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

MONTHLY REPORT: JULY 2012



A woman poultry farmer and day-old chicks,
Dara-e-Noor district, Nangarhar

JULY 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

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	RCC	Reinforced Cement Concrete
EMS	Environmental Management System	RFA	Request for Application
FTE	Full-time Equivalent	RMHC	Rabia Mariam Handicraft Co.
GDA	Global Development Alliance	SDF	Small Demonstration Farm
GIRoA	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	SPF	Small Production Farm
GME	Gender & Micro Enterprise	TIMER	Technology Innovations for Market-Led Economic Rehabilitation
ha	Hectare/s	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IP	Implementing Partner	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	USG	United States’ Government
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force	VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
		2WT	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.

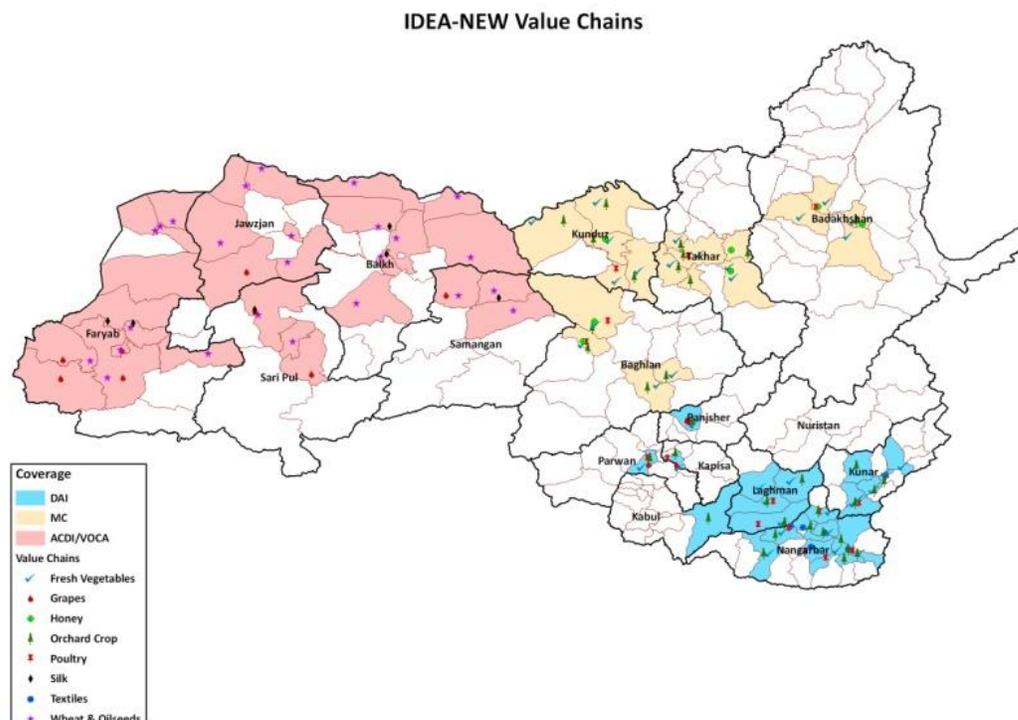
As part of this strategy, the Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East, and West (IDEA-NEW) program has focused on activities that promote income generation and job creation through increased commercial agricultural opportunity for Afghan farmers in poppy production-prone areas. The 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

JULY 2012

EASTERN REGION

LAGHMAN, NANGARHAR, NURISTAN, KUNAR, KAPISA, PARWAN, AND PANJSHIR PROVINCES AND THE SAROBI DISTRICT OF KABUL

Started: Selected 9 CPFs and began agricultural activities in Kapisa, Pannjshir, Parwan, and Kabul provinces

Started: Supported 10 new woman broiler farms in Nangarhar and provided 220 day old chicks, 12 bags of feed, and equipment to each farmer

In Progress: Distributed 3,850 cartons and 748 plastic baskets to 80 fruit growers groups in and trained 341 orchard owners during 20 field days

In Progress: Trained 1,627 farmers during 87 field days in 20 districts

In Progress: Eight broiler farmers added 20,200 broiler day old chicks in their farms in Nangarhar and Laghman

In Progress: Five broiler farmers sold 12,700 broiler chicks in local market and earned an average of 64,344 AFN each

NORTHERN REGION

BALKH, FARYAB, JAWZJAN, SAMANGAN AND SARI PUL PROVINCES

Started: Conducted five field days in Balkh and commenced the yield comparison field days on 30 annual crop demonstration plots

Completed: The third cycle of FMD vaccination in all milk collecting and processing centers

Completed: Trained 2,426 famers during harvesting field days under annual crop development program

Completed: Collected of silk cocoons from rearers in all five provinces.

NORTHEASTERN REGION

BADAKHSHAN, KUNDUZ, TAKHAR AND BAGHLAN PROVINCES

In Progress: Set up 31 self-selecting farmers groups to facilitate better access to markets and increase leverage with buyers and input suppliers to negotiate better prices

In Progress: Provided 120 pullets to women to start a semi-commercial poultry business, which is anticipated to generate an average gross income of 13,500 AFN through the sale of 2,250 eggs per month

In Progress: 600 women currently participate in community-based savings groups where women contribute up to 800 AFN per session. The average amount saved is about \$10 per person.

WESTERN REGION

HIRAT AND BADGHIS PROVINCES

Completed: Saidalha Structures Improvement Project, located in Qadis district of Badghis, irrigates 55 hectares of land benefitting 110 families

Completed: Soil preparation, field lay-out, fertilization, nursery establishment, direct seeding, and transplanting for summer and fall season crops were completed in Qala-e-Now district of Badghis

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

The agriculture team continued conducting five field days on disease management, irrigation, and fertilization at demonstration plots in Pashtun Kot, Shirin Tagab, Qaysar, Dawlatabad and Khwaja Sabz Posh districts of Faryab. The 129 participants, consisting of local grape growers, agricultural retailers, and traditional vineyard owners, received instruction in the prevention of powdery mildew and anthracnose, which can lead to heavy loss of yield.

The agriculture team treated eight vineyard demonstration plots in Dawlatabad, Shirin Tagab, Khwaja Sabz Posh, Pashtun Kot and Qaysar districts of Faryab with Azoxystrobin for the second time this season to protect against powdery mildew and other common diseases.



Photo: *Grapes spring and summer management training- Maymana, Faryab*

An international viticulture consultant conducted three training field days in Balkh, Faryab and Samangan for 89 vine-growing farmers and DAIL staff. The farmers received theoretical and practical training on spring and summer management practices for table grapes.

An MoU was signed with Samangan Agriculture High School to establish a vineyard demonstration plot, which both students and farmers will use for training. The demonstration plots measures 600 square meters and uses the T-trellis system. IDEA-NEW currently maintains twenty trellised vineyard demonstration plots in the northern region.

The installation of trellises continued in newly planted vineyards that are not yet producing fruit since working in mature vineyards damages the growing vines and fruit. One vineyard measuring 0.072 ha was surveyed in Shirin Tagab district of Faryab and 48 trellis posts were delivered. To date, 19.88 ha have been trellised in Faryab, Samangan and Sari Pul.

