiaries were selected, 351 farmers were trained, and 296 vouchers were distributed.

**In Progress:** 600 women currently participate 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.

## **WESTERN REGION**

### ***HIRAT AND BADGHIS PROVINCES***

No major updates

# **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 have now established productive trellised vineyards and a private agribusiness sector is 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 Northern Region**

#### **Vineyard Trellising Program**



**Photo:** *Trellised vineyards –Maymana, Faryab*

June is the growing season for grapes and a time when the vines are vulnerable to diseases, especially powdery mildew and anthracnose, which can lead to heavy loss of yield. To help vineyard owners prevent infection, five field days on disease management, irrigation, and fertilization were conducted at demonstration plots: one in Feroz Nakhchir district of Samangan, two in Ashraf and Mirshakar villages of Jawzjan and two in Sari Pul and Sangcharak districts of Sari Pul. A total of 113 vineyard owners attended the field days. The participants consisted of local grape growers, agricultural retailers, and DAIL extension workers. Participants were taught about the prevention of powdery mildew and anthracnose and also the correct timing of the irrigation and fertilizer application.

Eight trellised vineyard demonstration plots were treated with Azoxystrobin for the second time in the season to protect them against powdery mildew and other common diseases. These vineyards are located in Dawlatabad, Shirin Tagab, Khwaja Sabz Posh, Pashtun Kot and Qaysar districts of Faryab. Azoxystrobin is an effective fungicide that has been identified as immediate remedy to fight powdery mildew, the most common disease of vines. Humid conditions, such as have occurred this year, can increase the spread of the disease.

The installation of trellises continued this month but only in newly planted vineyards that are not yet producing grapes because work in mature vineyards would damage the growing vines and fruit. Two orders were received for trellising of two vineyards measuring total of 0.432 ha in Shirin Tagab and Maymana districts of Faryab. The vineyards were surveyed and 240 trellis posts were delivered. So far 19.88 ha have been trellised in Faryab, Samangan, and Sari Pul.

The manufacturing of concrete posts was suspended in all four post manufacturing plants in the region. IDEA-NEW plans to resume placing orders for more posts to be produced and stored for trellising after the grapes harvest season is complete.

## **ORCHARD CROP VALUE CHAIN**

*IDEA-NEW interventions in the orchard crop value chain (citrus and stone fruit in the eastern region, stone fruit, almond, and pomegranate in the central region, and apple 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 Region**

#### **Orchard Development Program**

Survey of the orchards established by IPs and other organizations were conducted to identify the type of technical assistance or facilitation required to improve tree health and production. In June 1,786 orchards were surveyed and organized into orchard growers groups in various districts of the Eastern region. The activity is now complete and a total of 4,438 orchards were surveyed and organized into 180 growers groups.

In collaboration with DAIL extension workers, the orchard development program encouraged orchard growers and linked them with Ag depots to purchase Flexi Flume pipe in case of a future lack of water. Irrigation through Flexi Flume prevents water evaporation, leaching, and saves time and money. During the month, flexi flume irrigation lining systems were established in 11 orchards in different districts of Nangarhar. To date 28 orchards have been lined with Flexi Flume.



**Photo:** Orchard growers use Flexi Flume – Momandara district, Nangarhar.

IDEA-NEW trained 144 orchard owners during nine field days in Pachir Agam, Chaparhar, Kama, Momandara, Rodat, Khas Kunar, Manogai, Noor Gal and Qarghayee districts on the importance of Flexi Flume, its installation and usage, pruning, mulch use, irrigation, and liming.

Technical assistance was provided to 450 fruit orchards in Laghman, Nangarhar and Kunar to address post harvest activities, proper irrigation systems, pruning of dried and damaged trees, and the usage of mulch for moisture conservation.

To improve post harvesting activities, IDEA-NEW distributed 3,850 cartons and 748 plastic baskets to 80 fruit growers in various districts of the region.

### **Nursery Development Program**

Training on plant propagation (layering, cutting, and grafting) was provided to 140 out of 226 nursery growers in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman. Fruit and forestry commercial nurseries in Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar received three sprayer pumps for pest and disease control.



*Photo: Agriculture Faculty students of Nangarhar get training –Bihsud district, Nangarhar.*

In a fruit and forestry nursery in Bihsud district of Nangarhar, 53 Agriculture Faculty students of Nangarhar University received theoretical and practical training in record keeping, sign board set up for variety identification, seed planting, seed treatment, modal nursery establishment, site selection for commercial orchards, and fertilizer application.

IDEA-NEW's nursery development program coordinator visited a fruit nursery established in Qala-e-Naw. The existing seedlings were in good shape and condition. 5,000 pistachio seedlings were handed over to the Badghis DAIL and were distributed to 14 interested farmers in Qala-e-Naw, Maqur, and Qasdis districts of Badghis.

## **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

### **Perennial Crops**

Fruit trees rarely produce fruit in their first year after being planted so the orchard owners were delighted to see their very young trees producing fruit this month. Technical support continued to 200 orchard owners with emphasis on irrigation and weed control. The newly planted orchards have been undersown with alfalfa, which provides a profitable crop until the trees come into full production, improves the soil, and promotes biological control of pests. The team visited 26 orchards in Pashtun Kot, Shirin Tagab, and Khwaja Sabz Posh districts of Faryab and found the trees to be in good condition.

## **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region**

### **Orchard Management**

No updates this reporting period

### **Orchard Establishment**

The agriculture team monitored 69 newly established orchards and provided technical advice in weed control, irrigation systems, and fertilizer application in Puli Khumri, Baghlan Jaded, Bano and Dehsallah districts of Baghlan.

In Takhar 287 farmers received training on fertilizer application around trees and mulching in Kalafghan, Bangi, Farkhar, Baharak and Taloqan districts.

In Badakhshan IDEA-NEW monitored 59 orchards in Baharak, Argo, and Faizabad districts and provided technical advice on proper irrigation systems, disease control, using stakes to support saplings, and pruning.



**Photo:** Urea application for an orchard in Taloqan, Takhar

In Kunduz the Agriculture and Business Development team introduced new technologies such as urea application, basin preparation, weed control, and water sprouting pruning systems for the 65 new orchards in Qala-e-Zal, Imam Sahib, and Khan Abad districts.

