



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT

**Regional Agricultural and Development Program (RADP) –
West**

Agreement No. 306-C-14-00007

Quarter 3, April – June 2015



November 25, 2015

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

Contents

ACRONYMS.....	3
1. PROJECT OVERVIEW.....	4
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	5
2.1 Summary of Results for the Reporting Period and Key Achievements.....	5
2.2 Constraints and Critical Issues.....	5
3. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION.....	6
3.1 Indicator/Activity Performance.....	6
3.2 Key Activities Accomplished during the Quarter.....	12
3.3 Planned for Next Reporting Period.....	15
3.4 Lessons Learned.....	15
4. COLLABORATION WITH GIROA, OTHER DONOR PROJECTS, OR OTHER USAID PROJECTS.....	16
4.1 Links with Relevant GIROA Ministries.....	16
4.2 Links with other Donor Agencies.....	16
4.3 List and Discuss Links with Other USAID Projects.....	16
5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES.....	17
5.1 Personnel.....	17
5.2 Adaption of the Activity.....	17
5.3 Modifications and Amendments.....	17
6. ANNEXES.....	18
6.1 Key Activities Accomplished during the Quarter.....	18
6.2 Photo and Caption Success Story.....	21

ACRONYMS

AAEP II	Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Project II
ABADE	Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises
ADF	Agricultural Development Fund
AHG	Afghanistan Holding Group
APPF	Afghanistan Public Protection Force
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan
APS	Annual Program Statement
CARD-F	Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development Faculty
CDC	Community Development Council
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DDA	District Development Assembly
FEG	Farmers' Extension Groups
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HVC	High Value Crop(s)
IFC	International Financial Corporation
LFEW	Local Female Extension Workers
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
NHLP	National Horticulture and Livestock Project
RADP-West	Regional Agricultural Development Program-West
SIL	Services International LLC
USG	United States Government
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit(s)

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Activity Start/End Dates

August 10, 2014—August 9, 2019

Prime Implementing Partner

Chemonics International Inc.

Sub-Contractors/Sub-Awardees

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA), Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), Equal Access, Afghanistan Holding Group (AHG), Services International LLC (SIL), Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF)

Project Description

RADP-West is a Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL)-led United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded program designed to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in target districts in the western provinces of Herat, Farah, and Badghis. The program's focus is to support MAIL efforts to improve the productivity and profitability of targeted value chains, selected from Wheat, High Value Crop (HVC) and Livestock sectors. These activities will be accomplished through a system of training and mentoring of farmers and agribusinesses in the use of appropriate technologies and agricultural practices, post-harvest and value-added processing, and strengthening of market linkages to domestic and international markets. The program implements activities across four key components: CLIN 1 (Wheat), CLIN 2 (High Value Crops), CLIN 3 (Livestock), and CLIN 4 (Enabling Environment).

Geographic Coverage

RADP-WEST is programmatically engaged within the following target provinces and districts:

Table I: RADP-W Target Provinces and Districts

Province	Districts
Herat	Guzara, Karukh, Injil, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand
Badghis	Muqur-1 ¹ , Ab Kamari, Qala-I-Naw, Qadis
Farah	Anar Dara, Farah, Pusht Rod

¹ Muqur district in Badghis province is referred to as 'Muqur-1' in USAID's MTM capture tool and ArcGIS. RADP-West will refer to this district throughout this report as 'Muqur.'

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Summary of Results for the Reporting Period and Key Achievements

RADP-West implementation activities increased significantly during the third quarter, as the project moved into permanent offices in the Sikander Compound and the spring season commenced. RADP-West designed and implemented trainings, distributed demonstration seeds and toolkits, and assisted farmer groups, impacting hundreds of lives and staging interventions that will provide farmers with means for increased household incomes.