The manufacturing of concrete posts was suspended in all four manufacturing plants to focus on the current cropping season. IDEA-NEW plans to resume placing orders for more concrete posts 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

IDEA-NEW trained 341 orchard owners during 20 field days on irrigation, liming, Flexi flume installation, pruning, mulching, and IPM in various districts of Nangarhar and Kunar.

Twenty skilled farmers were selected from the fruit growers association previously established by IDEA-NEW and ADP/E to help orchards beneficiaries to improve their capacity in pruning during the next dormant phase. IDEA-NEW will provide theoretical and practical instruction on pruning and training methods to the selected farmers next month.



Photo: Farmers get training on white washing and light pruning- Momandara district, Nangarhar

IDEA-NEW provided technical assistance to 380 farmers on post-harvest activities including grading, sorting and packing, proper irrigation, pruning, and mulch use for moisture conservation in different districts of eastern region.

To improve post-harvest activities, IDEA-NEW distributed 3,850 cartons and 748 plastic baskets to 80 fruit grower groups.

Sustainability: 30 farmers in Kama, Qarghaee, Narang, and Chawkai districts requested to establish new orchards through 100% of farmers' contribution in Fall 2012. IDEA-NEW will provide assistance with land design and sourcing high quality and certified saplings.

Nursery Development Program

IDEA-NEW provided technical support to 12 nursery growers on fertilizer application, timely irrigation, weed control, chemical application for pest control, and sign board preparation in Asadabad district of Kunar.

The first, second, and third milestones were achieved in which trained 800 farmers (400 males and 400 females) on parasites control, deworming, viral diseases, poultry parasites, and poultry disease and vaccination in 20 villages of Qala-e-Now & Qadis districts of Badghis.

A workshop also took place in Qala-e-Now for 20 LFEWs (Local Female Extension Worker) to train the ladies in coverage area.

ACDI/VOCA Northern Region

Perennial Crops

IDEA-NEW visited 26 orchards in Pashtun Kot, Shirin Tagab and Khwaja Sabz Posh districts of Faryab and found the trees in good condition. 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.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Orchard Management

IDEA-NEW's agriculture team began monitoring and collecting GPS data points for 94 orchard management plots in Baghlan Jaded, Bano and Dehsallah districts. Technical advice was shared with farmers regarding irrigation systems, fertilizer application, and weeding.

Sustainability: In addition to training IDEA-NEW beneficiaries to prune their own trees, the project also linked orchard growers to master pruners already working in their areas and growers received a voucher for discounted pruning services. In the future, farmers will still be trained in pruning and linked to master pruners, but IDEA-NEW



Photo: Orchard Management project- Kunduz center, Kunduz

will provide little or no subsidy on the pruning services. This will encourage master pruners to generate demand for the services by reaching out to farmers directly. This year, IDEA-NEW will provide accreditation and ongoing skills training to master pruners and provide them with certificates and vests to increase their credibility and visibility among orchard owners.

Orchard Establishment

In Badakhshan, 80 orchards were monitored in Baharak, Argo, and Faizabad districts and farmers were given technical advice in basin systems, disease control, irrigation systems, fertilizer, and pruning.

In Takhar, 217 farmers received training on fertilizer application, three sucker cutting, and mulching in Kalafghan, Bangi, Farkhar, Baharak, and Taloqan districts. Saplings in all five districts have shown reasonable growth.

IDEA-NEW staff completed urea application, basin preparation, weed control, and water sprouting pruning projects for the 134 new orchards in Qala-e-Zal, Imam Sahib and Khan Abad districts of Kunduz.

IDEA-NEW collected GPS data from 79 orchards in Baghlan Jaded, Bano and Dehsallah districts of Baghlan and shared technical advice with farmers about irrigation systems, fertilizer application, and weeding.

Sustainability: 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 leftover products wholesale. This year, IDEA-NEW will support fruit tree nursery entrepreneurs to extend outreach directly to farmers to encourage the purchase of inputs with layout and planting services in an embedded package for the farmers.

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 continued for summer and fall season crops in 16 selected commercial production farms of Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar.

Harvesting and marketing of different vegetables also continued in all small production farms.



Photo: A farmer harvested hot pepper-
Khogiani district, Nangarhar

The selection of 135 new small production farms (SPFs) for fall-winter season crops started in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar. These SPFs will be used for farmers training purposes.

IDEA-NEW conducted 87 field days during which 1,627 farmers (CPFs& SPFs) in 20 districts were trained on modern techniques. Farmers were linked to input suppliers who updated local growers on new products.

Agriculture activities started in Kapisa, Pannjshir, Parwan and Kabul and soil preparation, nursery preparation, basal fertilization, land layout, and direct seeding began in nine selected CPFs. Farming tools were also provided to the owner of the CPFs.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Vegetable Demo Plots

In Badakhshan, seven spring crops demo plots were weeded by farmers under the supervision of IDEA-NEW technical staff in Baharak, Argo, Jurm and Faizabad districts. Farmers have started to harvest cucumbers to sell in local markets. In Takahr, this project is ongoing in Bangi, Farkhar, Baharak, and Talqan districts and is run by the PSP. Squash and cucumber harvest are complete, and now okra and tomato harvests have started. In Baghlan, 72 bundles of barbed wire and 792 wooden pillars were distributed to 12 selected farmers for demonstration.

Strawberry Demo Plots

In Takhar and Badakhshan, participating farmers contribute 50% of the input costs for the demo plots. In Badakhshan farmers weeded seven strawberry demo plots in Faizabad, Jurm, Baharak and Argo district under direct supervision of IDEA-NEW's Agriculture team. Two farmers in Argo and Jurm districts harvested 7 kg of strawberries from their demo plots.

Women's Home-based Greenhouse Project

This project is ongoing in four villages in Takhar where each greenhouse has produced 80 kg tomatoes with a selling price of 10 AFN per kg. Four farmers received training on tomato pruning, thinning, composting, and packaging. In Kunduz, each participating female farmer earned 8,000 AFN during the winter season.

Summer Fruit & Vegetable Cultivation Project

In Badakhshan, 140 farmers cultivated watermelon seeds in Argo, Baharak, Kishem and Faizabad districts and 28 farmers cultivated cauliflowers seeds with 14 of these farmers transferring seedlings from nurseries to the main plots. IDEA-NEW agriculture staff monitored summer crops in Argo, Baharak, Faizabad and Kishem districts.

In Kunduz, 33 farmers were trained on how to prepare land, sow seeds in nurseries, transplant seedlings to the main plots, apply fertilizer and pesticide, and other related practices. IDEA-NEW assisted 40 beneficiaries in Imam Sahib district with weed and pest control in preparation for the upcoming humid season.

IDEA-NEW agriculture staff cultivated 3 watermelon demonstration plots and monitored 220 watermelon plots in Puli Khumri and Baghlan jaded districts of Baghlan. In addition, 7 cauliflower nurseries were transplanted from raised beds to demonstrations plots and 100 cauliflower nurseries were transplanted from nurseries to field plots in Puli Khumri, Baghlan jaded, Bano and Dehsallah districts.



Photo: Watermelon demonstration - Baghlan jaded district, Baghlan

IDEA-NEW trained 52 farmers on watermelon cultivation methods, including spacing, irrigation intervals, fertilizer application, weed control, thinning, and post-harvest handling in Puli Khumri, Baghlan jaded districts and distributed technical brochures with photos and technical advice.