IDEA-NEW is working to link potential orchard establishment beneficiaries directly to fruit tree nurseries and nursery associations for ongoing provision of inputs and services. Currently, most nursery growers sell primarily to the NGO market, and then sell anything left over wholesale. This year, IDEA-NEW will support these fruit tree nursery entrepreneurs to extend outreach directly to farmers. The goal is to assist the nurseries in providing not only inputs of high quality saplings but also to combine inputs with layout

and planting services in an embedded package for the farmers. IDEA-NEW may continue to subsidize marginally the cost of inputs to encourage the consumption of the package deal.

This kind of service delivery during the pre-planting and planting time is critical to establishing a strong orchard. Previously, pre-planting training was provided by IDEA-NEW, but this process needs to be handed over to capable private sector actors. The NISPA program is also providing nursery associations with technical and marketing support in order to ensure good quality inputs are available and nurseries are in a position to advise on their use.

## **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 Region**

#### **Commercial and Small Production Farms Program**

Soil preparation, basal fertilization, direct seeding, and transplanting started for summer season crops in 16 selected commercial production farms of Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar. The harvesting and marketing of different vegetables continued in all of the small production farms.

IDEA-NEW conducted 63 field days during which 1,162 farmers from 59 districts were trained on modern techniques. Farmers were linked to input suppliers who updated local growers on new products.

53 students of Nangarhar University Agriculture faculty were trained in different annual and perennial horticulture programs.

Under the REVAMP/intercrop program, 758 farmers were trained during 46 field days on field irrigation, weed control, base fertilization, harvesting activities, and pest control. To date 2,706 out of 4,500 farmers have been trained.

The previously established CPFs are still functioning and expanded from three jeribs to 17 jeribs and are procuring inputs (seed, fertilizer and chemicals) from dealers without any external contribution. All 16 CPF land owners provided free land without lease for CPFs in the east for one year.



**Photo:** Training to farmers on tomato harvesting, Momandara district, Nangarhar.

### **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region** **Spring Vegetable Cultivation Project**

In Baghlan 40 onion cultivation plots out of 120 were weeded in Puli Khumri and Baghlan Jaded districts. The agriculture team has conducted regular monitoring visits to share technical advice with farmers on irrigation systems, fertilizer application, and weeding.

In Takhar five farmers were instructed on weed control and harvesting. Agriculture staff are regularly visiting the project sites and providing technical support to farmers. Currently cucumbers are being harvested, and tomatoes have not yet matured.

### **Vegetable Demo Plots**

This project is implemented in close coordination with private sector partners (PSPs) and IDEA-NEW technical staff. IDEA-NEW provides fencing and wooden poles to protect the plots, two days of labor for each plot, and technical advice via agriculture officers. PSPs are responsible for providing the land, different varieties of seeds, fertilizer, land preparation, irrigation, weed control, and other technical work.

In Baghlan 7 cauliflower demo plots were weeded in Puli Khumri, Baghlan Jaded, Bano and Dehsallah districts. In addition, three watermelon demo plots were cultivated in Puli Khumri and Baghlan Jaded districts.

In Takhar several varieties of squash were cultivated on demo farms in Bangi, Farkhar, Baharak, and Taloqan districts. Each farmer harvested approximately 200 kg and, with a selling price of 25 AFN per kg, earned about 5,000 AFN.

In Badakhshan onion seedlings were transferred from nurseries to seven demo plots and eight demo plots were weeded in Baharak, Argo, Jurm and Faizabad districts.



**Photo:** Exposure visit to a demo plot in Khan Abad district, Kunduz

IDEA-NEW staff conducted exposure visits with 45 farmers and four agriculture and irrigation department staff in Qalezal and Khanabad districts of Kunduz.

IDEA-NEW staff also completed four cauliflower demo plots using new systems such as seed cultivation in lines and raised beds. During the establishment of each demo plot, 10 -12 villagers were present to observe the new techniques. Four watermelon demo plots were also completed and will be used to compare the different hybrid varieties that will be introduced to farmers in upcoming seasons.

### **Strawberry Demo Plots**

This project is ongoing in Takhar and Badakhshan provinces, with farmers contributing fifty percent of input costs. In Takhar 20 farmers participated in an exposure visit to Farkhar district to learn about new cultivation techniques. In Badakhshan farmers weeded nine strawberry demo plots in Faizabad, Jurm, Baharak, and Argo districts under the direct supervision of the IDEA-NEW agriculture team.

### **Women's Home-based Greenhouse Project**

In Takhar, cucumbers crops have matured, and field day and exposure visits have been conducted in four locations with a total 60 women participating. In Kunduz new techniques were introduced for improved production quality of tomatoes and fruit. The women have already harvested tomatoes six times and sold their goods at the market. The selling price started at 40 AFN/kg but has since dropped to 12 AFN/kg.

### **Agriculture Radio Programming**

Discussions are currently underway to enhance and expand Internews' agriculture radio programming. IDEA-NEW is working together with USAID-funded CNFA as well as Aga Khan and Concern to develop a series of radio programs for farmers. The programs would cover a range of topics including technical skills, field visit interviews with farmers and shopkeepers, marketing, and other value chain issues. The shows would include a mix pre-recorded and live features so that they could be played over again or in other areas, as well call-in components to give farmers a chance to ask questions. This program supports the sustainability of the project by allowing IDEA-NEW to reach a larger group of farmers whom the project may never reach in person and provide advice that can be replayed over time.



**Photo:** *Cauliflower cultivation in Bano district, Baghlan*

### **Summer Fruit & Vegetable Cultivation Project**

IDEA-NEW's agriculture team worked with shuras to identify and select 100 beneficiaries for watermelon cultivation in Puli Khumri and Baghlan Jaded districts of Baghlan. The project distributed 100 watermelon seed vouchers and trained 100 farmers in watermelon cultivation using the row system. In addition 125 farmers with watermelon plots received technical training on irrigation systems and fertilizer application. In Puli Khumri, Baghlan Jaded, Bano, and Dehsallah districts, an additional 126 farmers with cauliflower plots received technical support with establishing irrigation systems and fertilizer application.

In Taloqan, Kalafgahn, Bangi, and Baharak districts of Takhar, 274 farmers purchased watermelon seeds and 181 farmers purchased cauliflower seeds from PSPs through the voucher system. Recent flash floods destroyed some land in the area: 33 jeribs in Qaramola and Dahbash village in Taloqan area; 54 jeribs in Kalafghan district (19 jeribs in Qarato village, 15 jeribs in Chanar village, 14 jeribs in Yorqtash village, and 6 jeribs in Badal Qashlaq village;) and 5 jeribs of land in Baharak district in Jagawer village.