- **Wheat.** RADP-West trained 287 farmers in post-harvest handling and seed storage techniques, critical skills for the current wheat harvest in Herat province. In Badghis, AREA trained 46 farmers in the harvesting, threshing, and storage of wheat.
- **High Value Crops.** RADP-West trained 17 farmers in pistachio budding, demonstrated irrigation techniques to 60 grape vineyard owners, and distributed vegetable demonstration seeds and seedlings to 63 farmers. In Badghis province, AREA conducted training on vegetable weeding and irrigation for 20 lead farmers.
- **Livestock.** DCA conducted training for 14 Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) in Herat and Badghis. DCA also held five extension sessions with Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs) in Herat and Badghis on treating mange and endotoxaemia in livestock during the month of June.
- **Gender.** RADP-West developed a Training Center Demonstration Farm program targeting women vegetable farmers in Injil district.

2.2 Constraints and Critical Issues

By the beginning of April, the security situation in RADP-West's geographic area threatened the timeliness and coverage of implementation. The security environment continued to deteriorate for Herat, Badghis, and Farah provinces during the quarter, especially along main roads. Shindand and Pashtun Zarghun in Herat, Pusht Rod in Farah, and Muqur in Badghis were specifically affected.

Another constraint that hindered the program's ability to work with authorities at the district and village level was a delay in the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with MAIL due to national elections and cabinet vacancies. Some initial meetings and planning sessions were held during Quarter 2, but field operations could not commence in earnest until the MOU was signed on April 13, 2015.

At the beginning of the quarter, both Chemonics and DynCorp/SIL experienced significant delays in obtaining Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) business licenses from the GIRoA. DynCorp/SIL also experienced delays in renewing their weapons licenses. These concurrent complications delayed finalization of the APPF subcontract, selection of candidates for static guards, and implementation of guard training activities. After several rounds of negotiations with the U.S. Embassy and the GIRoA, the licenses were ultimately renewed and RADP-West successfully relocated to the Sikander Compound in Herat on April 22, 2015.

3. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Indicator/Activity Performance

The following section provides updates per relevant indicator, based on activities implemented during Quarter 3.

IR 1.2: VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPED

During the quarter, RADP-West distributed vegetable demonstration seeds to women farmers in Injil district. These farmers were able to harvest their product and sell it to neighbors and at local markets during the reporting period. In addition to in-home consumption, 28 women sold their surplus vegetables, earning USD 1,802.77. These farmers plan to continue this practice during the next few months, earning additional income to support their families.

IR 1.2: Value of Sales of Targeted Commodities as a Result of USG Assistance ²	
Disaggregated by:	Quarter 3
Cereals	\$0.00
High Value Crop (Vegetables)	\$1,802.77
Domestic sales	\$0.00
Export	\$0.00
Livestock	\$0.00
Total	\$1,802.77

RADP-West developed and implemented several agricultural interventions in targeted areas during the quarter. 333 wheat farmers, 60 grape farmers, 17 pistachio farmers and 304 vegetable farmers (221 female and 83 male) received support from the program in the form of training, seeds, seedlings, and/or agricultural toolkits. RADP-West also established one Training Center Demonstration Farm in Injil district, Herat province and distributed seeds to 221 women farmers. The tables below show data disaggregated by province and district.

IR 1.2: Number of Households Benefitted by Agriculture and Alternative Development Interventions in Targeted Areas		
Disaggregated by	Quarter 3	
District / Province		
Herat		
District	Male Heads of HH	Female Heads of HH
Injil	205	221
Guzara	81	0
Karukh	131	0
Koshk	4	0

² RADP-West is in the process of collecting and verifying additional documentation in support of this indicator.

Pashtun Zarghun	2	0
Shindand	2 ³	0
Subtotal	425	221
Farah		
District	Male Heads of HH	Female Heads of HH
Farah Center	0	0
Pusht Rod	0	0
Anar Dara	0	0
Subtotal	0	0
Badghis		
District	Male Heads of HH	Female Head of HH
Qala-I-Naw	29	0
Ab Kamari	11	0
Muqur	18	0
Qadis	10	0
Subtotal	68	0
Grand Total	493	221
Disaggregated by	Quarter 3	
Value Chain	# of Head of HH	
Wheat	333	
Grape	60	
Pistachio	17	
Vegetable	304	
Total	714	

SUB IR 1.2.1: PRODUCTIVITY OF KEY AGRICULTURE CROPS INCREASED

OUTCOME I: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL SECTOR PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY IN TARGET REGIONS

The RADP-West vegetable program contributed 6.6 hectares from male farmers and 0.6 hectares from female farmers during the Quarter.