Sixteen farmers in Takhar have harvested tomatoes with each jerib producing approximately 350 kg at an asking price of each 7 AFN per kg. All farmers have been registered to self-selecting farmers groups (SSFs) to facilitate the sale of their products at higher prices.

Self-Selecting Farmers Groups (SSF)

In total, 31 SSFs have been 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 and have sold 1000 kg tomatoes in local markets via these groups. The farmers now participate in monthly meetings with their SSFs. In Badakhshan four groups were formed: three vegetable groups and one fruit farmer group, all in Baharak district. In Kunduz ten farmer groups with 10-15 farmers each were formed in Kunduz center Iman Sahib and Aliabad districts.

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

Eight broiler farmers added 20,200 broiler day old chicks to their farms in Shinwari, Dara-i-Noor, Achin and Chaparhar districts of Nangarhar and Qarghayee district of Laghman.

Five broiler farmers in Shinwari, Achin and Dara-i- Noor, Kuz Kunar and Behsud districts of Nangarhar and Asadabad district of Kunar sold 12,700 broiler chicks in local market and each farmer received an average of 64,344 AFN net profit. IDEA-NEW is technically supporting these poultry farms.

An IDEA-NEW poultry specialist visited Hedayat Barakat Breeder farm in Bihsud district and provided instruction in feeding and lighting systems and vaccination methods.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Women's Home-Based Egg Production

In Badakhshan, the IDEA-NEW livestock poultry team linked Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) with beneficiaries to vaccinate pullets and provide advice regarding appropriate feed.

IDEA-NEW provided a follow-up training for 80 families in 4 CDCs in Baghlan Jaded and Puli Khumri districts. One CDC was linked with a VFU and they vaccinated 890 pullets against Newcastle disease. A visit to a poultry project was conducted with a USAID representative in one CDC in Pul-e-Khumri district.



Photo: VFU linked with CDC- Baghlan Jaded district, Baghlan

In Takhar this project is ongoing for 80 beneficiaries in 5 villages of Taloqan district. IDEA-NEW staff distributed 2,400 pullets to 80 selected beneficiaries with the governmental veterinary animal health department poultry officer accompanying them. IDEA-NEW introduced and linked VFUs to beneficiaries to provide support with pullet vaccination or other related issues. The VFU has started vaccinating against Newcastle disease.

Small Flock Chicken for Women

IDEA-NEW staff visited 8 beneficiaries in 3 districts of Takhar and provided guidance about coop construction, coop hygiene and poultry feed.

In Baghlan, one new project was started with 5 families selected in Baghlan Jaded and Puli Khumri districts. Small chicken coop construction is ongoing, with 80% of construction completed.

In Kunduz, 7 farmers received 1102 kg of poultry feed and the construction of pullets' coops is complete.

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

No updates this reporting period

ACDI/VOCA Northern Region

Training of Farmers on Improved Agronomy of Annual Crops

In July, the agriculture team completed the harvesting field days on 30 annual crop demonstration plots under the annual crop development program by conducting four field days, two in Sari Pul and two in Faryab. A total of 2,426 regular farmers attended and observed a 2WT and thresher used for harvesting wheat.

Following completion of the harvesting field days at the demonstration plots, IDEA-NEW conducted five yield comparison field days in Balkh attended by a total of 373 farmers. Yield comparison field days are held to review the improved agronomic techniques used in cultivation of the annual crops and its results. Farmers attending the yield comparison field days can see the increase in yield resulting from the use of simple and improved agronomic techniques and learn how to adopt the new technology in the following growing season.

Meanwhile, in field days the farmers were encouraged to buy the good quality back pack sprayers and booms which were recently imported by IDEA-NEW from Pakistan. During this reporting period, a total of fourteen booms and one back pack sprayer were sold to the



Photo: Farmers attending a yield comparison field day on a conservation tillage demonstration plot—Khulm, Balkh

interested farmers in Balkh province. Encouraging the farmers to buy the back pack sprayer will continue in the other yield comparison field days.

The thirty established annual crop demonstration plots of IDEA-NEW include the plots of oil seed like safflower, flax, sesame and canola under the annual crop development program. By the end of harvesting season in the region, farmers need markets to be encouraged for planting oil seed in next planting season. In order to ensure the farmers about the market, IDEA-NEW introduced a total of thirteen key farmers who are representatives of their districts to two Oil Press Companies to sell their harvested oil seed in a good price. The farmers promised to the owner of the companies to bring their collected yields to them.

Two demonstrations of threshers were conducted in Faryab province to show the use of thresher to owners of 2WT. A total of 56 owners of the 2WTs attended the demonstration and the benefits of small thresher powered by 2WT were explained.

Conservation Tillage Training

As part of the same program, a total of seven 1 ha training plots have been 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.

The harvesting field days at conservation tillage demonstration plots were completed. Seven harvesting field days were conducted and they were attended by 246 individuals. The use of the reaper and a small 2WT-powered thresher were demonstrated. Participants were impressed by the results of zero-tillage planting and mechanical harvesting using the 2WT. Following completion of harvesting field days, the yield comparison field days started and so far three yield comparison field days were conducted, attended by 113 farmers. A report on the efficiency of the new agronomic technology introduced in the northern parts of Afghanistan will be produced upon completion of data collection and analysis.

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 household silk production program was completed during this month creating a total of 4.5 million AFN in revenue to the 1,000 women beneficiaries within five project provinces in the northern region of Afghanistan. The program support was started in February 2012 and it included 5 days of training for each women trainee, provision of one box of silkworm eggs for each trainee and house to house support for each trainee to successfully process silkworm eggs and produce silk cocoons. IDEA-NEW also facilitated a market for the silk cocoons through its implementing partner RMHC.



Photo: Cocoon harvest – Say Darak village, Kunduz center

By the end of July 2012, the process of data collection was completed and almost all women were able to successfully process the silkworm eggs and produce the expected amount of cocoons per box of silkworm eggs. The average production rate is 8.73 kg of dry silk cocoons from one box of silkworm eggs bringing over 4500 AFN per household. The following table shows details of the program:

No	Province	Number of Beneficiaries per Province	Produced Dry Cocoon/ Kg	Price/Kg (AFN)	Total Price in AFN
1	Balkh	219	2219.04	500	1109520
2	Samangan	131	1138	500	569000
3	Jawzjan	249	2525	500	1262500
4	Sari Pul	200	2188	500	1094000
5	Faryab	201	662	800	529600
Total		1,000	8,732.04	2,800	4,564,620

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



Photo: Checking beehives- Farkhar district, Takhar

In Badakhshan IDEA-NEW staff monitored beekeeping projects in several villages: Dasht e Farakh, Malangab, Do Aab, Chapchi, and Baharak.

IDEA-NEW staff conducted a yield assessment for 20 beneficiaries in the beekeeping project in Baghlan Jaded district on honey production. The average produce is 4 kg/bee hive and the price per kg is 700 to 800 AFN in local markets, which is good income for farmers.

In Takhar IDEA-NEW staff visited beekeeping project beneficiaries and provided technical training about honey extraction. During this reporting period, beneficiaries extracted honey at an average of 4.5 kg per beneficiary.

In Kunduz the project is continuously monitored jointly with beekeeping PSPs. Seven new colonies have been created and 215 kg of honey was extracted from 68 beehives. Practical and theoretical training continues for 68 beekeepers in Imam Sahib, Qala-e-Zal and Kunduz center.