Farmers Baharak, Argo, and Jurm districts of Badakhshan received 98 vouchers for watermelon seeds and 30 for cauliflower seeds in Baharak, Jurm and Faizabad districts. All farmers purchased their seeds from PSPs in these districts. IDEA-NEW stopped voucher distribution for these two crops because their cultivation season is complete.

In Kunduz IDEA-NEW staff distributed watermelon seed vouchers to 68 farmers, who will each cultivate one jerib of land in various villages in Kunduz center.

### **Self-Selecting Farmers Groups (SSFG)**

In total, 27 SSFGs were formed in all four provinces. In Baghlan nine farmer groups were established: five for fruit and four for vegetable farmers in Puli Khumri, Baghlan Jaded, Bano and Dehsallah districts. In Takhar eight groups of vegetable farmers were formed. In Badakhshan four groups were formed: three vegetable groups and one fruit farmer group in Baharak district. In Kunduz six farmer groups were formed: 4 in Kunduz center, one in Iman Sahib, and one in Aliabad district.

## **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 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 Region**

The IDEA-NEW poultry specialist applied the required vaccine in Hedayat Barakat Breeder Farm, which has a mortality rate of 5.5%. These breeder chicks produced 550 fertile eggs for broiler day old chicks to distribute to local poultry farms in the eastern region.

In the Nangarhar breeder farm, 19,654 fertile eggs were produced and 17,711 were transferred to Serobi hatchery for the production of broiler day old chicks for the local poultry market. Currently Serobi Hatchery has put four setting of eggs in the hatchery. Last month they had four hatches and sold 19,512 day old chicks in the local market for 21 AFN per chick generating 409,752 AFN.



**Photo:** View of Hedayat Barakat Breeder Farm after applying vaccine – Nangarhar.

Eleven broiler farmers in Shinwari, Bihsud, Dara-i-Noor, Achin, and Chaparhar districts of Nangarhar added 25,850 broiler day old chicks to their farms.

Six broiler farmers in Shinwari, Achin, and Darai Noor districts of Nangarhar, Narang district of Kunar and Qarghayee district of Laghman sold 16,500 broiler chicks in local markets and each farmer received an average net profit of 49,099 AFN. IDEA-NEW is supporting these poultry farms by providing technical assistance.

The IDEA-NEW poultry specialist visited two poultry breeder farms in Nangarhar and assisted farmers develop feed, lighting, and vaccination methods.

### **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region**

In Baghlan the livestock team linked each poultry grower with feed suppliers, and each family purchased 50 kg of pullet feed. IDEA-NEW distributed 1,743 pullets to 56 women in three CDCs in Pul-e-Khumri and Baghlan Jaded districts. Training is ongoing for 50 families in three CDCs in Pul-e-Khumri district on topics such as egg production and the importance of medical treatment and vaccination.

In Takhar 80 beneficiaries in 5 villages (Masjedy, Abodawood, Zargary, Gagalibick and Ayshan Qushlaq) of Taloqan district completed coop construction and have purchased feed. Governmental veterinary animal health department poultry officers also visited the beneficiaries.

IDEA-NEW's poultry team distributed 2,400 pullets to 80 women beneficiaries in Badakhshan in close coordination with IDEA-NEW's community mobilization team, DAIL, and the local shura. Women received comprehensive training in chicken care and egg production as well as support with coop design. The women are linked with VFUs for ongoing veterinary support.



*Photo: A woman receives pullets from the IDEA-NEW team in Faizabad district, Badakhshan*

Poultry training continues for 85 beneficiaries in Ali Abad district of Kunduz and 2% of the distributed pullets have become hens and started laying eggs.

Previously, IDEA-NEW directly handled the procurement of layer birds and high quality feed because the right inputs were not readily available in the provinces and it has been difficult to find strong private sector partners to serve as local suppliers for quality pullets. IDEA-NEW currently works with two PSPs who supply improved breed pullets to beneficiaries across all four provinces. IDEA-NEW serves as the intermediary that links potential poultry rearers to inputs and services available in their area and ensures that they are of good quality.

### **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 production—for a part of their household diet.

### DAI Eastern Region

IDEA-NEW trained 18 farmers at wheat CPFs. To date a total 765 (102%) of 750 farmers have been trained on modern techniques. The yields of wheat CPFs, which grew five improved varieties of wheat, and the yields of local farms are compared below.

**WHEAT COMPARISON (Improved Vs Local)**

Varieties	Yield/Jerib (MT)	Yield/Ha (MT)
Mazar-99	1.229	6.147
Moqawim-09	1.227	6.133
PBW-154	1.224	6.120
Ghuri-96	1.175	5.874
Lalmi-3	1.140	5.698
Local	0.784	3.921

### ACDI/VOCA Northern Region

#### Training of Farmers on Improved Agronomy of Annual Crops

Harvesting field days continued in seven demonstration plots in Balkh: six in Jawzjan, two in Sari Pul, seven in Faryab, and three in Samangan. The field days, attended by 2,350 farmers, demonstrated mechanical reaping with a 2WT and small thresher.

High yields encouraged the district governor and the chief of police of Qurghan district of Faryab to attend the harvesting field day. In a speech to the farmers, he told them to use this opportunity provided by IDEA-NEW to learn new methods of agriculture. He also thanked IDEA-NEW for supporting the farmers in the district and requested that next year farmers grow safflower, a new oilseed introduced by IDEA-NEW.



**Photo:** Demonstrating thresher attached to a 2WT –Khwaja Do Koh, Jawzjan

Sowing of crops planted later in the season continued on training plots. Sesame was sown on the plot in Andkhoy district of Faryab where a one jerib of chickpea plants were destroyed by flooding.

#### Conservation Tillage Training

Seven one-hectare training plots were sown using a zero-tillage seed drill: three in Balkh, one in Faryab, two in Jawzjan, and one in Samangan. A zero-tillage seed drill with a mulch management machine will be assessed at JDA's hub locations.

At conservation tillage demonstration plots, IDEA-NEW provided harvest training to a total of 185 farmers during two field days in Dihdadi and Khulm districts of Balkh, two in Khwaja Do Koh and Fayzabad districts of Jawzjan, and one in Aybak district of Samangan, The use of a reaper and a small 2WT-powered thresher by were demonstrated. Participants were impressed by the results of zero-tillage planting and mechanical harvesting using the 2WT.