Sub IR 1.2.1: Number of Hectares with Increased High Value Crop Production as a Result of USG Programs	
Disaggregated by	Quarter
Herat	
Injil	2.8
Guzara	2.2

³ RADP-West did not conduct training activities in Shindand district due to security issues. The two farmers from Shindand attended training in Injil district.

Karukh	2.2
Koshk	0
Pashtun Zarghun	0
Shindand	0
Subtotal	7.2
Farah	
Farah Center	0
Pusht Rod	0
Anar Dara	0
Subtotal	0
Badghis	
Qala-I-Naw	0
Ab Kamari	0
Muqur	0
Qadis	0
Subtotal	0

The table below shows Sub IR 1.2.1 disaggregated by province and new/continuing status:

Sub IR 1.2.1: Number of Hectares Under Improved Technologies or Management Practices as a Result of USG Assistance		
Disaggregated by	Quarter 3	
Province	New	Continuing
Herat	7.2	0
Farah	0	0
Badghis	0	0
Total	7.2	0

During the quarter, 69 male farmers and 21 female farmers applied new technologies or management practices on their farms after receiving training from RADP-West. To ensure that the technologies and management practices demonstrated during the training were adopted and applied by the beneficiary farmers, RADP-West employed a schedule of regular field visits to demonstration plots.

Sub IR 1.2.1: Number of Farmers and Others Who Have Applied New Technologies or Management Practices as a Result of USG Assistance		
Disaggregated by	Quarter	
Herat		
Type of Person	Male	Female
Producers	69	21

People in Firms	0	0
People in Government	0	0
Subtotal	69	21
Farah		
Type of Person	Male	Female
Producers	0	0
People in firms	0	0
People in Government	0	0
Subtotal	0	0
Badghis		
Type of Person	Male	Female
Producers	0	0
People in firms	0	0
People in Government	0	0
Subtotal	0	0
Grand Total	69	21

OUTCOME 4: INCREASED AND SUSTAINABLE ADOPTION OF LICIT CROPS

RADP-West worked with six pistachio growers during the quarter to introduce scion grafting with the purpose of expanding future production. In addition, RADP-West assisted 63 vegetables farmers with seedlings and seeds during an 'after the wheat' harvest program. RADP-West also assisted 21 female farmers in the production of vegetables.

Sub IR 1.2.1: Number of Farmers Growing High Value Crops As A Result of USG Assistance		
Disaggregated by	Quarter	
Herat		
District	Male	Female
Injil	22	21
Guzara	22	0
Karukh	22	0
Koshk	3	0
Pashtun Zarghun	0	0
Shindand	0	0
Subtotal	69	21
Farah		
District	Male	Female
Farah Center	0	0
Pusht Rod	0	0
Anar Dara	0	0
Subtotal	0	0

Badghis		
District	Male	Female
Qala-I-Naw	0	0
Ab Kamari	0	0
Muqur	0	0
Qadis	0	0
Subtotal	0	0
Grand Total	69	21

During the quarter, RADP-West provided different agriculture trainings for 514 farmers (493 males and 21 females). This included 425 male and 21 female farmers from Herat province and 68 male farmers from Badghis province. In total, training was provided for 287 wheat farmers, 60 grape farmers, 15 pistachio farmers, and 63 male and 21 female vegetable farmers from Herat and for 46 wheat farmers, 2 pistachio farmers, and 20 vegetable farmers from Badghis.

DO 1: Number of Individuals Who Have Received US-Government Supported Short-Term Agricultural Sector Productivity or Food Security Training		
Disaggregated by	Quarter 3	
Herat		
District	Male	Female
Injil	205	21
Guzara	81	0
Karukh	131	0
Koshk	4	0
Pashtun Zarghun	2	0
Shindand	2	0
Subtotal	425	21
Farah		
District	Male	Female
Farah Center	0	0
Pusht Rod	0	0
Anar Dara	0	0
Subtotal	0	0
Badghis		
District	Male	Female
Qala-I-Naw	29	0
Ab Kamari	11	0
Muqur	18	0
Qadis	10	0
Subtotal	68	0
Grand Total	493	21

Sub IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased

OUTCOME 2: INCREASED PROFITABILITY OF SMALL, MEDIUM, AND LARGE AGRIBUSINESSES

During Quarter 3, RADP-West conducted several agricultural trainings on irrigation, land preparation and weeding for one women's group in Injil district. This group has 21 members.