Sustainability: Traditionally there has been support for existing beekeeping associations through the government and NGOs working in the beekeeping subsector. Most of these were efforts to pool producers to market honey produced by the members. IDEA-NEW works with several beekeeper businessmen or associations in each province who are already established and selling the necessary inputs including hives, bee boxes and tools. The project will provide technical training as well as business training to help them 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

On 4th of July, a joint team of IDEA-NEW, DCA and Balkh DAIL visited Balkh DAIL Karakul sheep farm in Dihdadi district. The purpose of the visit was to see the current condition of Karakul sheep on the farm. During the visit, an official from Balkh DAIL expressed his appreciation and thanked IDEA-NEW for provided support.

On 9th of July, a joint team of IDEA-NEW and DCA visited Karakul sheep farm in Shibirghan district of Jawzjan. During the visit, the head of Karakul department of Jawzjan DAIL was also present. The team provided tag numbering to facilitate their recording. Meanwhile, the Jawzjan, the DAIL requested IDEA-NEW to purchase animal feed for sheep in Shibirghan Karakul farm.

IDEA-NEW assigned two paravets to visit the Karakul farms regularly. The finding shows that the sheep are in good health and the paravets were advised to monitor the farms regularly.

The IDEA-NEW livestock officers have been assigned to survey the Karakul growing areas and identify key farmers who will be under extension support.

Establishment of Feed Banks:

Five feed banks were monitored in Qaysar, Almar, Maymana and Gurziwan districts of Faryab and one in Khwaja Do Koh district of Jawzjan. The feed bank of Khwaja Do Koh purchased 2,100 kg of barely feed based on the requests from local farmers. The sales records of the feed banks were checked and the managers of the feed banks were instructed to record the sales and finance issues properly. Twenty-five livestock feed banks have been established in 23 districts of the region. Each feed bank has been provided with eight tons of cotton cake and flax cake.

Support to Veterinary Field Units (VFUs)

A total of 28 VFUs, 17 in Faryab, three in Jawzjan and eight in Balkh, were monitored with respect to the regular extension training sessions conducted by the paravets in the field. The VFUs deliver animal health services to livestock owners in the region, including insecure and very remote areas. All 28 VFUs were provided with questionnaires to fill out and select farmers having Karakul sheep and cashmere goats. Also the VFUs were provided with Small Ruminants Herd Health Packages to start the training for selected farmers.



Photo: *Checking the vaccination and registration books at the VFU- Sholgara, Balkh*

On July 5th, a joint team of IDEA-NEW and DCA visited the female paravets in Ali Chopan village in Balkh and supervised the current activity of paravet in the area. Besides working in her VFU, she is supervising the ten local female extension workers.

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 Business Development team followed up with the three associations in Sari Pul, Jawzjan and Faryab provinces. The main purpose of the meeting was to attend their Associations members’ meetings in order to see and check the results of previous meeting decisions and promises, especially in regards with collection of outstanding dues:

- Bawar Ag-Association collected members’ outstanding dues amounting 179,805 AFN during the past month. After collecting dues from members, they put capital into cycle and procured a 70,000 AFN wire for the trellising project and 105, 600 AFN covered their four month expenses. Due to this, the performance of Faryab Association was not satisfactory compared with other three associations.

- The Bahar Association in Sari Pul province collected outstanding dues from 13 members, their second installment, amounting to 145,000 AFN. They paid less debts compared to the first installment, but they promised that they will hold the next members' meeting at the end of Ramadan and will collect all outstanding dues. After collecting the second installment, all members took part and stated their comments to put the capital into cycle and procure agricultural inputs as it is the season and there is more demand in each district of Sari Pul. Therefore, they named eight agricultural medicines and also specified the quantity of each input to be purchased.

Following the in-kind grant distribution, IDEA-NEW distributed 75 pesticide application books to Khurassan, Bahar and Bawar Ag-Associations in Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Faryab. Two pesticide flip chart posters were given to Kawsar Ag-Association members and one pesticide flip chart poster was given to a Balkh Bastan Ag-Association member.

Based on the signed MoU, IDEA-NEW trainer teams were on a mission in Kabul and Jalalabad to provide pesticide management and spraying application training to Roots of Peace extension workers. The training was for one week in each province from July 1-5, 2012 and there were 43 participants from Roots of Peace. At the end of training, IDEA-NEW trainers distributed certificates to all participants.

Land Laser Leveling Program

The IDEA-NEW agricultural officer visited the cooperatives to collect reports on Land Laser Leveling machine activity and check the status of the machine. 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 *Training of Farmers on Improved Agronomy of Annual Crops* project. In July, four new farmers from Balkh and Jawzjan provinces 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. Meanwhile, two farmers who already have 2WT bought subsidized reapers. Since the start of the 2WT program, 185 farmers have bought 2WTs and been trained in operation and maintenance. Another 16 farmers, who already have 2WTs, have bought reapers.

Photo: Two Wheel Tractor Training –Maymana, Faryab

Establishment of 25 Maintenance and Repair Workshops for 2WTs

In July, IDEA-NEW's IP OHT completed the 9th series of supervision visits from 23 repair workshops in Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Faryab provinces. The sales report show that the 23 workshops had sales revenue of 170, 447 AFN during the two months. Looking at the previous records of the workshops since they were established, it has been a remarkable performance. This shows an increase of 81% revenue compared with the 8th series of supervision visit.

Due to security problems, OHT was not able to visit two workshops in Sozma Qala and Sangcharak district of Sari Pul province.

During a visit by the IDEA-NEW annual crop officer from Dawlatabad district of Balkh, he found that one of the 2WT mechanics is making tip back trailers attached to 2WT in his own shop. So far, he made two trailers and sold each for \$800. This is a good step for sustainability of this 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 twenty-three community-constructed infrastructure (CCI) projects throughout its areas of operation. It paid over \$62,000 in wages and created more than 41 labor-intensive rural jobs. To date, the project has paid \$7.3 million in wages, creating 4,657 FTE jobs for local laborers on infrastructure projects.

CCI Summary Chart – July 2012

Province	Active Projects	Approved Projects	Completed Projects	Stopped Projects	Cancelled Projects	Total Person-days	Total FTEs	Total Wages
Kunar	-	12	12	-	-	-	-	-
Laghman	-	8	8	-	-	-	-	-
Nangarhar	-	44	33	-	6	-	-	-
Nuristan	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Badghis	6	35	24	1	4	7,400	28.46	39,091
Hirat	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Badakhshan	2	23	21	-	-	2,023	7.78	14,026
Baghlan	-	40	40	1	-	-	-	-
Takhar	3	18	13	-	-	1,465	5.63	9,666
Kunduz	-	11	9	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	11	196	165	2	10	10,888	41.87	62,783

DAI Eastern Region

Started: Improvement of Paikha – Abdul Khail Bridge

The project is located in Achin district of Nangarhar, which connects Pekha and Abdul Khail valley with Achin district. The bridge serves approximately more than 13 villages consisting of 16,000 families of Achin district. The main work involved is excavation of foundation, stone masonry, RCC and shuttering.

COMPLETED: Saidalha Structures Improvement Project

Located in Qadis district of Badghis, this project irrigates 55 ha of land benefitting 110 families.