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)
DamullaLashkari	Khulm	Balkh	Semi-irrigated	0.4	0.2
Oljatoo	Khulm	Balkh	Rainfed	0.6	0
Shirabad	Dihdadi	Balkh	Rainfed	0.6	0
Khwaja Paitakht	Maymana	Faryab	Rainfed	0	0
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

## SILK VALUE CHAIN

*Household silk production is a traditional activity in the northern region, where 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 a 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 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 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 Northern Region

#### Silkworm Rearing Training for Women

The project trained 1,000 women in the five northern project provinces to rear silkworms and produce raw silk cocoons, and each trainee received a box of silkworm eggs in April. By early June, the silkworms completed the fourth instar and pupated into cocoons. Collection of cocoons has begun in all 25 locations.

### Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

IDEA-NEW staff visited silkworm rearing beneficiaries in Baghlan, and currently the silkworm cycle is in its last stage, cocoon production.

IDEA-NEW is supporting 550 silkworm keepers in Hazrat Sultan village of Kunduz center. According to monitoring, 80% of silkworms have formed cocoons.

## 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 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 for honey, mainly due to a lack of improved honey production techniques and processing knowledge.*

### Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Monitoring and yield assessments were completed for 33 beneficiaries in Baghlan. In Jaded district, hives produced an average of 8 kg of honey per beehive.



**Photo:** *Beehives in Farkhar district, Takhar.*

In Takhar 40 beneficiaries in four villages in Kalafghan district (Qarato, Aidel, Shakh Chushma and Madrasa Zardalodara) purchased beekeeping tools from PSPs via the voucher system. An additional 60 beneficiaries in four villages (Kafdar Bal, Azim Abad, Sarqalat Kondal and Dasht Konje) of Farkhar district received vouchers for beekeeping tools and 25 beneficiaries redeemed the vouchers.

Livestock officers in Badakhshan performed monitoring visits to check on beneficiaries' beehives in several villages in Baharak district and provided them with additional technical support.

In Kunduz 127 kg honey was extracted from 66 beehives, and technical training was conducted for 68 beekeepers in Imam Sahib, Qala-e-Zal and Kunduz center districts. Six beehives doubled in size due to large bee populations.

Support through government and NGOs for existing beekeeping associations traditionally consisted of efforts to pool producers to market honey produced by the members. In each province, IDEA-NEW works with several previously established beekeeper associations that are already selling the necessary inputs including hives, bee boxes, and tools. The project will provide technical training as well as business training to help the associations market their products more successfully and expand the pool of qualified beekeepers.

## KARAKUL VALUE CHAIN

*Karakul pelts (Astrakhan fur or Persian lamb) evolved as a byproduct of rangeland management in an arid and unstable environment where significant annual variation in rainfall led to an uncertain carrying capacity of the available pasture. In years of low rainfall, herders cull their lambs at birth to ensure*

*sufficient forage for the flock. The pelts of culled lambs became a valuable product in their own right and selective breeding over centuries resulted in a specialized breed. The pelts are now valued in international markets and used to produce luxury items including fur coats, hats, and other garments. Because herders who raise Karakul view them as multipurpose animals providing meat, milk and wool as well as pelts, Karakul therefore needs to be approached as a rangeland system rather than a simple commodity.*

*The objective of the IDEA-NEW approach is to increase the income of herders by raising the fertility of their flocks and the quality of the pelts produced through improvements in animal husbandry including paravet services and extension. To increase the export value of pelts and ultimately the price to the producer, IDEA-NEW will introduce improved methods of handling and processing the pelts and provide training in sorting and grading.*

## **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

### **DAIL Pure-Bred Karakul Flocks**

IDEA-NEW arranged a meeting with a Karakul and cashmere trader in order to establish linkages between farmers, VFUs, and national traders and improve the market for Karakul pelts and combed raw cashmere.

The IDEA-NEW livestock officers continued providing technical support to the two Karakul farms in Balkh and Jawzjan. Two paravets were assigned to visit the Karakul farms regularly and currently the sheep are in good health.

### **Establishment of Feed Banks**

IDEA-NEW monitored the sales at five feed banks in Qaysar, Almar, Maymana and Gurziwan districts of Faryab and provided instruction in proper record keeping. Twenty-five livestock feed banks have been established in 23 districts of the region and each feed bank was provided with eight tons of cotton cake and flax cake.

### **Support to VFUs**

IDEA-NEW visited 22 VFUs in Faryab, five in Jawzjan, two in Sari Pul, and three in Balkh to observe the regular extension training sessions conducted by paravets and to monitor their vaccination and medication registration books.

Two selected female paravets from Balkh and Chimtal districts of Balkh continued the extension training for female livestock owners in these districts. They have conducted fifty-nine sessions for 857 women in twenty villages to train livestock owners to collect cashmere by combing. They also taught about endoparasites and the care of newborn animals.



**Photo:** A paravet conducting monthly extension session on herd health packages to local herders, Khwaja Sabz Posh

# INPUTS AND SERVICES

## **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

*Access to a commercially sustainable supply of high quality equipment, tools, and chemicals is essential if farmers are to successfully adopt the improved methods of agronomy promoted by IDEA-NEW across all its selected value chains. The project supports a network of 125 agricultural retailers across the region through six legally registered associations. Through these associations, retailers have received business training, materials for subsidized sale to farmers, and technical training in vineyard trellising, basic pesticide safety and application, and pruning. The intention is that the associations should become self-sustaining and enable their members to procure materials on more favorable wholesale terms through bulk orders. IDEA-NEW has also granted, on a “use and return” basis, five laser land levelers to registered agricultural cooperatives in the region, to enable them to offer this service to local farmers on a commercial basis. IDEA-NEW has established 25 workshops, with trained mechanics to provide repair and maintenance services to owners of two-wheel tractors (2WTs).*

## **Retailers and Input Suppliers**

The monthly coordination meeting was conducted and attended by the directors of six agricultural retail associations from five provinces. The activity and financial reports for past two months were collected from the associations and outstanding dues were collected. The IDEA-NEW business development team regularly visits the associations to provide technical support.

The finance officer of Mutmaen association was trained in proper financial record keeping. This association recently procured agricultural and animal medicines worth 286,520 AFN using its revolving capital fund.

Posters showing vine trellising were distributed to five agricultural retailers in Shirin Tagab, Khwaja Sabz Posh, Maymana, and Qaysar districts of Faryab and another three were distributed to agricultural retailers in Sari Pul, Sozma Qala, and Sangcharak districts of Sari Pul. The agricultural retailers will use them as a guide for the conversion of traditional vineyards to the trellised system.