Sub-IR 1.2.2: Number of Private Enterprises, Producers Organizations, Water Users Associations, Women's Groups, Trade and Business Associations and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that Applied New Technologies or Management Practices as a Result of USG Assistance	
Disaggregated by	Quarter
Private Enterprises	0
Producers' Organizations	0
Water Users Associations	0
Women's Groups (21 women farmers)	1
Trade and Business Associations	0
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)	0
Total	1

During the reporting period, DCA trained 14 existing VFUs on new technologies; these VFU paravets then applied these technologies to their everyday veterinary care. DCA trained VFU paravets on new technologies and management practices and conducted regular visits and meetings with members to follow-up and ensure that the new technologies and management practices had been applied.

Sub-IR 1.2.2: Number of Private and Public Veterinary Service Providers that Applied New Technologies or Management Practices as a Result of USG Assistance			
Disaggregated by	Quarter 3		Comments
Herat			
District	Public Sector	Private Sector	
Injil	0	2	2 VFUs
Guzara	0	1	1 VFU
Karukh	0	2	2 VFUs
Koshk	0	2	2 VFUs
Pashtun Zarghun	0	1	1 VFU
Shindand	0	0	
Subtotal	0	8	
Farah			
District	Public Sector	Private sector	
Farah Center	0	0	

Pusht Rod	0	0	
Anar Dara	0	0	
Subtotal	0	0	
Badghis			
District	Public Sector	Private Sector	
Qala-I-Naw	0	2	2 VFUs
Ab Kamari	0	2	2 VFUs
Muqur	0	0	
Qadis	0	2	2 VFUs
Subtotal	0	6	
Grand Total	0	14	

3.2 Key Activities Accomplished during the Quarter

Please see Annex 6.2 for the Quarter 3 Key Activities Table. The below narrative expands upon the activities listed in the table.

CLIN 1: WHEAT

In Herat, RADP-West conducted post-harvest training courses for 287 farmers, covering harvest and storage methods and the management of pests and diseases. RADP-West also introduced new methods of seed cleaning and drying. In Badghis, AREA trained 46 lead farmers in post-harvest handling, threshing, and storage.

CLIN 2: HIGH VALUE CROPS (HVC)

Orchard Crops. In coordination with the Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project (AAEP II), RADP-West conducted a pistachio budding training for 17 lead farmers (15 from Herat and two from Badghis). Participants completed a practical budding session and discussed pistachio rootstocks, pest control, common diseases, orchard design, and cultivars.



RADP-West demonstrates how to graft a scion to farmers in Jaya village, Injil district, Herat province. RADP-West also trained farmers on how to preserve pistachio scion trees after grafting.

RADP-West also provided six farmers with 1,000 improved pistachio scions (850 female and 150 male scions) for demonstration purposes. The scions were grafted in early June using the “T-Budding” method, and, after 20 days, 85.3% of male and 48.2% of female scions were germinated and the trees were tabled.

Through this process, RADP-West successfully introduced two new improved varieties of pistachios (Kerman and Peter) to Herat province for the first time. Farmers were enthusiastic and expressed that the improved varieties provided by RADP-West will increase the quality

and quantity of their pistachios. The improved varieties also have a higher market value that will increase farmers' incomes. The farmers who participated in this training also learned how to bud their own saplings, knowledge which they will pass along to their neighbors. These trees will act as mother stock trees throughout the life of the project.

Grapes. RADP-West conducted training on irrigation and fertilization for 60 beneficiaries in Injil and Guzara districts during the month of June. To support the training, RADP-West provided toolkits to be used during the practical session, and later on farmers' vineyards. The main topics covered included irrigation methods and timing, applying the correct amount of fertilizer, different types of fertilizer, and compost.