The following activities were completed during the project implementation:

- 1,224 m³ excavation of foundation
- 517 m³ stone masonry
- P.C.C = 26 m³
- Pointing=296m²
- Back filling=150 m³
- DPC = 6 m³

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

No completed or started projects during the reporting period

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

GENDER

DAI Eastern Region

The harvesting of cucumbers and tomatoes was finished in green houses. The green house owners were linked to input suppliers, and IDEA-NEW facilitated and provided technical assistance.

The selection of kitchen garden beneficiaries started in Pawan and during the period 35 women were selected in Charikar and Said Khail districts.

IDEA-NEW facilitated 30 women layer farms in Shinwari, Kuz Kunar, Bihsud, Momandara, Rodat of Nangarhar and Noorgal district of Kunar provinces. During this reporting period a total of 9,977 table eggs were produced in these farms and all were sold in local markets, generating 44,896 AFN for woman farmers.

IDEA-NEW supported 10 new women broiler farms in Bihsud, Shinwari, Rodat, Kuz Kunar and Dara-i-Noor districts of Nangarhar and provided 220 day old chicks, 12 bags of feed and the required farm equipment to each farmer. These farms were selected through CDC and DDA Shuras. IDEA-NEW women poultry specialists will help them technically in vaccination, feeding, lighting, bio security and farm management; they will also receive record keeping training to improve the financial management system of their farms.

IDEA-NEW women poultry and livestock specialists visited a women's fish pond located in Kama district. This fish pond has 3,500 fishes and has been rearing fish for the last four years. The farm has generated 80,000 AFN in net profit during four years.

An impact survey was started on TARAQI SABA program. During this reporting period the IDEA-NEW team conducted surveys in different schools and interviewed five students in Kunar province. The evaluation is still in progress and will soon be completed.

IDEA-NEW facilitated the sale of 509 kg of fresh cheese that generated a total of 35,630 AFN net profit to seven local cheese centers that are located in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman.

Ten women retail shopkeepers sold their goods in the local market generating an average 5,058 AFN net profit.

Six newly established women-owned garment and finishing centers (supported by in-kind grants from IDEA-NEW) and five existing centers sewed women's clothes and sold their products in local market that generated 7,125 AFN net profit for 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

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 50 AFN to over 800 AFN. Women are beginning to save enough to make loans.

Sustainability: 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/Indian eggs) and possibly lead to the formation of a poultry association.



Photo: *Women's green house- Kunduz center, Kunduz.*

Women's Home-based Greenhouse Project

In Kunduz and Takhar the project is ongoing with women harvesting their vegetables and selling them at the markets.

ACDI/VOCA Northern Region

Fatima, a mother of four children, lives in Yaka Bagh village of Jawzjan. She is a member of the IDEA-NEW supported milk collecting and processing center. Here is Fatima's story from the benefits of the milk collection center. She said "I borrowed 40,000 AFN from a micro finance agency and bought two cows. Now I am able to pay back the dues and also support my children through sales of milk to the milk collecting center that has been established in our village. My husband has gone to Iran for work but there is not support from him".

USG AND GIROA COORDINATION

DAI Eastern Region

An IDEA-NEW representative participated in Laghman ASTWG (Agriculture Strengthening Technical Working Group) meeting and explained IDEA-NEW monthly activities to the participants and answered their questions.

An IDEA-NEW representative joined a MAIL coordination meeting and shared technical ideas on value chains and transferring new technology to farmers in the region.

A meeting was held with Lorraine Hartman, ASA (Afghanistan Soybean Association) country director, where soybean cultivation and provision of facilities for soy processing method in eastern region were discussed.

A meeting was conducted with the Sarobi district USAID rep about projects which are important to complete before USAID leaves the area. IDEA-NEW activities were presented to the Shinwar USAID team.

A MoU between the MAIL and IDEA-NEW for jointly working in three provinces was discussed with General Director of extension in MAIL.

A coordination meeting was held with DAIL directors, the head of the Kapisa FSC (Farmer Service Center) and Leaders of Women Cooperatives and Livestock departments in which the IDEA-NEW program and activities were introduced for Parwan, Kapisa and Panjshir.

An IDEA-NEW Poultry Specialist met with the Extension Director of Serobi district and talked about the poultry program. Survey and selection of poultry farms started and two broiler farms were selected, along with farm design maps being submitted for starting the construction of farms.

An IDEA-NEW Poultry Program Officer and Coordinator had meetings with DAILs directors of Panjshir, Kapisa and Parwan provinces in which the IDEA-NEW poultry program was introduced. During this reporting period five broiler farms were selected in Mahmood Raqi, Hesa-e-Dowam and Regrawan districts of Kapisa and four others were selected in Jabal Siraj, Charikar and Sayed Khili districts of Parwan. The farmers started the construction of farms.

The IDEA-NEW GME team had a meeting with USAID individuals on gender activities in the eastern region. During the meeting IDEA-NEW representative explained all gender operating activities and



Photo: A view of ASTWG meeting- Mehterlam district, Laghman

planned activities for the future. The USAID representative requested IDEA-NEW to provide internship programs for university female graduates.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

On July 11, 2012 IDEA-NEW's team attended the agriculture sectoral meeting in the DAIL. All NGOs working in the agriculture sector participated in the meeting. The agenda of meeting was about wheat surveys and it was decided that all NGOs should conduct a wheat survey in their focus areas. Mercy Corps will conduct the survey in Baharak, Jurm, Yaftal, Kishem, Tishkan and Argo districts.

On July 17, 2012 Badakhshan's IDEA-NEW Community Mobilization Unit Manager participated in a PDC meeting with UNAMA, the Provincial Governor, Concern, GIZ, RCDF, MAIL, Water management Department, Economic Department, DRRD, AKD, Women affairs, Health department, BMZ, UNOPS, RIDF, CARD F, Afghan Aid and Natural Resources Department. The meeting covered: RIDF, RCD and reporting to the government.

On July 29, 2012 Badakhshan's IDEA-NEW team met with DAIL, AKF and Afghan Aid. The agenda of the meeting was to share ideas for preparing the survey format.

On July 14, 2012 Badakhshan's IDEA-NEW Program Manager and Infrastructure Unit met with the Baharak District Governor. The agenda of the meeting was to share information about IDEA-NEW activities in Baharak district and update the status of the Sakha Canal.

On July 10, 2012 Badakhshan's IDEA-NEW Program Manager and Infrastructure Unit Manger met with the Water Management Director to discuss updates on the Sakha canal and planning a joint visit of infrastructure projects.



Photo: Meeting of IDEA-NEW staff with AKF and Fruit Association- Dehsallah district, Baghlan



Photo: Agriculture sectoral meeting at DAIL- Badakhshan

On July 17, 2012 IDEA-NEW's Program Manager from Baghlan and IDEA-NEW's Program Director met with AKF Market Development Program (MDP) senior staff in Dehsallah district of Baghlan regarding coordination of staff in underground storage construction processes.

On July 17, 2012 IDEA-NEW's Program Manager from Baghlan and IDEA-NEW's Program Director met with Andarab Fruit association's head and members in Dehsallah district of Baghlan regarding underground storages.

On July 19, 2012 IDEA-NEW's Program Manager from Baghlan and IDEA-NEW's Program Director met with Baghlan's DAIL Deputy Director at the DAIL office to discuss IDEA-NEW's Baghlan program and DAIL's feedback.

The NGO forum meeting was held at the IDEA-NEW office in Takhar, with the majority of NGOs implementing activities in Takhar participating.

IDEA-NEW staff in Takhar met with the governmental veterinary and animal health department heads to discuss a potential partnership between these two departments. These two governmental heads visited IDEA-NEW's coop construction, pullet distribution and pullet vaccination.

Takhar's Community Mobilization Unit Manager met with Farkhar's District Governor about the Dahyak agricultural irrigation CDP project.

Kunduz IDEA-NEW staff met with DAIL regarding women's greenhouse establishment at the district level.

ACDI/VOCA Northern Region

On July 25th the IDEA-NEW Deputy Regional Manager had a meeting with the General Director Livestock of MAIL, Acting Director of Livestock of MAIL and the Sericulture Director. The Deputy Regional Manager explained the IDEA-NEW silkworm project in the north. He provided them with IDEA-NEW sericulture reports and brief explanation of the "chawki" system for raising silkworms. He also explained that IDEA-NEW plans to import two different types of hybrid silkworms from India Silk Board for the coming year.

On July 25th the IDEA-NEW Deputy Regional Manager met the MAIL Director of Extension. He stated that he attended a meeting about the AGRED program still under review. It will be consortium of land grant universities WSU, UC-Davis CSU, and Roots of Peace. There is possibility of providing training on improved wheat agronomic practices to five DAIL extension district agents in the five provinces that the ACDI-VOCA IDEA-NEW program is working.

MAIL is also sponsoring organizational meetings dealing with a country wide program on vegetable oil seed production, i.e. soybean variety selection protocols. He would like to invite JDA to discuss their work with safflower and flax.

On July 12th, the IDEA-NEW Agriculture Program Officer attended the Agriculture Sectorial meeting in Faryab province. The Director of the Faryab DAIL gave information about the DAIL's ongoing projects. Based on the meeting agenda, ACTED, RRD and ASPR gave information about their activities to all meeting participants. All NGOs submitted their monthly progress reports to Faryab DAIL.

On July 9th, following INDEA-NEW's support to develop capacity of Agriculture High Schools students, Samangan agriculture high school requested support from IDEA-NEW to improve their technical capacity for their students. An MOU was signed for establishment of vineyard demonstration plot in Samangan Agriculture High School to start the trellising works. The trellised vineyard will be used as training plots for students.

On July 11th, the IDEA-NEW CDO attended the Agriculture Sectorial Meeting of Samangan province. The RRD and DAIL of Samangan province reported their ongoing projects. Also, the NGOs representatives updated participants about their activities during the last month. At the end, all participants submitted their monthly report to responsible person.

On July 8th, the IDEA-NEW CDO attended the Jawzjan Agriculture Sectorial Meeting in Jawzjan DAIL office. The DAIL director appreciated all of the NGO activities, especially the ACDI/VOCA/IDEA-NEW program. Then he updated participants about DAIL ongoing projects. All NGO representatives reported



Photo: DAIL and DoO officials visiting IDEA-NEW projects-Sari Pul, Sari Pul

about their activities during last month. The IDEA-NEW CDO updated participants regarding the IDEA-NEW project in the province. At the end, all NGOs submitted their monthly reports to Jawzjan DAIL.

On July 10th, the IDEA-NEW CDO participated in the NGOs coordination meeting in the DoE of Sari Pul province. At first the DoE Director thanked all participants and then the NGOs representatives updated their last month's activities. At the end, a monthly report of NGO work was compiled by the DoE.

On July 12th, the IDEA-NEW CDO attended the Agriculture Sectorial meeting in the DAIL of Sari Pul. The DAIL director appreciated all NGO

activities regarding the agriculture section in Sari Pul, especially the IDEA-NEW program. The meeting participants updated their ongoing program achievements and at the end of the meeting, monthly progress reports were submitted to Sari Pul DAIL.

On July 17th, based on letters from the DoE in Sari Pul, the IDEA-NEW CDO arranged a trip and accompanied Sari Pul government officials from departments of DAIL and DoE to monitor some of IDEA-NEW's ongoing projects. They visited two IDEA-NEW projects, a vineyard trellising program and milk collection and processing centers. In the end, they expressed their gratitude regarding the implementation of such effective programs.

On July 15th, the IDEA-NEW CDO attended the Agriculture Sectorial Meeting which was held in the FAO conference hall in the Balkh DAIL compound. During this meeting, the Agriculture Regional Advisor of Balkh DAIL updated everyone about the renovation of the DAIL conference hall. After that, the DCA reported about the IDEA-NEW funded Animal Health Package (Strengthening of Livestock Production in the North) projects to the participants. All NGOs representatives submitted their monthly reports to the DAIL.

SUSTAINABILITY/CAPACITY BUILDING

DAI Eastern Region

The IDEA-NEW accounting trainer for SMEs and poultry farms visited 23 different types of factories in Kama, Rodat, Bihsud, Surkhrod, Shinwari, Dara-i-Noor, and Jalalabad city of Nangarhar to ensure they keep their financial records in good standing. The owners of SMEs had been trained theoretically and practically on accounting and bookkeeping. The prime objective of this program is to improve the financial management system of the SMEs in the eastern region. An accounting trainer also trained seven female staff in IDEA-NEW's office on accounting/book keeping. These female staff will deliver the same training to the female beneficiaries who



Photo: Kunar Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaler Association training- Kunar

are working in poultry farms, green houses, mentorship and kitchen gardens. Previously, there was no proper record keeping systems in the women-owned businesses.

A two-day training for the Kunar Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaler Association was conducted where 33 members of the association were trained. During the training the participants not only learned how to pack their products but also managed to learn the importance of sorting and grading of perishable products. The value of export on the local economy was also discussed in the training, which enhanced the knowledge of traders.

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

Karim textile washing and pressing facility was newly established and continued operation in Bihsud district of Nangarhar. The owner of this facility invested \$12,565, which created job opportunities for seven individuals.

Alkozay textile washing and pressing facility also continued operation in Bihsud district of Nangarhar.

These facilities are now completely sustainable and serving local textile weavers. The following quantities of products which were weaved by individual textile companies and weavers located in Bihsud, Kama and Rodat districts of Nangarhar.

Facility Name	Product	Quantity	Processing Description
Alkozay Washing & Pressing Facility	Scarves	852	Pressed and Dyed
Karim Washing & Pressing Facility	Scarves	16,752	Pressed and Dyed

The operation of five in-kind grant supported textile factories and seven direct implementation factories in Kama, Rodat, and Bihsud districts is going well. These factories are producing scarves and shawls for the summer season and are also generating profit for their families. These factories are working towards the sustainability of the textile sub-sector, increasing the throughputs of textile washing and pressing and by increasing the production of textile products in the local markets.

Sustainability : In the reporting period the existing textile weavers established a new textile association, the NTA (Nangrahar Textile Association), to increase the number of textile weavers and to develop this sector in the eastern region.

Agricultural Technology Promotion

An agriculture technology promotion coordinator worked closely with the IDEA-NEW agriculture team in Kapisa and leveled, ploughed and made raise beds of three demonstration plots.

Arman Baby Bicycle Factory

IDEA-NEW assisted the Arman Baby bicycle factory of Jalalabad with a \$7,884 in-kind grant and also provided training materials to the employees. The operation of this factory is going well as it produced 1,450 bicycles for the local market during this reporting period. It created job opportunities for local Afghans and will increase its production to substitute the imports of bicycles from Pakistan and China.

Potato Chip Factory

IDEA-NEW assisted Dari-Noor and Kawoon potatoes chips factories through in kind grant of \$17,250 to each factory. These factories created job opportunities for 14 local individuals and will provide market opportunities for the local farmers who are growing chips variety potatoes in their agriculture lands.

Nangarhar Talc Association

Nangarhar Talc Association exported 12,540 metric tons of talc to Pakistan generating 101,500 AFN to the NTA. IDEA-NEW distributed mine extraction tools to NTA members.

Kashif Mansoor Soap Company

IDEA-NEW supported Kashif Mansoor Soap Company through by providing packaging materials for their company. In the reporting period the company produced hand washing soap with four different color and designs and created jobs opportunities for seven locals.



Photo: Soaps produced in Kashif Mansoor Soap Company-Behsud district, Nangarhar

Laghman Beekeepers Association

Laghman Beekeeper Association held a board meeting where they discussed membership collection, members' problems and about future plans. One of the board members said, " We don't have enough beekeeping equipment and we need honey beekeeping technical training."

The association director said that they will request IDEA-NEW to provide a technical training to beekeepers and will try to find other donors for assistance with association. He also mentioned if a member does not pay the membership fee, he will be excluded from their support. The association also purchased 960 kg of unprocessed honey from association members, processed 200 kg of honey and sold 50 kg of it in local market.

Laghman Nursery Grower Association

MADERA trained five members of Laghman Nursery Growers Association on how to irrigate nurseries. The organization also trained the LNGA director, deputy director and three other members of the association in management and bookkeeping best practices.

Laghman Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaler Association

LFVWA (Laghman Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaler Association) delivered 4,000 metric tons of onions from Laghman to Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz. A total of 5,000 metric tons of potatoes was transferred to Pakistan and Kabul. The association also got 504 metric tons of melons from Kunduz and Qandahar and 1,440 metric tons water melons from Nangarhar.

Radio Program

Nine live Karkila Aw Maldari (agriculture and livestock) radio shows were aired via Sharq Radio, one of local most listened radio stations in Nangarhar. During the shows 28 farmers/listeners called IDEA-NEW experts and asked questions about orchards, vegetables and livestock.

Ten live agriculture and livestock shows were aired via Kawoon Ghag in Laghman and 37 farmers from different parts of the province posed their questions to IDEA-NEW staff and one individual expert.

Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Commercial Timber and Timber Nursery

This project is ongoing with monitoring and site visits to potential and past beneficiaries. In this reporting period, Baghlan's Agriculture team monitored 18 timber cultivation plots. Weeding was completed and technical advice was shared with farmers about irrigation and fertilizer application. In Takhar 62 farmers have received training in fertilizer application and 11 farmers have received training in poplar cultivation.

Silk

The silkworm rearing project has finished in Baghlan. There was an exposure visit from Hirat jointly with one representative from the Baghlan silkworm rearing beneficiaries regarding cocoon market linkages.

In Kunduz an assessment of the silkworm project showed that 3,514 kg of cocoons have been harvested by 502 women. The average market price is (750AFN/kg). The assessment also showed that the mortality rate for cocoons was 9.5%. Based on these findings, every beneficiary has earned about 5,020 AFN.

Grape Cultivation/Trellising

In Badakhshan IDEA-NEW is creating a trellising system for one vineyard in Baharak district. IDEA-NEW distributed 5 bundles of 4mm wire and installed 90 wooden poles. In Takhar, installation of trellising has been completed. Farmers were instructed in pruning, irrigation, weeding and fertilizers.

ACDI/VOCA Northern Region

Establishment of 10 Village Milk Collection and Processing Centers

The establishment of milk collection and processing centers provides the opportunity for women dairy farmers to sell their products in their villages. All milk collecting and processing centers have been regularly monitored and supervised by IDEA-NEW. During this month, monitoring and supervision continued with visits to five milk collection centers, Joye Zendan in Samangan, Baba Ewaz and Koshkak in Balkh, Yank Ariq in Jawzjan and Emam Sahib in Sari Pul. The centers have been active and the amount of raw milk collected is increasing. A total of 53,216 liters of milk was purchased from 453 members for 931,761 AFN (average 17.5 AFN/liter of milk).

The following table shows the amounts of milk collected and processed at each centre as well as dairy produce:

Processing Center	District	Province	Dairy Products Processed and Sold								
			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)
Joye Zendan	Aybak	Samangan	6887	-	8610	-	-	-	-	-	3443
Baba Ewaz	Sholgara	Balkh	5400	2690	-	-	-	-	337	-	-
Koshkak	Balkh	Balkh	11402	2852	-	-	-	-	713	-	2837
Yank Ariq	Aqcha	Jawzjan	5325	-	2513	-	-	-	-	-	4320
Scinsus	Fayzabad	Jawzjan	3892	1940	-	-	-	-	244	-	-
Jamshidi	Pashtun Kot	Faryab	8900	-	22203	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emam Sahib	Sari Pul	Sari Pul	3310	-	8245	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yaka Bagh	Shibirghan	Jawzjan	8100	-	20203	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL			53,216	7,482	61,774	-	-	-	1,294	-	10,600

Cattle Management Training for 500 Women Dairy Farmers:

The house-to-house follow-up of women dairy farmers continued, together with upgrading of cowsheds, of which a total of 21 were completed during this month. So far 445 cowsheds out of 500 have been upgraded, which include installation of a lighting window, a ventilator, and mud plastering of the walls to prevent ecto-parasites.

Native Cattle Breed Improvement through AI:

A total of 15 cows were inseminated during this month. AI will improve the local cattle breed so that they produce more milk.

FMD Vaccination:

Providing FMD vaccination is part of the support to the ten villages where the milk collection centers are located. The third cycle of the vaccination campaign against foot and mouth disease has already started. During this reporting period, the FMD vaccination covered ten milk processing centers and a total 1,460 animals were vaccinated against FMD, benefiting 218 households. By the end of July, the third cycle of FMD vaccination completed in all eight milk collecting and processing centers in five provinces.

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
J Joye Zendan	6887	16	110,192	49	5	158,408	141,192	12
Baba Ewaz	5400	15	81,000	47	0	103,700	88,834	11
Kushkak	11402	17	193,834	70	0	212,234	201,734	6
Yank Ariq	5325	15	79,875	49	0	98,570	93,405	0
Scinsus	3892	15	58,380	45	5	73,020	63,960	8
Jamshidi	8900	21	186,900	72	5	310,842	287,310	13
Emam Sahib	3310	18	59,580	45	6	107,185	94,615	3
Yaka Bagh	8100	20	162,000	76	0	242,436	233,200	0
Totals	53,216	N/A	931,761	453	21	130,639,5	120,425,0	15

Improved Potato Seed Demonstrations:

The agriculture team continued the supervision on potato demonstration plots in Bilchiragh and Pashtun Kot districts of Faryab. During this reporting period, the team visited all 24 demonstration plots and the potatoes are in the normal status of growth and only some plots were infected by Late Blight Fungi disease. The team has already started spraying fungicide to prevent this disease.

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

DAI EASTERN REGION:

During reporting period installation process of Lajbar Marble factory continued and will start the testing production of marble in near future.

A machinery grant totaling \$60,000 for the Pashad Marble Factory is on the way from Pakistan to Afghanistan and will be hand over to the the owner.

Produrement of machinery for Javid Afghan Agriculture Machinery Production company has completed and the technical team from the vendor company will come soon to start designing the foundation of the melting plant.

The second milestone payment to the DCA for \$20,000 will be paid in the coming month, for total remaining amount of \$129,494. The third milestone payment of \$18,250 will be paid shortly.

Hedayat Barakat Broiler Breeder Farm will shortly release its first hatch and will refund 50% of its grant back to IDEA-NEW in the form of day old chicks which will then be gifted to the SPFA of Nangarhar.

ACDI/VOCA Northern Region

A purchase order was signed with National Silkworm Seed Organization of India for the import of 1,000 boxes of high quality silkworm eggs for \$11,520.

A proposal and a budget was received from the DCA requesting a cost-extension of the on-going 2.5-year, Livestock Production Project, from October 2012 through July 2013 (10-months). A sub-agreement modification package was prepared by the field office and sent to ACDI/VOCA head-quarters for review and approval.

A proposal and a budget was received from JDA requesting a cost-extension of the on-going 2-year, Farmer Training in Improved Agronomy and Small Scale Mechanization Project, from October 2012 through September 2013 (1-year). A sub-agreement modification package was prepared by the field office and sent to ACDI/VOCA head-quarters for review and approval.

Two MOUs were prepared for signature for the construction of two root cellars for the storage of seed potato in Bilchiragh and Pashtun Kot districts of Faryab. The estimated cost is \$11,000 per unit.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

DAI Eastern Region

Beneficiary: Hijratullah Abed

Project Name: Capacity Building/ Accounting Training

From: Rodat district, Nangarhar

“It is the first ever training we received in recent time in accounting/bookkeeping which was held in IDEA-NEW office. It is very valuable for our practical work and gaining theoretical knowledge. Now we know how to keep our financial records and understood how to make transactions, create journal, ledger, balance sheet and income statement. The trainer provided us real examples which were very helpful for our businesses. Previously, we did not have proper record keeping system but now we will use it properly.”



Mercy Corps Northeastern Region

Beneficiary: Abdul Baqi

Project Name: Spring Demo Plots

From: Arbab Nabi village, Imam Sahib, Kunduz

Abdul Baqi is the head of his family, caring for seven children. He says, “This project really helped to learn a lot of new techniques to help improve the production from my land. As a result of this project I have harvested 110 kg onion and sold it with average price of 9 AFN/kg. I sold about 6,600 AFN of onions from this demo plot, which is about 2,000 m² of land. I’ll continue this in the future.”

ACDI/VOCA Northern Region

Beneficiary: Haji Abdull Rashid

Project Name: Annual Crop Development Program

From: Khan Char Bagh district, Faryab

Haji Abdul Rashid, a 46 year old farmer and owner of an annual crops demonstration, saw the benefits of new methods and is happy about the yield of his crops this year. He said: “For the first time when I saw the planting by 2WT in first field day, it was amazing for me. Using four wheel tractors are expensive and needs more time, people and more seed. The weed control was another good step for new methods which was really new for me and famers attended the field day. If we come to reaping by 2WT, this is unbelievable. The reaper by 2WTs are doing the work of tens of people they are reaping by hands. As I see the good condition of demonstration plots, I am sure that I will have higher yield this year. Thanks IDEA-NEW for providing for me and other farmers this opportunity. I request all famers to use the new technology and improve the agriculture sector.”



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

July 1-31, 2012

Province	Districts	CPF	REVAMP	Orchard Dev Program	Nursery Dev Prog
		Vegetables	Vegetables		Total
Nangarhar	Chaparhar	121	-	-	121
Nangarhar	Dari noor	-	20	-	20
Nangarhar	Dihbala	14	-	-	14
Nangarhar	Ghanikhil	65	33	40	138
Nangarhar	Goshta	31	47	-	78
Nangarhar	Kama	66	27	31	124
Nangarhar	Khogyani	149	48	34	231
Nangarhar	Kot	87	49	-	136
Nangarhar	Kuz Kunar	118	64	16	198
Nangarhar	Momandara	126	20	39	185
Nangarhar	Pachir Wa Agam	137	-	-	137
Nangarhar	Rodat	78	33	51	162
Nangarhar	Surkhrod	98	93	39	230
	Sub-total	1,090	434	250	1,774

Kunar	Asad Abad	-	28	-	28
Kunar	Chawky	67	17	14	98
Kunar	Khas Kunar	74	34	14	122
Kunar	Manogal	-	-	15	15
Kunar	Marawara	33	-	-	33
Kunar	Narang	93	84	32	209
Kunar	Noorgal	35	-	16	51
Kunar	Shegal	51	19	-	70
	Sub-total	353	182	91	626
Laghman	Alingar	-	16	-	16
Laghman	Mehtarlam	30	39	-	69
Laghman	Qarghaee	154	37	-	191
	Sub-total	184	92	-	276
Total		1,627	708	341	2,676

ANNEX IV: MONTHLY SALES DATA

July 1-31, 2012

Products	Local Market		High Market		Value		Export Market		Total Weight & Value	
	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$
Vegetable	150,000	24,000	38,639	55,968	-	-	188,639	79,968		
Fruits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Herbs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Cheese	509	1,934	-	-	-	-	509	1,934		
Masroor Foods	-	40,800	-	-	-	-	-	40,800		
Textile	-	13,550	-	-	-	-	-	13,550		
Snacks	-	2,416	-	-	-	-	-	2,416		
Chicks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

Hatched								
Packing Cartons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Table Eggs	-	898	-	-	-	-	-	898
Vermicelli	70,000	41,263	-	-	-	-	70,000	41,263
Soap	26,000	18,200	-	-	-	-	26,000	18,200
Total	246,509	\$143,061	38,639	\$55,968	0	0	285,148	\$199,029

July 1, 2009- July 31, 2012

Products	Local Market		High Market		Value Export Market		Total Weight & Value	
	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$
Vegetable	5,828,150	1,240,770	296,368	378,136	14,595,000	3,777,466	20,719,518	5,396,372
Fruits	187,386	55,108	6,530	16,461	22,500	22,583	216,416	94,152
Herbs	709	200	-	-	-	-	709	200
Cheese	17,217	58,606	-	-	-	-	17,217	58,606
Masroor Foods	-	240,286	-	56,352	-	-	-	296,638
Textile	-	219,974	-	-	-	-	-	219,974
Snacks	-	120,026	-	4,392	-	-	-	124,418
Chicks Hatched	-	289,417	-	-	-	-	-	289,417
Cartoons Riaz	-	95,240	-	-	-	-	-	95,240
Table Eggs	-	128,136	-	-	-	-	-	128,136
Vermicelli	372,500	217,229	-	-	-	-	372,500	217,229
Soap	216,000	152,502	-	-	-	-	216,000	152,502
Total	6,621,962	2,817,494	302,898	455,341	14,617,500	3,800,049	21,542,360	7,072,884

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) 707.626.383
Agreement OfficerBruce McFarland
Geographic CoverageNorthern, Northeastern, Eastern and Western Afghanistan

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

William Parente
Program Director
IDEA-NEW
Bill_Parente@dai.com
+93 (0) 796.188.125