**Photo:** Land Laser Leveling –Sari Pul, Sari Pul

## **Land Laser Leveling Program**

Asia Abad Agricultural Cooperative in Sari Pul leveled 0.4 ha of irrigated land. So far, 68.1 ha have been leveled in three provinces using the four laser land leveling machines.

## **Small-scale Mechanization (Provision of Subsidized 2WTs)**

IDEA-NEW sells 2WTs to farmers participating in the *Training of Farmers on Improved Agronomy of Annual Crops* project. Two farmers from Samangan and two from Jawzjan bought 2WTs from IDEA-NEW. The machines were handed over to them after they had received the required five days of operation and maintenance training. This was the first purchase of 2WTs by farmers in Samangan.

Since the start of the 2WT program, 181 farmers have purchased 2WTs and been trained in operation and maintenance. Another fourteen farmers, who already have 2WTs, bought reapers.

### **Establishment of 25 Maintenance and Repair Workshops for 2WTs**

IDEA-NEW contracted Osiyo Hamkorlik Company (OHC) to establish 25 privately owned and managed repair and maintenance workshops in the region to support farmers. In June OHC visited the two workshops in Sari Pul and the five in Faryab. The supervision visits of all 25 workshops will be finished in July. The sales report show that the workshops had earned 94,095AFN in revenue over two months.

The Business Development team met OHC and discussed the records of six workshops which had not any significant activity in last few months. They decided to reallocate the materials from three of them to other more active mechanics in the same area.

## **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 twenty-three community-constructed infrastructure (CCI) projects throughout its areas of operation. It paid \$80,100 in wages and created more than 47 labor-intensive rural jobs. To date, the project has paid \$7.3 million in wages, creating 4,616 FTE jobs for local laborers on infrastructure projects.

### **CCI Summary Chart – June 2012**

<b>Province</b>	<b>Active Projects</b>	<b>Approved Projects</b>	<b>Completed Projects</b>	<b>Stopped Projects</b>	<b>Cancelled Projects</b>	<b>Total Person-days</b>	<b>Total FTEs</b>	<b>Total Wages</b>
Kunar	-	12	12	-	-	-	-	-
Laghman	-	8	8	-	-	-	-	-
Nangarhar	5	44	33	-	6	3,113	11.97	17,536
Nuristan	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Badghis	7	35	23	1	4	5,775	22.21	39,986
Hirat	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Badakhshan	2	23	21	-	-	1,185	4.56	7,765
Baghlan	-	40	40	1	-	-	-	-
Takhar	3	18	13	-	-	2,170	8.34	14,813
Kunduz	-	11	9	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12,243</b>	<b>47.08</b>	<b>80,100</b>

## **DAI Eastern Region**

No completed or started projects during the reporting period

## **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region**

No completed or started projects during the reporting period

# **CROSS CUTTING THEMES**

## ***GENDER***

### **DAI Eastern Region**

IDEA-NEW provided technical assistance during the harvest of cucumber and tomatoes in green houses and facilitated the linkage of the green house owners to input suppliers.

Land preparation, lay-out, and fertilization of kitchen garden plots was completed and 15 plots were cultivated. To date 92 out of 107 kitchen garden farms have been laid-out and transplanted in Assadabad, Chawkai, Mihterlam, Surkhrod, and Bihsud districts of Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar.

IDEA-NEW facilitated 30 women layer farms in Shinwari, Kuz Kunar, Bihsud, Momandara, and Rodat districts of Nangarhar and Noorgal district of Kunar. A total of 48,578 table eggs were produced in these farms and all were sold in local market, generating 242,890 AFN for woman farmers.

IDEA-NEW facilitated the sale of 583 kg of fresh cheese, generating 40,810 AFN net profit to seven local cheese producers in Nangarhar, Kunar, and Laghman.

Ten women retail shopkeepers sold their goods in the local market generating an average 5,335.7 AFN net profit per person.

Six newly established women-owned garment and finishing centers supported by in-kind grants from IDEA-NEW and five existing centers sold clothing products in the local market generating 7,133.45 AFN net profit to each center.

### **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region**

#### **Women's Poultry Project**

The women's poultry project implementation structure changed during the 2012 season with women now receiving 30 pullets and technical support from IDEA-NEW staff. In the past, women also received feed and inputs for building coops. The new structure aims for greater beneficiary investment and greater sustainability for the project.

#### **Community-Based Savings Groups**

IDEA-NEW's livestock team visited 10 community-based saving groups in Baghlan. These groups are in the 10<sup>th</sup> phase of the savings process. In Takhar IDEA-NEW staff visited 8 community-based savings groups in 8 villages in the Taloqan district.

These savings groups serve as an interim activity for IDEA-NEW as the project moves towards facilitating the formation of marketing groups where women can work together to sell their eggs and buy

inputs in bulk to take advantage of economies of scale. The goal is to help the women increase production to take advantage of strong demand for local eggs, which sell at a premium compared to Pakistani and Indian eggs, and possibly lead to the formation of a poultry association.

### **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

No update this reporting period

## ***USG AND GIROA COORDINATION***

### **DAI Eastern Region**

The Program Director and other staff members from IDEA-NEW attended the Nangarhar ASTWG meeting where the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Rural Rehabilitation and Economy jointly submitted a certificate to the Program Director and congratulated him on IDEA-NEW's good coordination, transparency, technical support to DAIL, new technology transfer to the community, and capacity building for extension agents in Nangarhar.

Representatives from IDEA-NEW participated in the Nangarhar University Agriculture faculty students' graduation ceremony in Jalalabad City. The faculty members thanked IDEA-NEW for providing agriculture books and coordinating the internship program.



**Photo:** *IDEA-NEW Program Director receives certificate of appreciation from Director of Nangarhar.*

IDEA-NEW agriculture nursery development program coordinator held a meeting with Director of Agriculture in Badghis and briefed him on ongoing activities.

The Senior Provincial Liaison Officer of IDEA-NEW attended the Nangarhar Provincial Development Council meeting in which government, national, and international organizations participated. At the end of the meeting, the provincial director acknowledged IDEA-NEW's high quality work in Chaparhar district. He said that Chaparhar elders were very happy with IDEA-NEW's CCI projects because they handled recent flooding better than the structures constructed by other organizations.

### **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region**

On June 17, 2012 Takhar's Program Manager and the Agriculture Business Development unit manager attended a workshop regarding Takhar's governmental strategic plan.

Takhar's Livestock Business Development unit manager and unit officer met with the Kalafgan and Farkhar district governors to discuss projects in these districts. They also met with the governmental veterinary and animal health department heads to discuss a possible partnership.

On June 4, 2012 Badakhshan's IDEA-NEW team attended the Agriculture sectoral meeting in DAIL with all NGOs working in the agriculture sector participating.

Together with the Baharak district governor, the Baharak Water Management Manager, and shura members, Badakhshan's IDEA-NEW Program Manager and Infrastructure Unit Manager visited the Sakha canal and restarted the project, which was stopped for three weeks due to insecurity.

Kunduz's Livestock Unit managers met with the General Director of Livestock from MAIL in Kabul to discuss beekeeping business and rearing. They also met with the Kabul Poultry Association to discuss poultry rearing and business in the North.

### **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the IDEA-NEW Program Manager had a meeting with the Director of the Agriculture Department of Faryab and briefly updated him about IDEA-NEW projects in Faryab. The Director of DAIL expressed his satisfaction with IDEA-NEW's support in developing the agriculture program.



*Photo: The IDEA-NEW Program Manager attended in CDC meeting- Maymana , Faryab*

The IDEA-NEW CDO accompanied the local authorities of Jawzjan DAIL and province and DoE representatives as they visited the vineyard trellising program and milk collection centers. The officials expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with the implementation of such effective programs in Jawzjan.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, the IDEA-NEW CDO accompanied the officials of DoE, DAIL, and DoWA in Jawzjan to attend the distribution of a milk hygiene kits to 50 women dairy farmers in Yaka Bagh village in Shibirghan district. At the end of event, Jawzjan government officials expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with IDEA-NEW.

## ***SUSTAINABILITY/CAPACITY BUILDING***

### **DAI Eastern Region**

IDEA-NEW trained 32 member of the the Laghman Wholesaler association. During the two-day training, participants not only learned how to pack their products but also the importance of sorting and grading perishable products. The training also discussed the value of exports in the local economy.

### **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region**

No updates this reporting period

### **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

The Animal Health and Production project continues to build the capacity of paravets working from VFUs to deliver veterinary services to livestock owners across the region and supports the government veterinary service with disease surveillance.

# NON-VALUE CHAIN PROJECTS

## **DAI Eastern Region**

### **Textiles**

The owner of Karim textile in Bihsud district of Nangarhar invested \$12,565, which created job opportunities for seven individuals. The facility continued service to the textile weavers in Rodat, Kama, and Bihsud districts. This facility is now completely sustainable and serving local textile weavers.

The five factories supported by in-kind grants and the seven direct implementation factories in Kama, Rodat, and Bihsud districts produced scarves and shawls for the summer season and are generating profit. These factories are working towards the sustainability of the textile subsector by increasing the throughputs of textile washing and the production of textile products in the local markets.

Each factory is generating around 25000-30000 AFN per month through the sale of products in the local market.



**Photo:** *Packed textiles produced in Karim textile washing and pressing facility- Behsud district, Nangarhar.*

### **Agricultural Technology Promotion**

IDEA-NEW provided laser land leveling training to 20 members of the Kapisa Farm Service Center and to 15 farmers in Kama district of Nangarhar. Both trainings were provided in coordination with the local DAIL. IDEA-NEW also trained 21 farmers on flexi flume pipe in Khogyani district of Nangarhar.

### **Arman Baby Bicycle Factory**

IDEA-NEW assisted the Arman baby bicycle factory of Jalalabad with a \$7,884 in-kind grant and provided training materials to the employees. In June, the factory produced 1,300 bicycles for the local market and created new job opportunities for local Afghans.

### **Potato Chip Factory**

IDEA-NEW assisted Dari-Noor and Kawoon potatoes chip factories through in-kind grants of \$17,250 to each factory, which created 14 jobs for local Afghans.

### **Nangarhar Talc Association**

Nangarhar Talc Association exported 15,900 metric tons of talc to Pakistan generating 132,500 AFN to the association.

### **Nangarhar Beekeepers Association**

The association surveyed 16 beekeepers in Rodat district of Nangarhar and collected 9,000 AFN of membership and registration fees from new members. IDEA-NEW distributed plastic bottles for honey packaging to the association.

### **Nangarhar Nursery Grower Association**

With support from IDEA-NEW, MADERA, and PHDP, the association trained 50 nursery growers in plant propagation. The association met with HLP to discuss the sustainability of the Nangarhar Nursery

Grower Association. As a result of the meeting, HLP will help to find markets for the saplings produced by NNGA members.

### **Laghman Nursery Grower Association**

The association director, deputy director, manager, and accountant participated in a marketing training held by MADERA for small business owners. An additional 50 members of LNNGA were trained on plant propagation with support from IDEA-NEW, MADERA, and PHDP.

### **Radio Program**

Eight live Karkila Aw Maldari (agriculture and livestock) radio shows aired via Sharq Radio in Nangarhar. During the shows, 27 farmers/listeners called IDEA-NEW experts and asked questions about orchards, vegetables, and livestock.

Eight live agriculture and livestock shows were aired via Kawoon Ghag in Laghman and 41 farmers from different parts of the province posed their questions to IDEA-NEW experts.

### **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region**

#### **Commercial Timber and Timber Nursery**

Baghlan's agriculture team monitored timber cultivation and weed control practices for 17 timber cultivation plots. Staff shared technical advice with farmers regarding irrigation systems and fertilizer application in Puli Khumri, Baghlan Jaded, Bano, and Dehsallah districts. In Takhar 40 farmers received training on fertilizer application.

### **Silk**

In Baghlan Jaded district of Baghlan, the agriculture staff performed yield assessment for 30 beneficiaries who produced 268 kg of cocoons. A meeting was conducted with 10 silkworm rearing beneficiaries to discuss market linkages and select one person to visit Hirat's cocoon markets to establish connections.

In Kunduz 550 women harvested 3500 kg of cocoons. IDEA-NEW's Livestock Business Development Unit manager visited Hirat markets to look for cocoon traders to link with the Kunduz silk cooperative and found three larger-scale traders to buy cocoons. Currently market demand is low, around 400-500 AFN/kg; however, after October typically the prices increase to 700-800AFN/kg.



*Photo: Silkworm cocoons in Baghlan Jaded district, Baghlan*

### **Grape Cultivation/Trellising**

The installation of trellising in Bangi and Taloqan districts of Takhar began with the distribution of 280 poles and 120 stands for four beneficiaries. In Badakhshan a total of 15 bundles of wire were distributed and 90 wooden poles were installed for three beneficiaries.

### **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

#### **Establishment of 10 Village Milk Collection and Processing Centers**

Monitoring and supervision continued with visits to seven milk collection centers: Joye Zendan in Samangan, Baba Ewaz and Koshkak in Balkh, Yank Ariq, Yaka Bagh and Scinsus in Jawzjan, and

Jamshidi in Faryab. The centers have been active and the amount of raw milk collected is increasing. A total of 37,790 liters of milk was purchased from 424 members for 644,160AFN, averaging 17 AFN per liter.

Two milk collection centers—one in Khwaja Sabz Posh district of Faryab and another in Hazrati Sultan district of Samangan—failed to build up a sufficient supply of raw milk to sustain business. The project decided to withdraw support and transfer the milk processing equipment to two more successful centers in the same provinces. In Faryab, the equipment from Deh Naw was transferred to Jamshidi and in Samangan the equipment from Ghaznigak was transferred to Joyee Zendan. The Jamshidi and Joyee Zendan processing centers have built up a sufficient supply to utilize the extra equipment.

The following table shows the amounts of milk collected and processed at each center and the products sold:

Dairy Products Processed and Sold												
Processing Center	District	Province	Milk Collected (liter)	Bulk Yogurt kg	Yogurt cup-400 gr	Yogurt Cup -200 gr	Chaka kg	Butter kg	Cheese kg	Butter milk (bottle)	Bulk Milk (liter)	
Joyee Zendan	Aybak	Samangan	5,940	-	2,500	-	-	-	123	-	3,951	
Baba Ewaz	Sholgara	Balkh	3,450	-	-	-	180	18	350	-	-	
Koshkak	Balkh	Balkh	6,030	3,120	-	-	-	-	320	-	-	
Yank Ariq	Aqcha	Jawzjan	4,680	-	2,161	-	255	-	-	-	2,951	
Scinsus	Fayzabad	Jawzjan	2,840	1,860	3,450	-	300	-	-	-	-	
Jamshidi	Pashtun Kot	Faryab	7,500	-	18,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emam Sahib	Sari Pul	Sari Pul	2,850	-	7,125	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Yaka Bagh	Shibirghan	Jawzjan	4,500	-	11,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>37,790</b>	<b>4,980</b>	<b>45,186</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,902</b>	

#### **Cattle Management Training for 500 Women Dairy Farmers:**

The house-to-house follow up of women dairy farmers continued together with the upgrading of cowsheds, of which five were completed in June. So far, 424 cowsheds of 500 have been upgraded, which includes the installation of a lighting window, anda ventilator and mud plastering of walls to prevent ectoparasites.

The cattle husbandry training for 50 female dairy farmers was completed in the Yaka Bagh milk processing center in Jawzjan. The training started on December 20, 2011 and finished on June 20, 2012. The women dairy farmers learned about cattle husbandry and the trainees received milking hygiene kits

and the cowshed improvement kits at the end of the training. IDEA-NEW representatives will visit these women dairy farmers to check that they are practicing the improved cattle husbandry techniques and to improve their cow sheds. Jawzjan DAIL officials attended the graduation ceremony for the women dairy farmers and expressed their gratitude for IDEA-NEW's efforts in agricultural development activities in the province.

**Native Cattle Breed Improvement through Artificial Insemination:**

A total of 53 cows were inseminated. AI will improve the local cattle breed so that they produce more milk.

**Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccination:**

The third cycle of the vaccination campaign against foot and mouth disease continued in nine milk processing centers and a total 1,364 animals were vaccinated against FMD, benefiting 176 households.

The following table includes details of the 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
J Joye Zendan	5940	16	95,040	49	5	115,356	109,160	12
Baba Ewaz	3450	15	51,750	43	-	74,880	69,150	11
Kushkak	6030	15	90,450	70	-	107,440	99,988	6
Yank Ariq	4680	14	65,520	49	-	84,527	76,783	-
Scinsus	2840	15	42,600	36	5	49,980	45,030	8
Jamshidi	7500	21	157,500	70	5	262,500	241,400	13
Emam Sahib	2850	18	51,300	38	6	92,625	82,545	3
Yaka Bagh	4500	20	90,000	69	-	143,400	128,340	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37,790</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>644,160</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>930,708</b>	<b>852,396</b>	<b>53</b>

**Improved Potato Seed Demonstrations:**

IDEA-NEW conducted field days at its 24 potato demonstration plots in Pashtun Kot and Bilchiragh districts of Faryab. A total of 360 farmers attended the field days and learned about potato pest management, hilling, and irrigation.

# GRANTS & CONTRACTS

## **DAI EASTERN REGION:**

The \$60,000 Arian Marble Factory grant collected and installed the marble processing machinery. The \$60,000 Lajbar Marble Factory grant also collected its machinery, and the installation is in process.

The owner of Pashad Marble Factory is working with technical staff from a vendor company on designing the factory, and the machinery will arrive later.

The second milestone payment for \$20,000 for the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) was paid, leaving \$129,494 remaining in the grant fund.

## **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

A purchase order was signed with Umulbelad Nursery Growers Association in Mazari-e-Sharif for the supply of 25,000 mulberry saplings in March 2013, when the saplings will be about 8-12 months old. The saplings will be of the improved variety using the Japanese mulberry variety grafted to local mulberry seedlings. The mulberry saplings will be distributed among the IDEA-NEW trained silkworm rearing beneficiaries.

A draft purchase order package was sent to ACDI/VOCA headquarters for approval for the import of 1,000 boxes of high quality silkworm eggs from the National Silkworm Seed Organization of India.

A purchase order was signed with Encon Consulting Engineers of India for the import of a silk reeling equipment package and 7 Nos Charkha reeling units.

IDEA-NEW signed a sub-agreement modification for a no-cost time extension for the “Strengthening the Livestock Production Project,” currently implemented by DCA through September 2012. The project period is 2.5 years.

A sub-agreement modification was signed with the JDA for a budget realignment to import 12 Nos threshers from Pakistan. These threshers were previously imported and tested by JDA for suitability. It is proposed to sell these threshers to farmers and account as program income.

ACDI/VOCA signed a MoU with Roots of Peace - Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing Program (CHAMP), where IDEA-NEW will provide in-house resource personnel and training materials (including the pesticides manual in Dari and Pashtu) for nationwide pesticide application training sessions in Kabul, Jalalabad, and Kandahar in July 2012.

# VOICES FROM THE FIELD



## **DAI Eastern Region**

**Beneficiary:** Matiullah, Orchard Development

**From:** Behsud district of Nangarhar.

Matiullah has worked in the orchard field since 2002.