Vegetables. In order to extend the cultivation of vegetables into the second season of the year and expand vegetable cultivation areas, RADP-West, in close collaboration with DAIL, established a vegetable seedling production center at the Herat DAIL Urdu Khan Research Farm. A variety of vegetable seeds were cultivated for later transfer to lead farmers' demonstration plots. The production of vegetable seedlings in a seedling center and late in the season was a new and innovative practice, one that farmers had never seen or experienced before.



RADP-West assists farmers in transplanting seedlings at the Urdu Khan Research Station in Herat province.

With the first seeds planted at the beginning of June, RADP-West was able to distribute vegetable seedlings to farmers by the end of June, just in time for planting after the wheat harvest. RADP-West also provided farmers with winter seeds, including carrot, okra, spinach, green bean, and radish. By transferring seedlings, farmers can ensure a timely harvest of the vegetables.

More than 250,000 seedlings of different vegetable varieties were distributed to 63 select beneficiaries (including three lead farmers and 60 neighboring farmers) in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts. The Herat DAIL General Extension Manager, DAIL Research Manager, and DAIL Director's Advisor were also in attendance. Participating farmers learned how to produce vegetable seedlings in a greenhouse and received practical training on land preparation, irrigation, weeding, fertilization, and cultivation of vegetable seedlings. For more information, please see the "Photo and Caption" success story in Annex 6.2 on page 19.

In Badghis, AREA trained 20 farmers on effective weed management and irrigation techniques for vegetables.

CLIN 3: LIVESTOCK

DCA trained a total of 14 VFU paravets during two training courses in Quarter 3, with five of

these paravets attending both training courses. In May, nine VFU paravets attended a two-week disease refresher course. The focus of the training was on identifying, controlling, and preventing the spread of infectious diseases, including diagnosis methods and treatment. The course was held at the DCA Training Center in Herat and aimed to provide VFU staff with the skills necessary to provide high quality veterinary and extension services for livestock farmers in targeted districts. In June, DCA conducted a recordkeeping and business skills course for 10 VFUs. The objective of the course was to build VFU staff capacity and to teach recordkeeping systems for daily activities.

Also during the month of June, DCA held five extension sessions for Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs) in the Karukh and Koshk districts of Herat province and in the Ab Kamari and Qala-I-Naw districts of Badghis province. The purpose of these extension sessions was to disseminate information on livestock disease prevention, control and diagnosis, the importance of vaccines and proper animal treatment, and good feeding practices.

CLIN 4: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

During the quarter, the RADP-West developed and submitted to USAID a strategic analysis of how RADP-West activities align with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL's) 100 Day Plan.

RADP-West also conducted a B2B workshop for cashmere processors/exporters and cashmere market dealers in Herat during the month of May. The discussions addressed industry constraints, opportunities (further processing, improved export markets) and the improvement of vertical and horizontal linkages.

To further explore the development of this value chain, a follow-up meeting was organized with these cashmere market dealers in June. The dealers produced a list of recommendations, which detailed the need for a Market Dealers' Union, additional training for farmers in cashmere harvesting techniques, improved linkages between dealers and financial institutions, and introduction of improved goat breeds. RADP-West plans to follow-up on these recommendations by organizing a large-scale workshop where farmers, market dealers, and processors can meet and discuss potential business deals.

CROSSCUTTING COMPONENT: GENDER & NUTRITION

During the month of April, RADP-West established a Women's Training Center Demonstration Farm, a 2,000m² open field vegetable demonstration plot in the Ghaizun Sanger village located in Injil district, Herat province. RADP-West identified and trained a female lead farmer and assisted her in the creation of the Sare Poul Ghazun Association, which now has 21 participants. RADP-West trained association members on preparing land and cultivating new vegetable varieties, and distributed demonstration seeds to the association members and 200 other women farmers.

The women harvested in record time and sold surplus vegetables at the market. Three other women's groups in Herat have signed up to be the next centers for training in future months.

Grants

On June 10, RADP-West released an Annual Program Statement (APS) to solicit grant concept papers from eligible organizations working in RADP-West value chains. The APS will be advertised for one year and concept papers will be evaluated on a rolling basis for consideration to submit a full application for grant funding. A broad solicitation, the APS will seek a variety of creative approaches to help achieve RADP-West objectives in the Wheat, High Value Crop, and Livestock value chains. The translated versions (in Dari and Pashto) were sent to RADP-West technical teams and partners to distribute among their beneficiaries who do not have access to the internet.

3.3 Planned for Next Reporting Period

Wheat

In Herat, RADP-West will continue to move forward with farmer selection by conducting meetings and consulting with the Herat DAIL Extension Director, Community Development Councils (CDCs), District Development Assemblies (DDAs), and Arbabs in the Pashtun Zarghun district of Herat. RADP-West will engage additional farmers with new technologies and improved seeds, which are UG99 resistant and have a high gluten content of 28 to 30 percent. RADP-West will continue to monitor the farmers who have received mung bean, clover, and white bean seeds in Injil district. RADP-West and its partners will also identify farmers for participation in the wheat development program, to commence in early November.

High Value Crops

During the fourth quarter, RADP-West and AREA plan to continue to train farmers on harvest and post-harvest handling practices. For orchard crops, RADP-West will train lead farmers in the harvesting, sorting, grading, packaging, and cleaning of orchard crops.

Livestock

During the next quarter, RADP-West and subcontractor DCA will select additional villages for VFUs in eight districts in Herat and Badghis provinces for a paravet training course. Existing VFUs will receive continued training. RADP-West will also train DAIL employees in extension activities. RADP-West and DCA will also train 25 established and new Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs) on animal health and husbandry topics.

Cross-Cutting Component: Gender & Nutrition

RADP-West will establish three new women's on-farm training centers in Injil, Guzara, and Koshk districts during the next quarter. RADP-West will also propose to establish pack houses for each training center, small greenhouses for lead farmers, and solar pumps connected to deep wells to provide irrigation for the training centers.

3.4 Lessons Learned

No assessments were completed during the reporting period.

4. COLLABORATION WITH GIROA, OTHER DONOR PROJECTS, OR OTHER USAID PROJECTS

4.1 Links with Relevant GIROA Ministries

In May, RADP-West met with the District Governor of Koshk and the DAIL Agricultural Director to present the project's annual plan. In June, RADP-West participated in the Sectoral Coordination Meeting in Herat conducted by DAIL for relevant stakeholders. The participants were briefed on RADP-West's progress, goals, and objectives.

Throughout the reporting period, AREA attended coordination meetings with the following government entities in Badghis province: DAIL, the Directorate of the Economy, the Directorate of Women's Affairs, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, and the Deputy Provincial Governor. AREA also met with the DDAs and CDCs in Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, and Ab Kamari districts and attended the monthly Sectoral Meeting of the Provincial Government.

4.2 Links with other Donor Agencies

At the beginning of June, RADP-West met with the International Financial Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank. The purpose of the meeting was to determine future opportunities for collaboration. The strategy of IFC-Afghanistan is to encourage economic development by supporting the private sector through a wide range of investments and advisory services. The IFC's advisory services include improving the investment climate, supporting small businesses, and promoting partnerships between the public and private sectors. RADP-West believes that there are reliable companies in Herat that could work with the IFC to receive consulting services and loans. RADP-West can facilitate this process by linking leading Herat agribusinesses to the IFC.

During the quarter, AREA also met with World Vision International to discuss activities in Badghis province. World Vision is currently implementing a program in Badghis distributing improved wheat seeds. The two teams met to enhance coordination in the districts.

In addition to this close working relationship, RADP-West has established good working relations with other stakeholders such as the National Horticulture and Livestock Project (NHLP) and the Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development Facility (CARD-F).

4.3 List and Discuss Links with Other USAID Projects

In June, RADP-West participated in a coordination meeting with other USAID projects including Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE) and the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).

The pistachio budding training conducted in June was led by Dr. Louise Ferguson of the University of California, Davis, in coordination with AAEP II, a USAID-funded project.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

5.1 Personnel

RADP-West completed hiring for several technical positions during the quarter, including the Irrigation Specialist and a Value Chain Coordinator. RADP-West also hired five community mobilizers and five field monitors.

5.2 Adaption of the Activity

RADP-West is at the beginning stages of intensive implementation of its field activities. Although the security environment has hindered some program operations, RADP-West has adapted and created contingency plans related to village selection and continues to push forward with activities.