“This commercial orchard was established with DAI support in 2006. Previously our orchards were established in traditional ways so our product income was less and we didn’t know how to manage the orchard. Through IDEA-NEW, we received training in orchard activities such as fertilizer application time, orchard design and lay out, sapling selection, white washing, regular irrigation,

chemical use, marketing, and pruning. The IDEA-NEW field technician supervises the orchard weekly. In 2006 I planted two jeribs of stone fruit and I saw positive results. Currently I have five jeribs of Chinese lemon and persimmon and I get advantages from intercropping. I have also become an expert in orchard pruning, and the other orchard growers invite me for pruning, which is another way of generating income.”



## **Mercy Corps Northeastern Region**

**Beneficiary:** Haji Nazar, Orchard Management

**From:** Kalafghan district, Takhar

Haji Nazar is a beneficiary in IDEA-NEW’s orchard management project in Aqplaq village of Kalafghan district. He tends to a fruit orchard on four jeribs of land. He said, “I can now say that I am a specialist in orchard management. IDEA-NEW staff trained me well and now I am able to transfer what I learned to other farmers. I can see an increase in the amount of fruit I cultivate, and my fruits do not have any diseases.”



## **ACDI/VOCA Northern Region**

**Beneficiary:** Ameer Khan, Conservation Tillage Training

**From:** Khulm district, Balkh

Ameer Khan is a 62 year old farmer who lives in Khulm district of Balkh. He attended a harvesting field day in conservation tillage training plots and said: “It is more than 40 years that I have worked as a farmer and this is the first time that I saw the 2WT and reaper that works really easily. The reaping by hands needs more expenditure, power and more time. But the new technology is really cheap and easy. I request farmers to use the new system to prevent more expenditure. In the last two field days I saw the planting by zero-tillage and weed control and today I

saw the harvesting and it was demonstrated to the farmers that how the reaper works. The planting by zero-tillage is a better way of planting and it increases the yield. The small thresher which is powered by 2WT is another good piece of equipment for us. Thanks from all those people who are providing us this opportunity.”

# 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***

*June 1-30, 2012*

Province	Districts	CPF		REVAMP	Orchard Dev Program	Nursery Dev Prog Total
		Wheat	Vegetables	Vegetables		
Nangarhar	Batikut	-	-	-	-	7
Nangarhar	Behsood	-	-	-	-	17
Nangarhar	Chaparhar	-	61	-	16	-
Nangarhar	Dari noor	-	22	36	-	-
Nangarhar	Ghanikhil	-	21	17	-	5
Nangarhar	Goshta	-	35	30	-	-
Nangarhar	Kama	-	92	43	13	3
Nangarhar	Khogyani	-	118	73	-	1
Nangarhar	Kot	-	37		-	-
Nangarhar	Kuz Kunar	-	87	17	-	-
Nangarhar	Momandara	-	64	57	20	-
Nangarhar	Pachir Wa Agam	-	96		19	-
Nangarhar	Rodat	-	32	31	10	10
Nangarhar	Surkhrod	-	78	112	-	7
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>50</b>

<b>Kunar</b>	Asad Abad	-	-	55	-	17
<b>Kunar</b>	Chawky	-	53	28	-	2
<b>Kunar</b>	Khas Kunar	18	-	49	18	7
<b>Kunar</b>	Manogal	-	-	-	15	2
<b>Kunar</b>	Narang	-	39	90	-	9
<b>Kunar</b>	Noorgal	-	68	-	14	
<b>Kunar</b>	Serkaney	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Kunar</b>	Shegal	-	47	28	-	2
<b>Kunar</b>	Watapur	-	16	-	-	-
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Laghman</b>	Alingar	-	-	18	-	-
<b>Laghman</b>	Mehtarlam	-	139	18	-	50
<b>Laghman</b>	Qarghaee	-	57	58	19	-
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>140</b>

## ***ANNEX IV: MONTHLY SALES DATA***

*June 1-30, 2012*

Products	Local Market		High Market		Value		Export Market		Total Weight & Value	
	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$
Vegetable	145,000	22,740	32,691	38,256	100,000	7,895	277,691	68,891		
Fruits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herbs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheese	583	2,215	-	-	-	-	583	2,215		
Masroor Foods	-	34,500	-	-	-	-	-	34,500		
Textile	-	11,788	-	-	-	-	-	11,788		

Snacks	-	2,300	-	-	-	-	-	2,300
Chicks Hatched	-	8,195	-	-	-	-	-	8,195
Packing Cartons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Table Eggs	-	4,858	-	-	-	-	-	4,858
Vermicelli	55,000	30,684	-	-	-	-	55,000	30,684
Soap	27,000	21,303	-	-	-	-	27,000	21,303
<b>Total</b>	<b>227,583</b>	<b>\$138,583</b>	<b>32,691</b>	<b>\$38,256</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>\$7,895</b>	<b>360,274</b>	<b>\$184,734</b>

*July 1, 2009- June 30, 2012*

Products	Local Market		High Market		Value Export Market		Total Weight & Value	
	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$
Vegetable	5,678,150	1,216,770	257,729	322,168	14,595,000	3,777,466	20,530,879	5,316,404
Fruits	187,386	55,108	6,530	16,461	22,500	22,583	216,416	94,152
Herbs	709	200	-	-	-	-	709	200
Cheese	16,708	56,672	-	-	-	-	16,708	56,672
Masroor Foods	-	199,486	-	56,352	-	-	-	255,838
Textile	-	206,424	-	-	-	-	-	206,424
Snacks	-	117,610	-	4,392	-	-	-	122,002
Chicks Hatched	-	289,417	-	-	-	-	-	289,417
Cartoons Riaz	-	95,240	-	-	-	-	-	95,240
Table Eggs	-	127,238	-	-	-	-	-	127,238
Vermicelli	302,500	175,966	-	-	-	-	302,500	175,966
Soap	190,000	134,302	-	-	-	-	190,000	134,302
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,375,453</b>	<b>2,674,433</b>	<b>264,259</b>	<b>399,373</b>	<b>14,617,500</b>	<b>3,800,049</b>	<b>21,257,212</b>	<b>6,873,855</b>

## ***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 Date** .....March 1, 2014  
**Cooperative Agreement Number**.....306-A-00-09-00508  
**AOTR/USAID Program Manager**.....Mohammad Aslam Amiri, +93 (0) 700.066.583  
**Agreement Officer** .....Bruce McFarland  
**Geographic Coverage** .....Northern, Northeastern, Eastern and Western Afghanistan

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