5.3 Modifications and Amendments

No modifications or amendments occurred during the reporting period.

6. ANNEXES

6.1 Key Activities Accomplished During the Quarter

PROJECT COMPONENT	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	TARGET OF ACTIVITY	EXPECTED OUTCOME OF ACTIVITY	DATES OF ACTIVITY	PROVINCE	DISTRICTS	VILLAGES
CLIN 1 - WHEAT	Post-Harvest Wheat Training for 287 farmers from three districts in Herat	Combat post-harvest losses by building the capacity of wheat farmers in proper post-harvesting methods.	The training will increase the productivity, profitability, and proper storage of licit crops by educating farmers on best practices for wheat.	June - July 2015	Herat	Karukh, Injil, Guzara	Karukh: Dahan-I-Ghar, Bagh Dasht, Bala Mahalla, Pushta Yakhdan Injil: Sarwistan, Sofian, Sara-e-Naw, Oqab, Gard Ahb Guzara: Khalachan
CLIN 1 - WHEAT	Post-Harvest Wheat Training for 46 farmers from four districts in Badghis	Combat post-harvest losses by building the capacity of wheat farmers in proper post-harvesting methods.	The training will increase the productivity, profitability, and proper storage of licit crops by educating farmers on best practices for wheat.	June 2015	Badghis	Qala-I- Naw, Muqur, Ab Kamari, Qadis	Qala-I-Naw: Charkarn, Tashke Puza Muqur: Cheshmadozdak Ab Kamari: Khwaja Ahmadi Qadis: Omar Baik
CLIN 2 - HVC	Pistachio Training Program for 17 farmers (15 from Herat, 2 from Badghis)	Increase farmer knowledge in pistachio cultivation and budding	The training will transfer knowledge on pistachio rootstocks, pest control, common diseases, orchard design, and cultivars, and encourage the establishment and expansion of commercial pistachio orchards.	June 2015	Herat	Injil	The training took place at the DAIL-run Urdu Khan Research Farm.
CLIN 2 - HVC	Pistachio Budding Program for 6 farmers from Herat province	Increase farmer access to improved pistachio scions	During the next season of scion production, farmers who have received certified scions will provide buddings to other farmers with pistachio saplings. From each budded sapling, the farmer will take 10-15 scions for the next budding season. With time, the number of scions will increase to 200-300 per tree. In the future, the farmers will either bud their trees or distribute them to other pistachio farmers in their communities.	June 2015	Herat	Injil, Guzara, Karukh, Koshk	Injil: Jahya Guzara: Tizan Karukh: Sagariha Koshk: Dehzawari, Baghche Abdul Hakim
CLIN 2 - HVC	Fertilization and Irrigation Training for 60 grape growers in two Herat target districts	Build the capacity, knowledge, and skills of grape growers in vineyard fertilization and irrigation techniques	The farmers will utilize the new techniques to irrigate and fertilize their vineyards in a cost-effective manner. Grape production per hectare and grape quality will increase in Herat province.	June 2015	Herat	Injil, Guzara	Farmers from various villages in each district attended the training in the following villages: Injil: Imam Shash Noor Guzara: Guzara

PROJECT COMPONENT	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	TARGET OF ACTIVITY	EXPECTED OUTCOME OF ACTIVITY	DATES OF ACTIVITY	PROVINCE	DISTRICTS	VILLAGES
CLIN 2 - HVC	Establishment of a Vegetable Seedling Production Center and distribution of seedlings	Expand vegetable cultivation season by providing farmers with a variety of vegetable seedlings	Farmers will learn how to produce vegetable seedlings in a greenhouse and will cultivate vegetable seedlings, extending the cultivation season for vegetables and increasing farmer income.	June 2015	Herat	Injil	The seedling production center was established on the DAIL-run Urdu Khan Research Farm.
CLIN 2 - HVC	Weeding and Irrigation Training for 20 farmers from Badghis province	Improve farmers' knowledge of and ability to perform effective weed management and meet the irrigation needs of different types of vegetables	Farmers will utilize the knowledge and skills gained during training to implement weed control measures. Over-irrigation will be reduced and farmer yields and income will increase.	June 2015	Badghis	Qala-I-Naw, Muqur	Qala-I-Naw: Poogani Muqur: Kharestan
CLIN 3 - Livestock	Support /Train existing Veterinary Field Units (VFUs)	Increase the capacity of VFUs to provide extension services to livestock owners in surrounding communities	VFUs will be better equipped to provide higher quality veterinary services to livestock farmers in targeted districts.	March 2015 - Ongoing	Herat, Badghis	Herat: Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Koshk, Karukh Badghis: Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari	Injil: Imam Shashnoor, Khoshrod Guzara: Dehnow Pashtun Zarghun: Gulmir Koshk: Koshk Center, Tourghondi Karukh: Karukh Center, Korpa Qala-I-Naw: Qala-I-Now Center, Roshan Qadis: Qadis Center, Gharchaghai Ab Kamari: Pahlawanha, Hamam
CLIN 3 - Livestock	Support Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs) consisting of 528 members (322 male, 206 female) across 15 male and 10 female groups in Herat and Badghis	Provide husbandry extension services and increase awareness of VFUs	Farmers will be better equipped to care for livestock, improving overall animal health and decreasing livestock losses due to disease and poor care practices. Farmers will be put in contact with VFUs.	May 2015 - Ongoing	Herat, Badghis	Herat: Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Koshk, Karukh Badghis: Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari	Injil: Khoshrod X 2, Saleh Abad Guzara: Gol Vafa, Mir Dawood, Mahale Dasht Pashtun Zarghun: Dashti Bam, Shah Abad Koshk: Durmishi, Maydane Teyara, Do Ab Karukh: Kurpa X 2, Qala-I-Sharbat, Tarin-I-Ulya Qala-I-Naw: Baghban X 2, Dara Mushak, Qala Qaiz, Murad Bay Qadis: Omar Beka, Arbab Sarwar, Zay Saleh, Ab Kamari: Waymat, Pahlawan
CLIN 4 - Enabling Environment	Preliminary Constraints Analysis	Conduct preliminary constraints analysis on the constraints/limitations faced by Afghan agribusinesses operating in western Afghanistan	Analysis will identify challenges and opportunities for RADP-West intervention. RADP-West will submit a final list of 30 constraints to USAID.	March 2015 - Ongoing	Herat, Badghis, Farah	All 13 target districts	N/A

PROJECT COMPONENT	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	TARGET OF ACTIVITY	EXPECTED OUTCOME OF ACTIVITY	DATES OF ACTIVITY	PROVINCE	DISTRICTS	VILLAGES
Gender and Nutrition	Establishment of 21 female-operated and sustainable vegetable demonstration plots, training, and input distribution [inclusive of 1 lead farmer and 20 neighbor farmers; seed distribution for 221 female farmers]	Build the capacity of female farmers in preparing land, vegetable growing, post-harvest techniques, and business skills	Female farmers will be able to increase production through the application of new technologies and management practices.	April 2015 - Ongoing	Herat	Injil	Injil: Ghaizan Sanger

6.2 Photo and Caption Success Story



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PHOTO & CAPTION

Seedlings for a Sure Harvest



With the fall harvest season fast approaching, the Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) – West decided to do something never before seen in Herat province—transfer vegetable seedlings to targeted farmers.

In close coordination with the Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) and the Urdo Khan Research Farm, RADP-West planted and tended to the vegetable seedlings (tomato, squash, cucumber) during the beginning of June 2015.

At the end of the month, RADP-West held a training event for three lead farmers and 60 observer farmers in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts, where the seedlings were distributed. Participants learned how to prepare their land for the seedlings, including weeding and cultivation techniques, and learned some irrigation tips for seedling transplants. RADP-West also distributed a variety of vegetable seeds to plant alongside the seedlings—including okra, spinach, green beans, radishes, and carrots.

Transferring seedlings, in addition to providing seeds, will ensure that beneficiaries produce vegetables in time for the fall harvest. These vegetables can then be sold at the market, increasing household incomes before the winter season.

(USAID/RADP-West)

Vegetable seedlings provided by RADP-West were transferred to farmers for planting, ensuring a timely and profitable harvest.

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov