



Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) – West

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RADP-West personnel demonstrate summer pruning techniques during vineyard management training in Guzara District, Herat Province.

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Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) - West

April Monthly Report

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Name of Subcontractors:
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Afghanistan (AREA)
Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)
Equal Access (EA)
Services International LLC (SIL)
Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAEP	Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project
ADF	Agricultural Development Fund
AMA	Afghanistan Microfinance Association
APPF	Afghan Public Protection Force
APS	Annual Program Statement
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan
B2B	Business-to-Business
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
CO	Contracting Officer
CPOD	Communications and Public Outreach Department
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DTC	Demonstration Training Center
EA	Equal Access
ERF	Environmental Review Form
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
FINCA	Foundation for International Community Assistance
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GAALO	Green Afghanistan Agriculture and Livestock Organization
HVC	High Value Crops
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
LFEW	Local Female Extension Worker
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock

MCC	Milk Collection Center
MFI	Microfinance Institutions
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
PMU	Program Management Unit
RDASO	Rural Development Associate Services Organization
RFA	Request for Applications
RFP	Request for Proposals
SHG	Self-Help Group
SIL	Services International LLC
SOW	Scope of Work
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

I.1 Program Description

USAID awarded the five-year Regional Agricultural Development Program-West (RADP-West) to Chemonics International Inc. in August 2014. RADP-West is working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) in order to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in 13 targeted districts within Herat, Farah, and Badghis provinces. The project’s specific focus is to support MAIL in improving the productivity and profitability of targeted value chains within the Wheat, High Value Crops (HVC), and Livestock value chains. The purpose of this effort is to further the development of sustainable agriculture, which will support the consolidation of licit economies, fuel economic growth, and provide alternatives to poppy cultivation. In addition, the project’s Enabling Environment Department is designed to support MAIL in its efforts to adopt longer term improvements in national agricultural policy and regulatory development. Chemonics implements RADP-West with the support of Key Implementing Partners (KIPs). These KIPs include: Agency For Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA), Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)¹ and Equal Access. The table below outlines RADP-West KIP’s geographic coverage and primary responsibilities:

Table 1: RADP-West KIP Coverage Areas and Responsibilities

KIP	Geographic Coverage	Key Responsibilities
AREA	Badghis	Wheat & High Value Crop Production
DCA	Herat, Badghis, Farah	Livestock Value Chain Programming
ICARDA	Farah	Wheat & High Value Crop Production
Equal Access	Herat, Badghis, Farah	Communications Programming

RADP-West is built upon the fundamental premise that sustainable agricultural development will support the consolidation of licit economies, and is designed to support MAIL in promoting investments that will lead to sustained long-term increases in farmer incomes and private sector growth. The project is built around four primary programming components, consisting of: CLIN 1- Wheat Value Chain; CLIN 2- HVC Value Chain; CLIN 3- Livestock Value Chain; and CLIN 4- Enabling Environment. Together, these four programming components work as an integrated whole within the provinces and target districts outlined below.

I.2 Geographic Coverage

Table 2: RADP-West Target Provinces and Districts

Province	Districts
Herat	Guzara, Karukh, Injil, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand
Badghis	Muqur-1 ² , Ab Kamari, Qala-I-Naw, Qadis
Farah	Anar Dara, Farah, Pusht Rod

¹ The ICARDA subcontract has not yet been finalized.

² 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

During the month of April, RADP-West continued Wheat, HVC, Livestock, Enabling Environment, and Gender and Nutrition activities across selected districts within Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces. Through targeted trainings, assessments, and capacity building, RADP-West established support for existing MAIL programming and set the stage for providing farmers with means for increased household incomes.

2.1 Summary of Key Accomplishments

Wheat Production and Value Chain Programming

- Conducted wheat production and protection training for a total of 905 wheat farmer beneficiaries in the Koshk (93), Karukh (178), Pashtun Zarghun (296), and Guzara Districts (30) of Herat Province and in the Qala-I-Naw (77), Qadis (84), Ab Kamari (105), and Muqur (42) Districts of Badghis Province. Training in Herat Province was conducted by RADP-West/Chemonics staff and training in Badghis Province was conducted by AREA.
- Coordinated with the Herat Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) and two Private Seed Enterprises to conduct preliminary inspections of 164 foundation wheat plots in the Injil, Guzara, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts in Herat Province.
- Coordinated with the Karukh District DAIL Office in the identification and selection of six Wheat Demonstration Training Centers (DTCs).
- Conducted Wheat Post-Harvest Techniques Training for 38 women farmer beneficiaries in the Qala-I-Naw (8), Qadis (12), Ab Kamari (8), and Muqur (10) Districts of Badghis Province. The training was conducted in anticipation of the June/July Wheat Harvest, and in consideration of the critical role played by women in post-harvest activities in Badghis Province. AREA conducted this training.

High Value Crops Production and Value Chain Programming

- Submitted the Vegetable, Grape, and Fruit and Nut Value Chain Strategies to USAID during the month of April.
- Monitored the distribution of tomato, eggplant, and sweet pepper seedlings to 162 male farmers in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk Districts in Herat Province; the distribution of tomato and eggplant seedlings to 56 male farmers in Qadis, Qala-I-Naw, Muqur, and Ab Kamari Districts in Badghis Province (AREA); and the distribution of tomato seedlings to 16 male farmers in Farah Center District in Farah Province.
- Conducted inspections of 250 vegetable plots in Herat Province and recorded the GPS locations of each in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk Districts.
- AREA conducted training for 149 male farmers in the Qala-I-Naw (47), Ab Kamari (41), Qadis (40), and Muqur (21) Districts of Badghis Province on improved pre- and post-harvest techniques for seasonal vegetables (tomato and eggplant).
- Coordinated with the Herat, Badghis, and Farah DAIL Departments in the selection and establishment of 18 Vegetable DTCs in Injil (9), Guzara (7), Koshk (1), and Pashtun Zarghun (1) Districts in Herat Province; four Vegetable DTCs in Qala-I-Naw (1), Qadis (1), Muqur (1), and Ab Kamari (1) Districts in Badghis Province; and three Vegetable DTCs in Farah Center (2) and Anar Dara (1) Districts in Farah Province.
- Introduced five male greenhouse farmers (three from Herat, two from Farah) for training conducted by the Antwort Company in improved greenhouse management techniques.
- AREA conducted training for 323 female farmer beneficiaries on improved techniques for high value crops in the Qala-I-Naw (105), Qadis (71), Ab Kamari (63), and Muqur (84) Districts of Badghis Province.
- AREA conducted training for 82 female farmer beneficiaries on improved production techniques for greenhouse and garden vegetables in the Qala-I-Naw (21), Qadis (40), and Ab Kamari (21) Districts of Badghis Province.

- Conducted nutrition training for 60 female beneficiaries from the Ghaizun Sanger and Khalchan villages of Injil and Guzara Districts.
- Conducted field visit assessments to select high quality pistachio saplings in preparation for the Pistachio Budding Program, scheduled to commence during the month of June.
- Inspected six Orchard DTCs established by the subcontractor Rural Development Associate Services Organization (RDASO).
- AREA conducted Pistachio Orchard Management Training for 41 male farmers in the Ab Kamari District of Badghis Province.
- Supported farmers with the provision of 51 packaged agriculture toolkits on Farmers' Day (one package includes one pruning shear and one pruning saw), and demonstrated the practical application of these kits during an event in the DAIL Herat compound.
- Conducted vineyard management and grape canopy training for 40 farmers in Farah Center District (Farah Province) and 56 farmers in Herat Province (28 farmers in Injil District and 28 in Guzara District).

Livestock Production and Value Chain Programming

- Continued capacity development support and monitoring activities for existing Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) Paravets (refresher training course), student Paravets (DCA course in Herat City), Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs), and Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs). The purpose of this support is to improve the productivity and health of livestock herds within target districts of the western region.
- Completed the Paravet Training Course on April 25, 2016; the eight new VFU Paravets received their certificates during a graduation ceremony in Herat City on April 26, 2016.
- Conducted a five-day refresher training course on physiology, metabolic diseases, surgery methods, and examination for disease diagnosis for 11 VFU Paravets from Herat and Badghis Province; the training took place at the DCA Training Center in Herat City.
- Conducted 29 FEG sessions for male and female livestock farmers in the Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, and Koshk Districts of Herat Province, and in the Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, and Ab Kamari Districts of Badghis Province.
- In collaboration with the Badghis DAIL Livestock Department, the Environmental Health Department, the Municipality, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), and DCA, RADP-West conducted a Meat Value Chain Conference for 21 butchers and slaughterhouse employees in Badghis Province. At the end of the conference, a Slaughterhouse Hygiene Inspection Committee was proposed to regularly inspect butchers' and slaughterhouses' meat and hygiene safety under the leadership of NEPA.

Enabling Environment Programming

- Prepared and submitted the following four constraint analyses to MAIL on April 17, 2016 in collaboration with RADP-North, RADP-South and USAID (via RADP-South):
 - Constraint #11: Lack of Access to Finance
 - Constraint #12: Lack of Public Private Partnerships
 - Constraint #13: Lack of Access to Value Chain Markets
 - Constraint #14: Lack of Effective/Functioning Customs/Border Procedures to Facilitate Cross-Border Trade of Agricultural Products
- In collaboration with DAIL Badghis, RADP-West conducted a Women's Engagement in Agriculture -Technology and Value Chain conference for representatives from 20 woman-owned/operated agribusinesses in Badghis. At the end of the event, the participants formed a working group comprised of six women to support agribusinesses and prepare a status report, conference agenda, and description for the Women Engagement in Agriculture Technology conference planned for July 2016.
- Conducted feasibility assessments for packhouse locations in Farah and Badghis Provinces, in coordination with the Farah and Badghis DAIL offices.

- Provided capacity building support for one Private Seed Enterprise in Karukh District and conducted coaching sessions for two Private Seed Enterprises (one in Injil District, one in Guzara District). Facilitated linkage meetings between Regional Seed Enterprises and the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) and between beneficiary farmers in Herat and the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA). The purpose of these linkage meetings was to facilitate conversations about financing options at the provincial and district levels.
- Facilitated an exchange visit between seven raisin house owners, the Injil and Guzara District Grape and Raisin Associations, and the Herat Plastic Packaging Company to identify areas for cooperation and potential business deals.

Subcontractor Highlights

AREA (Badghis): During the month, AREA completed the selection of 2,100 lead farmers in four districts of Badghis Province in accordance with their second task order. AREA inspected the lead farmers' land to ensure that each plot consisted of at least two jeribs of land and that there was sufficient access to water for wheat to grow. AREA conducted trainings on pre- and post-harvest wheat techniques in Badghis Province, and trained male farmers on vegetable pre- and post-harvest improved techniques. Additionally, female beneficiaries were trained in greenhouse and improved high value crop production.

Equal Access (EA) (Herat, Farah, Badghis): During the month of April, Equal Access ramped up activities under its approved Concept Note for Year Two. Major activities undertaken during the month included the following:

- **Training Extension Materials Development:** EA worked with the Communications and Public Outreach Department (CPOD) to develop a comprehensive tracker of training topics for Year Two programming. EA will use this tracker to identify and develop seasonally appropriate illustrative training material aimed at providing farmers with a useful takeaway that they can reference on their fields. Illustrative training material development for the Livestock Department was underway during the month.
- **Photography and Basic Journalism Training:** Per the approved Concept Note, EA began preparations for Photography and Basic Journalism Trainings. These trainings will be delivered for RADP-West, KIP, and DAIL staff in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces to improve their skills and capacity in these areas.
- **SMS Push Notification Campaign:** EA commenced discussions with service providers in support of developing an SMS Messaging Campaign aimed at providing information to beneficiaries on upcoming MAIL/DAIL events, trainings, and other major activities in RADP-West target districts. The RADP-West beneficiary tracker will be used to designate messaging groups based on CLIN and region.
- **Access Database Development:** In support of the SMS Push Notification Campaign, EA held discussions with RADP-West's M&E Team to identify areas for potential support. Discussions were underway at the end of April for EA support in transitioning RADP-West's current beneficiary tracker (in Excel) to a more user-friendly and customizable Access Database.

Baseline and Control Data Survey: The RADP-West Program Management Unit (PMU) has begun negotiations with a local subcontractor to complete the Baseline and Control Data Survey. Once budget negotiations are complete, the PMU will submit for Contracting Officer consent to subcontract.

International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) (Farah): ICARDA, a collaborative partner listed in the RADP-West technical proposal, was selected to replace Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) for Wheat and HVC production activities in Farah Province. Contracting Officer consent was received on February 1, 2016, with the scope of

work (SOW) and budget discussions being led by the RADP-West PMU. Chemonics has been in extended discussions with ICARDA to finalize their subcontract and budget. Once ICARDA is able to confirm their rates, RADP-West will proceed with issuing an IQS and Task Order for activities in Farah.

Sayara Strategies: Sayara continued work under its Fixed Price Subcontract during the month, completing four constraint analyses and requested revisions.

Rural Development Associate Services Organization (RDASO) (Herat Province): RDASO was selected to establish commercial demonstration orchards in Injil and Guzara Districts in Herat Province in support of RADP-West's High Value Crop activities. During the month, RADP-West inspected six established Orchard Demonstration Training Centers (DTCs) allocated for plums in the Robot Solayman village of Guzara District and apricots in the Sofyan village of Injil District.

Master Trainer Subcontracts (Herat Province): RADP-West awarded two fixed price subcontracts during April for Master Trainer services in Herat Province. A subcontract for vegetable training services was awarded to the Green Afghanistan Agriculture and Livestock Organization (GAALO) on April 18, 2016. RADP-West awarded a grape, raisin, and orchard training services subcontract to Dynamic Vision on April 19, 2016. RADP-West hosted kick-off meetings with both subcontractors at the end of April to review the scopes of work and answer any remaining questions.

3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Wheat Value Chain Programming

Wheat Production and Protection Training: During the month of April, the RADP-West Wheat Team trained 597 male beneficiaries from 20 villages in Karukh (6), Koshk (3), Pashtun Zarghun (10), and Guzara (1) Districts on the topics of weeding, applying urea fertilizer, irrigation, pest and disease control, and seed purification. AREA conducted Wheat Production and Protection Training in Badghis Province, reaching 308 male farmers from two villages in Qadis, two villages in Qala-I-Naw, two villages in Ab Kamari, and one village in the Muqur District. Topics included new wheat cultivation technologies, management practices, and improved post-harvest handling techniques.



RADP-West personnel conduct training on wheat production and protection in Chalista village, Karukh District; 11Apr16

Table 3: Farmers Trained on Wheat Production and Protection in Herat and Badghis Provinces

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Herat	Koshk	Deziwari	34	03-Apr-16
2			Bagh Che Abdulhakim	29	04-Apr-16
3			Kariz Khoni	30	05-Apr-16
4		Karukh	Dahan Ghar	30	10-Apr-16
5			Chalistan	30	11-Apr-16
6			Mahala Moh Azam	30	12-Apr-16
7			Mahala Tajikha	30	13-Apr-16
8			Posht Yakhdan	28	25-Apr-16
9			Qale Bala	30	14-Apr-16
10			Pashtun Zarghun	Manzel	30
11		Gulmir		30	17-Apr-16
12		Qasre Naser		30	18-Apr-16
13		Shah Abad		27	18-Apr-16
14		Mamora		30	19-Apr-16
15		Qale Yosuf Khan		30	19-Apr-16
16		Safidan Olia		30	20-Apr-16
17		Balkhian		30	20-Apr-16
18		Safidan Sofla		30	21-Apr-16
19		Dogh Abad		29	21-Apr-16
20		Guzara	Kala Gerd	30	25-Apr-16
21	Badghis	Qadis	Khoad Amadaha	42	04-Apr-16
22			Khalifa Ayaz	42	20-Apr-16
23		Ab Kamari	Zangar	42	11-Apr-16
24			Qebchaq	63	26-Apr-16
25		Qala-I-Naw	Qarghaitoo	42 ³	06-Apr-16
26			Bagh-e-Dashti	35	18-Apr-16
27		Muqur	Sang-e-Zard	42	25-Apr-16
Total				905	

Coordination with Herat DAIL and Private Seed Enterprises: In order to verify locations and commence preliminary inspections of wheat crops, RADP-West conducted visits of foundation wheat plots with the Herat DAIL and the Shaikhul Islam Seed Company in two villages of Injil District. RADP-West also conducted visits with DAIL and the Hambastagi Seed Company in two villages of Guzara District. 164 plots were selected for inspection out of 1,200 foundation wheat plots total, during which DAIL representatives spoke with farmers about guidelines for weeding, irrigation, fertilizer usage, and pest control. DAIL will commence formal inspections during the



RADP-West personnel participate in a joint inspection of foundation wheat plots in Gerdab Village, Injil District; 03Apr16

³ One participant from Bagh-e-Dashti attended this training in Qarghaitoo.

month of May, with issuance of certification expected in September.

Table 4: Number of Inspected Foundation Plots in Herat

#	Province	District	Village	# of Plots Inspected	Inspection Date
1	Herat	Injil	Oqab	18	3-Apr-16
2			Gerdab	38	3-Apr-16
3			Sale Abad	31	10-Apr-16
4		Guzara	Gul Bafa	24	4-Apr-16
5			Gushmir	13	11-Apr-16
6			Kalagerd	12	11-Apr-16
7		Pashtun Zarghun	Dogh Abad	28	6-Apr-16
Total				164	

Wheat Demonstration Training Center (DTCs) Selection: During the month of April, RADP-West, in coordination with the Herat DAIL Department, selected six Wheat DTC locations in Karukh District; all six of these farmers participated in the November 2015 Wheat Seed Multiplication Program. These DTCs will provide a forum for RADP-West Wheat Department personnel, DAIL Extension Workers, subcontracted Master Trainers, agribusinesses, and private seed enterprises to provide capacity development instruction and extension services to wheat farmer beneficiaries in target districts.

Table 5: Selected Wheat DTC Locations in Herat Province

#	Province	District	Village	# of Wheat DTCs	Size of DTC
1	Herat	Karukh	Mahal-e-Tajik Ha	1	One Jerib
2			Qala Bala	1	One Jerib
3			Dahan Ghar	1	One Jerib
4			Chalistan	1	One Jerib
5			Mahal-e-Mohammad Azam Khan	1	One Jerib
6			Arghawan Shah	1	One Jerib
Total				6	

Major Activities Planned for Wheat Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Continue Wheat training in target districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces, with a focus on harvest and post-harvest activities.
- Continue collaboration with flour mills in Herat and Badghis Provinces for the purchase of surplus wheat from RADP-West beneficiaries after the June/July harvest.
- Select additional Wheat DTC locations and negotiate contracts between RADP-West and each of the selected farmers for all Wheat DTCs.
- Work with Private Seed Enterprises on their grant applications for the provision of wheat seed and fertilizer for the November 2016 Winter Wheat Planting.

3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming

Value Chain Strategies: During the month of April, RADP-West finalized three value chain strategies on grapes, vegetables, and fruit and nuts. Each value chain strategy covers important topics such as value chain analysis, value chain stakeholders, market constraints and strategic solutions,

gender and nutrition constraints and solutions, and an analysis of potential income with vegetable and grape cultivation. The three reports have been submitted to USAID for review and approval.⁴

Vegetables:

Kick-off Meeting with GAALO: On April 20, 2016, RADP-West held a kick-off meeting with GAALO, the master trainer subcontractor responsible for training 1,250 vegetable farmers (180 female and 1,070 male) in six districts of Herat (Guzara, Injil, Karukh, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun and Shindand). This subcontractor will commence training activities during the month of May.

Vegetable Seedling Distribution Program: During the month of April, RADP-West followed up on the vegetable seed and seedling distributions conducted in February and March. In Herat, 25 farmers received tomato, eggplant, or sweet pepper seeds for the planting and production of seedlings in 25 row tunnel systems in February; the seedlings produced in these 25 row tunnel systems were planned for distribution to 358 farmers in Herat Province. During the month of April, these farmers successfully distributed tomato, eggplant, and sweet pepper seedlings to 162 farmers in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk Districts. The remaining 196 farmers in Karukh District will receive their seedlings during the month of May, as Karukh has a colder climate compared with the other districts and must transplant their seedlings at a later time.



RADP-West personnel visit a low tunnel system with tomato seedlings; 06Apr16

In Badghis Province, six male farmers received tomato or eggplant seeds for the planting and production of seedlings in six row tunnel systems established during the month of February; the seedlings produced in these six row tunnel systems were planned for distribution to 56 farmers in Badghis Province. During the month of April and under the oversight of AREA, these six farmers successfully distributed tomato and eggplant seedlings to 56 farmers in Qadis, Qala-I-Naw, Muqur, and Ab Kamari Districts. In addition, AREA distributed okra seeds to 24 male farmers in Qadis, Qala-I-Naw, Muqur, and Ab Kamari Districts.

In Farah Province, three lead farmers produced and distributed tomato seedlings for 16 farmers; these seedlings were produced in three row tunnel systems established by RADP-West.

Inspection of Cultivated Vegetable Plots: In April, RADP-West began inspection of vegetable plots to ensure that all farmers had planted their seeds and saplings. RADP-West inspected 250 vegetable plots (out of 358 plots total) in Herat and recorded the GPS locations of each in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk Districts.

Vegetable Pre- and Post-Harvest Technique Training: With the goal of increasing vegetable yields in Badghis Province, AREA conducted improved pre- and post-harvest technique training during the month of April for 149 male farmers.

⁴ The Grape Value Chain Strategy was submitted to USAID on April 22, 2016; the Vegetables Value Chain Strategy was submitted on April 21, 2016; and the Fruit and Nut Value Chain Strategy was submitted on April 26, 2016.

Table 6: Improved Vegetable Pre- and Post-Harvest Technique Training

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Badghis	Qala-I-Naw	Tagab Ismail	29	05-Apr-16
2			Payi Ziarat	11	19-Apr-16
3			Baghi Dashti	7	26-Apr-16
4		Ab Kamari	Dai Zangi Zanigar	41	12-Apr-16
5		Qadis	DAII Extension Compound	40	17-Apr-16
6		Muqur	Kharistan	21	13-Apr-16
Total				149	

Vegetable Demonstration Training Center (DTC) Selection and Establishment: During the month of April, RADP-West, in coordination with the Herat DAIL Department, selected nine Vegetable DTC locations in Injil District, seven DTC locations in Guzara District, one DTC location in Koshk District, and one DTC location in the Pashtun Zarghun District of Herat Province. In Badghis Province, one DTC was selected in each of the centers of Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Muqur, and Ab Kamari Districts, respectively, while two DTCs were selected in Farah Center District and one in the Anar Dara District of Farah Province. Work was underway during the month to fully establish these DTCs, including the signing of an agreement with RADP-West and the lead farmers. These DTCs will provide a forum for RADP-West HVC Department personnel, DAIL Extension Workers, subcontracted Master Trainers, agribusinesses, and private seed enterprises to provide capacity development instruction and extension services to vegetable farmer beneficiaries in target districts.

Table 7: Vegetable DTCs Selected in April

#	Province	District	Village	Size of DTC
1	Herat	Injil	Delgharar	2,000 m ²
2			Turkan Sufla	2,000 m ²
3			Turkan Olya	2,000 m ²
4			Hendewan Zer Joy	2,000 m ²
5			Hendewan Posht Joy	2,000 m ²
6			Jalwarcha	2,000 m ²
7			Oghab	2,000 m ²
8			Gerdab	2,000 m ²
9			Navin Sufla	2,000 m ²
10		Guzara	Gulbafa	2,000 m ²
11			Akhonda	2,000 m ²
12			Golb Nazer	2,000 m ²
13			Dehtapa	2,000 m ²
14			Chahar Kabotar Khan	2,000 m ²
15			Goshmir	2,000 m ²
16			Ordu Bagh	2,000 m ²
17			Koshk	Rabat Sangi Sofla
18		Pashtun Zarghun	Sayed Abad	2,000 m ²
19	Badghis	Qala-I-Naw	Tagab Esmail	2,000 m ²
20		Qadis	Khalifa Ayaz	2,000 m ²
21		Muqur	Sangatac	2,000 m ²
22		Ab Kamari	Aga Sofi	2,000 m ²

23	Farah	Farah Center	Rigi	2,000 m ²
24			Brangtoot	2,000 m ²
25		Anar Dara	Center	2,000 m ²
Total			25	

Greenhouse Coaching Program: During the month of April, RADP-West received an invitation from the Herat-based Antwort Consulting Company to introduce five beneficiaries for participation in a training aimed at increasing farmers' technical knowledge of greenhouse management. RADP-West introduced five male farmers who operate greenhouses in their respective villages (three from Herat Province and two from Farah Province). These farmers participated in the training from April 12-14, 2016 in Herat City. RADP-West supported the transportation and accommodation of the Farah farmers to participate in this training.

Orchards:

Pistachio Budding Program: During the month of April, RADP-West conducted field visit assessments in order to select the highest quality pistachio saplings for its budding program in the Injil, Guzara, Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk Districts of Herat Province. In total, an estimated 3,500 certified pistachio scions will be distributed to beneficiary pistachio farmers in Herat (3,000) and Badghis (500) Provinces. In Herat and Badghis Provinces, pistachio farmers do not have access to certified scions, nor do they possess the technical knowledge necessary for properly budding pistachio saplings. Through this distribution and demonstration program, pistachio farmers will have access to certified scions to graft their saplings. When they bud their pistachio saplings, they will be able to harvest their product seven years earlier than if they used ungrafted or unbudded saplings.

RADP-West utilized the following criteria during sapling selection: saplings must be taller than 70 cm and thicker than one cm in diameter (trunk section). Based on these criteria, RADP-West selected eight farmers who have 1,930 pistachio saplings during the month of April. RADP-West will identify 1,570 additional pistachio saplings (500 saplings in Badghis and 1,070 saplings in Herat) for this program.

Inspection of Orchard Demonstration Training Center (DTC): During the month of April, RADP-West inspected six Orchard DTCs that were established by RDASO in Injil and Guzara Districts of Herat Province. Two DTCs (one plum, one apricot) are ready for handover to the farmers. However, the four other DTCs have encountered some technical issues, which will be addressed by RDASO in May to facilitate handover. During the month, the terms of the contract for the DTCs were discussed, finalized, and signed by these six lead farmers.

Orchard Management Training: During the month of April, AREA conducted orchard management training for pistachios in Badghis Province for 41 male farmers from the Aqa Sufi village of Ab Kamari District in Badghis Province. During the training, farmers learned about agriculture best practices including the benefits of orchard management and pre- and post-harvest practices to increase yields.



A DAIL Extension Worker demonstrates how to use shears for fruit tree pruning; 10Apr16

Agriculture Toolkit Distribution: In celebration of Farmers' Day, on April 10, 2016, RADP-West distributed agricultural toolkits (including one pruning shear and one pruning saw) to 51 male farmers and helped lead practical demonstrations alongside DAIL Extension Workers at the DAIL Compound in Herat. Topics covered during the

demonstrations included: 1) How to use the agro-toolkits; 2) The purpose and importance of pruning; 3) Pruning methods; 4) Pruning timing.

Grapes:

Kick-off Meeting with Dynamic Vision: In April, RADP-West held a kick off meeting with Dynamic Vision. Dynamic Vision will train 700 orchard and 750 grape farmers including 200 female farmers in six districts of Herat (Guzara, Injil, Karukh, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun, and Shindand). RADP-West is working with Dynamic Vision to commence the training in May.

Grape Vineyard and Canopy Management

Training: During the month of April, RADP-West conducted Grape Vineyard and Canopy Management Training in Herat and Farah Provinces. The training in Herat was conducted on April 20 in the Sara Naw village of Injil District and on April 21 in the Joyan village of Guzara District. Fifty-six male farmers from these villages participated in the training sessions. Farmers learned how to properly irrigate their vineyards, apply fertilizer and canopy (prune) their vines and manage their vineyards with the goal of increasing yields. One session of the training was held in the training center where farmers learned best practices for vine canopies. The training in Farah Province was conducted April 13 and 14 in the center of Farah Center District. Forty male farmers traveled from ten villages within Farah Center District to participate, where the same topics were covered.



Farmers discuss summer pruning techniques during Grape Vineyard and Canopy Management Training in Guzara District; 21Apr16

Major Activities Planned for HVC Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Continue to identify, select, and establish Vegetable and Orchard DTCs in Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices, and in line with the Year Two Work Plan. Orchard DTCs can be utilized throughout the year, while Vegetable DTCs will be used during the June - August period.
- In collaboration with master trainer subcontractors and respective provincial DAIL offices, oversee and manage the preparation of training materials and the roll-out of seasonally appropriate Vegetable, Orchard, and Vineyard trainings. The following trainings are planned for the month of May: 1) Vegetable/Horticulture: Irrigation; Weed Control; Soil Enrichment; Compost Preparation; Fertilizer Application; 2) Orchard: Green Pruning; Thinning; Proper Irrigation and Fertilization; Weed Control; Intercropping; 3) Vineyard: Proper Fertilization and Irrigation; Cluster Constricting; Trellising.
- Establish 20 pistachio training centers (two in Farah and 18 in Badghis) and identify additional pistachio saplings for the Pistachio Budding Program.
- Continue new farmer selection for the vegetable fall season program in Herat and Badghis Provinces.
- Continue inspections and recording of GPS points from vegetable plots.
- Establish ten vegetable training centers in Karukh district.

3.3 Livestock Value Chain Programming

Supporting Veterinary Field Unit Paravets

New VFU Training: During the month of April, eight new paravets (six male, two female) from Herat and Badghis completed the six-month Paravet Training Course. The aim of this course was to train new paravets for the establishment of new VFUs in RADP-West target districts in 2016. By establishing new VFUs in target districts, it is expected that farmers will have better access to VFU veterinary and extension services and consequently, animal health and husbandry practices will improve. This improvement will lead to increased income for farmers. In April, the course covered the topics of internal surgery, parasitology, pharmacology, animal bacteriology and virology, and VFU record-keeping. Practical demonstrations covered topics such as practical disease diagnosis, working on experimental animals, and business skills.



One of the Female VFU Paravet graduates provides remarks during the VFU Paravet Graduation Ceremony; 26Apr16

Graduation Ceremony: The newly trained paravets received their graduation certificates during a graduation ceremony held at the Estiqlal Hotel in Herat City on April 26, 2016. The event was attended by RADP-West and DCA staff as well as representatives from the Herat DAIL, Herat University, Herat Agriculture and Veterinary Institute, the Public Health Department, Women's Affairs Department, and other national and international NGOs. These paravets will establish VFUs in their respective villages in Herat and Badghis Provinces. RADP-West, through DCA, will provide these paravets with material support to include motorbikes and startup packages to establish VFUs in their home villages. The startup packages will include VFU

technical equipment kits for performing various procedures on animals, furniture, solar refrigerators and stationery. These VFU startup packages, in addition to a small amount of startup capital, will enable these new VFUs to operate.

VFU Refresher Training: From April 10-21, 2016, DCA conducted a five-day general refresher training course covering the topics of physiology of the animal reproductive system, metabolic diseases, basic surgery methods, and systematic examinations for disease diagnosis. The training was held at the DCA Training Center in Herat City for 11 VFU Paravets from Herat and Badghis Provinces. The VFU Paravets who attended this training are expected to be the linkage between the farmers and agribusinesses. They are also expected to help the livestock owners in the facilitation of linkages to the livestock market, including livestock processing companies.



DCA personnel conduct a refresher training course for VFU Paravets

VFU Monitoring: From April 3-4, 2016, DCA visited two VFUs located in the Qadis District of Badghis Province. The objective of this ongoing monitoring effort is to evaluate the overall situation of VFUs, including their access to good quality medicines and vaccines, performance of cold storage, and quality of record-keeping procedures. Monitoring visits also allow DCA staff to provide technical

advice as needed to VFU staff. The overall situation of both VFUs was satisfactory; the farmers reported satisfaction with the veterinary services provided by this VFU.

Supporting Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs)

LFEW Monitoring: During the month of April, DCA monitored the activities of four LFEWs in three villages of Injil and Guzara Districts of Herat Province and one village in Qadis District of Badghis province. The objective of this ongoing monitoring effort is to evaluate the performance of LFEWs in contributing to the promotion of animal health and hygiene and to provide advice on the provision of quality extension services to female livestock farmers. DCA observed that the performance of the LFEWs was satisfactory—the LFEWs are conducting monthly meetings with female livestock farmers and providing appropriate guidance and extension messages to female livestock farmers in their villages.

Supporting Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs)

FEG Sessions: During the month of April, DCA extension workers conducted 29 FEG extension sessions for male and female livestock farmers from five districts of Herat Province (Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, and Koshk) and three districts of Badghis Province (Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, and Ab-Kamari). During the extension sessions, DCA extension workers disseminated information on livestock disease prevention, control and diagnosis, the importance of vaccines and proper animal treatment, and good feeding practices. DCA provided targeted training and shared information relevant to the season and each FEG's geographic location. DCA also helped link these groups with VFUs. Topics covered during these 29 sessions included black leg, brucellosis, mastitis, foot and mouth disease (FMD), hemorrhagic septicemia and Newcastle disease, blood parasites, recourses of zoonotic disease, the difference between medicine and vaccines, feeding, watering, retention of placenta, ectoparasites, stable management, the seasonal calendar, lamb fattening, the importance of vaccines, disadvantages of traditional treatments of livestock, marketing, taking care of newborns, the estrus cycle, and caring for pregnant animals.



DCA conducts an FEG meeting in Qadis District, Badghis Province; 18Apr16

Topics covered during these 29 sessions included black leg, brucellosis, mastitis, foot and mouth disease (FMD), hemorrhagic septicemia and Newcastle disease, blood parasites, recourses of zoonotic disease, the difference between medicine and vaccines, feeding, watering, retention of placenta, ectoparasites, stable management, the seasonal calendar, lamb fattening, the importance of vaccines, disadvantages of traditional treatments of livestock, marketing, taking care of newborns, the estrus cycle, and caring for pregnant animals.

New FEGs: During the month of April, three female FEGs were established in two districts of Herat Province (Guzara and Injil) and one district of Badghis Province (Qadis). These new groups comprise a total of 66 female livestock farmers.

Additional Activities

In addition to the main activities detailed above, DCA promoted private sector extension by encouraging and facilitating additional activities through VFUs and LFEWs.

VFU Services: The 15 existing VFUs supported by RADP-West treated 16,150 sheep and goats and vaccinated 28,490 sheep and goats in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces during the month of April. These VFUs, as privately owned businesses, charge a fee to the livestock farmers for the provision of each vaccination; the vaccinations are not provided or funded by RADP-West.

Extension Sessions by VFU Paravets: VFUs conducted 15 FEG sessions for male livestock farmers in targeted districts in Herat and Badghis Provinces during the month of April. These FEG

sessions covered the topics of enterotoxaemia, theileriosis, FMD, endo-parasites, stable management, cashmere, and the importance of vaccines.

Extension Sessions by LFEWs: During the month of April, the 33 LFEWs trained by RADP-West conducted 33 FEG sessions for female farmers in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces. These FEG sessions covered the topics of feed supply, housing and cleaning, cashmere harvesting, how to administer medicine to livestock, the disadvantages of traditional treatment, marketing, medicine and vaccine residue, poultry husbandry, the role of women in livestock production, seeing first signs of sickness, identifying estrus in cows, taking care of pregnant animals, taking care of newborns, toxoplasmosis and zoonotic disease.

Meat Value Chain Conference in Badghis Province: On April 6, 2016, RADP-West conducted a conference for 21 butchers and slaughterhouse employees in collaboration with the Badghis DAIL Livestock Department, Health Department, Municipality, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), and DCA at the Badghis DAIL Conference Hall. The purpose of this event was not only to raise awareness of poor slaughterhouse conditions and improve hygienic practices in Badghis, but also to provide an opportunity for government representatives to interact directly with butchers and other meat value chain actors to identify solutions and a way forward. Specifically, the following challenges were identified: 1) Lack of standard slaughterhouses in Qala-I-Naw District; 2) Lack of sufficient water resources for the cleaning of slaughterhouses; 3) Lack of understanding of municipality procedures for maintaining hygiene and operational standards. During the conference, DCA also conducted hygiene training for the participants, in which they learned about zoonotic diseases, damage caused by endo-parasites and ecto-parasites, and the qualities of hygienic slaughterhouses and butcher shops. At the conclusion of the event, demonstration toolkits were provided to each of the butchers and slaughterhouse employees and included simple first aid kits, protective glasses, and hygiene tools to include masks, rubber boots, soap, surgical gloves, bandages, an apron, protective clothing, and a robe. At the conclusion of the conference, a Slaughterhouse Hygiene Inspection Committee was proposed to regularly inspect butchers and slaughterhouses under the leadership of NEPA.



Demonstration of protective wear for butchers during the Meat Value Chain Conference in Badghis; 06Apr16

Major Activities Planned for Livestock Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Continue capacity development support for VFU Paravets, DAIL extension workers, LFEWs, FEG members, and Self-Help Group (SHG) members to improve the productivity and health of livestock herds within target districts of the western region.
- In collaboration with the Herat and Badghis DAIL offices, conduct an assessment for the establishment of two fodder banks (one in each province).
- Conduct deworming campaigns within target districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces to reach an estimated 10,000 sheep and goats.
- Select eight new VFU Paravet trainees for the upcoming six-month VFU Paravet Training Course.
- Collaborate with the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department to link DCA livestock beneficiaries with representatives from regional dairy companies.

- Collaborate with the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department to conduct training for the Milk Collection Center (MCC) milk suppliers (farmers) in hygiene, milking, and milk handling.
- Collaborate with the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department in building the capacity of the dairy companies with grants and providing technical advice for improving the MCC's conditions.

3.4 Enabling Environment Programming

Technical Assistance/Capacity Building Support for Private Vegetable Seed Company:

On April 4, 2016, RADP-West provided technical assistance and capacity building support to the Shaikh Marouf Karukhi Private Seed and Agricultural Services Company at their office in Karukh District Center. The purpose of this support was to identify ways in which the company could improve certified vegetable seed production, in addition to packaging and marketing of its products to attract interest in the domestic market. On April 21, RADP-West reviewed and approved a grant concept paper for this company, under which the company plans to cultivate and produce certified okra, eggplant, pepper, and onion seeds. The company will also package and market the certified seed after the next harvest season, with support from RADP-West.

Coaching/Mentoring Sessions for Private Seed Enterprises: In order to build the capacity of regional seed enterprises in completing applications, RADP-West conducted coaching and mentoring sessions for the management of two seed enterprises during the month of April: 1) Khawja Mohammad Mosafer Private Seed Enterprise, Injil District (April 11) and 2) Hambastagi Private Seed Enterprise, Guzara District (April 13). Both sessions focused on concept note application development for the production of certified vegetable seed.

Linkage Meeting Between Seed Enterprises and Agricultural Development Fund (ADF):

On April 10, 2016, RADP-West facilitated a linkage meeting between the ADF and six regional seed enterprises in order to increase these enterprises' understanding of finance and credit options in the western region. During the meeting, ADF explained loan procedures, conditions, the amount of the loan, duration of the loan, eligibility, and other related issues. The seed enterprises expressed concern over the requirement for provision of land titles as collateral for loans, which have not been issued by the Herat Court in over 10 years. ADF promised to communicate this concern to its board committee and will follow-up on a potential land title exemption.

Discussion on Grape/Raisin Packaging Materials with Herat Plastic Packaging Company:

On April 18, 2016, RADP-West facilitated an exchange visit between seven raisin house owners, the Injil and Guzara District Grape and Raisin Growers Associations, and the Herat Plastic Packaging Company. The associations and raisin houses discussed their need for grape and raisin packaging materials. While the Herat Plastic Packaging Company has not yet produced grape/raisin packaging materials, it is expecting to do so in the near future. RADP-West will continue to follow-up with these parties to ensure updates are communicated.



Representatives from seven raisin houses in Herat and the Herat Plastic Packaging Company discuss packaging requirements for raisins and fresh fruit; 18Apr16

Linking Herat Farmers with Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA):

On April 12, 2016, RADP-West introduced 28 male wheat and HVC farmer beneficiaries to FINCA, which recently opened a branch

in the Injil District of Herat Province. RADP-West has advocated the opening of district-level financial institutions at previous Access to Finance (A2F) events, in response to farmer requests. The purpose of this introduction was to facilitate conversations about financing options at the district level. FINCA provided information to the farmers on its products, services, terms, loans, and conditions.

Microfinance Institutions (MFI) Regional Coordination Meeting: On April 20, 2016 RADP-West participated in the MFI Regional Coordination Meeting at the Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA) office in Herat City. One of the goals of these coordination meetings is to increase access to loans and credit in rural areas. During the meeting, FINCA discussed a new grant that may be used to extend loans and credit to RADP-West beneficiaries in Herat. RADP-West will continue to coordinate with FINCA and other financial institutions to facilitate linkages with beneficiary farmers.

Market Information Feasibility Study: Following up on conversations with the Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project (AAEP) II and the Dean of the Agriculture Faculty at Herat University, on April 21, 2016, RADP-West announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) with a closing date of May 15, 2016 for a Market Information Feasibility Study aimed at exploring, analyzing, and reporting on the demand, sustainability, functionality, location, and management needed for a Market Information System.

Trainings on Tracking Sales Records in Gulbafa Village: On April 24, 2016, RADP-West worked with 10 DCA farmer beneficiaries to coach them on tracking sales records. Thirty-six record books have been distributed to wheat and HVC lead farmers to collect and report on project-supported sales records.

Major Activities Planned for Enabling Environment Programming Next Month

- Continue to work with and mentor identified cooperatives in Herat, Badghis and Farah Provinces to ensure that business plan development is underway, licensing is approved by MAIL, and program beneficiary produce continues to be collected and sold to regional agribusinesses.
- Receive and review six additional constraint analyses reports from Sayara, for onward submission to RADP-South by May 25, 2016.
- Continue distribution of sales record-keeping books for Wheat, HVC, and Livestock farmer beneficiaries and agribusinesses to assist in maintaining a record of the USD value of sales obtained as a result of RADP-West support.
- Provide support to agribusinesses from Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces during the upcoming Herat Industrial Exhibition May 17-20, 2016.
- Review responses to the RFP for a Market Information Center at Herat University.
- Conduct a regional Business-to-Business (B2B) Matchmaking Workshop in Herat Province in coordination with the Herat DAIL and the Herat Provincial Governor.

3.5 Cross-Cutting Themes

3.5.1 Gender and Nutrition Programming

Wheat Post-Harvest Training: AREA conducted post-harvest training in Badghis province for 38 female beneficiaries from one village in Qadis (12), one village in Qala-l-Naw (8), one village in Ab Kamari (8), and one village in the Muqur District (10). AREA female trainers covered the following topics with female beneficiaries: threshing and cleaning techniques, storage practices and climatic conditions, wheat loss factors (such as insects, birds, rodents, and mold), food security, and nutrition awareness.

Table 8: Wheat Post-Harvest Training in Badghis Province for Female Beneficiaries

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Badghis	Qadis	Chaprodha	12	04-Apr-16
2		Ab Kamari	Zangar	8	11-Apr-16
3		Qala-I-Naw	Charbagh	8	06-Apr-16
4		Muqur	Sang-e-Zard	10	25-Apr-16
Total				38	

Improved Techniques for High Value Crops Training: During the month of April, AREA trained 323 female beneficiaries in Improved Techniques for High Value Crops. The training took place in the Ab Kamari, Muqur, Qadis, and Qala-I-Naw Districts of Badghis Province.

Table 9: Improved Techniques for High Value Crops Training

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Badghis	Qala-I-Naw	Baghi Dashti	21	5-Apr-16
2			Mullah Shams	21	5-Apr-16
3			Char Bagh	21	7-Apr-16
4			Masjed Jame	21	14-Apr-16
5			Ghulam Haidar	21	18-Apr-16
6		Ab Kamari	Zangar	21	11-Apr-16
7			Rojee	21	12-Apr-16
8			Pahlawana	21	19-Apr-16
9		Qadis	Naib Ha	21	17-Apr-16
10			Khalifa Ayaz	21	17-Apr-16
11			Sultanha	21	21-Apr-16
12			Zad Saleh	8	25-Apr-16
13		Muqur	Cheshma Dozdak	21	26-Apr-16
14			Cheshma Dozdak	21	26-Apr-16
15			Kharistan	42	13-Apr-16
Total				323	

Greenhouse Vegetable Production Training: AREA conducted trainings on improved vegetable production techniques for 82 female farmers in the Qala-I-Naw, Ab Kamari, and Qadis Districts of Badghis Province. The trainings were carried out by AREA's female staff. The core part of training covered improved HVC cultivation and management. Topics such as soil enrichment, compost preparation, soil formation, vegetable seedling production, land preparation, cultivation, water management, staking, and integrated pest management (IPM) were discussed.

Table 10: Greenhouse Vegetable Production Training

#	Province	District	Village	# of Farmers Trained	Training Date
1	Badghis	Qala-I-Naw	Qarqaitoo	21	06-Apr-16
2		Ab Kamari	Mahkama	21	19-Apr-16
3		Qadis	Omar Baik Ha	19	21-Apr-16
4			Zad Saleh	21	24-Apr-16
Total				82	

Nutrition Training: During Year Two, RADP-West plans to train 630 female beneficiaries within HVC farming households on the importance of including the necessary proteins, minerals, and vitamins in their daily diets as well as the types of nutritious vegetable crops that can be cultivated in order to supplement existing diets. For this purpose, during the month of April RADP-West conducted nutrition training for 60 female farmers in the Ghaizun Sanger and Khalchan villages of Injil and Guzara Districts. The training in Ghaizun Sanger took place on April 13 for 30 female beneficiaries and on April 20 for another 30 female beneficiaries in Khalchan village.



RADP-West personnel lead a discussion on vitamin deficiencies during nutrition training in Guzara District; 20Apr16

Strengthening Women's Engagement in Agriculture Technology Workshop:

On April 7, 2016, RADP-West provided support to a Badghis DAIL-led conference for representatives from 20 woman-owned/operated agribusinesses in Badghis Province. The goal of the workshop was to strengthen women's participation in agriculture technology activities, to include improved technologies for food processing. During working group discussions, the following key challenges were identified and discussed for the Vegetable Value Chain: 1) Lack of access to greenhouse technology and knowledge of vegetable production; 2) Lack of knowledge of and technology for the production of nutritious food; 3) Lack of access to vegetable processing and packaging technology; 4) Lack of access to certified vegetable seed in Badghis



RADP-West discusses challenges with participants during the Women's Engagement in Agriculture Technology Workshop; 07Apr16

Province; 5) Lack of knowledge, skills, and tools to promote and market vegetable products. In addition, the following challenges were identified in the Livestock Value Chain: 1) Lack of proper equipment including milking equipment, cream separator machines, coolers/refrigerators, and hygienic toolkits; 2) Lack of training in dairy production. Participants formed a working group comprised of six women (one woman from the affairs department, one from the agriculture department, and four agribusiness representatives) to help support women in agribusiness and prepare a status report, conference agenda, and description for the Women Engagement in Agriculture Technology conference planned for July 2016.

Major Activities Planned for Gender and Nutrition Next Month

- Continue to identify and select female beneficiaries in Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices, and in line with the Year Two Work Plan.
- Continue Vegetable Cultivation and Nutrition Training; routinely assess the progress of cultivated vegetable seeds and provide advice to female farmers.
- Collaborate with the RADP-West Grants Department to process the women's greenhouses concept note/grant application.
- Organize a regional, follow-on conference for 'Strengthening Women's Engagement in Agriculture Technology' in Herat Province.

3.5.2 Grants Programming

Concept Notes Evaluated: RADP-West established a technical evaluation committee to review and evaluate nine concept notes between April 21 and 24, 2016. The technical evaluation committee reviewed the concept notes and found four technically acceptable and invited these applicants to submit full applications for consideration. For those applicants who were not rolled to the full application process, RADP-West provided reasons for the rejection, and encouraged them to re-apply with new concepts that more closely align with RADP-West's objectives under the Year Two Work Plan.

Full Application Evaluation: RADP-West established a selection committee on April 12, 2016 to review and evaluate three full applications submitted by Antwort Consulting, Najiaa Food and Agriculture Services, and the Dostan Afghan Development Agricultural Organization. All three applications passed the technical assessment, with some comments provided for revision. The Grants Team will work to finalize the applications and negotiations during the month of May.

Follow-On Grants for Seed Enterprises: RADP-West completed the pre-award risk assessment, reference checks, grant agreement, negotiation memoranda, and environmental review form (ERF) for follow-on awards with five Herat Seed Enterprises, which would enable these Seed Enterprises to distribute an additional 50 Kg of Urea fertilizer and storage bags to 3,000 contracted farmers. The ERF was approved and the grant package was submitted to USAID for Contracting Officer approval on April 18, 2016. The purpose of these grants is to increase wheat productivity and profitability at the time of the wheat harvest in June and July. Through this grant activity, RADP-West proposes to provide Seed Enterprises with an in-kind contribution of Urea fertilizer and storage bags for post-harvest handling of wheat and seed to ensure quality outputs are produced. Each seed enterprise will provide basic training to beneficiary farmers on the proper application of fertilizer, facilitate DAIL seed certification procedures, and link certified seed growers to flour mills to ensure sales of wheat produced.

Concept Note Workshop: On April 26, 2016, RADP-West conducted a Concept Note Workshop for two interested applicants. During the workshop, RADP-West explained the Annual Program Statement's objectives and the grants lifecycle. A concept note template was distributed and instructions were provided on how to complete and submit the concept note.

Grant Negotiations: RADP-West conducted negotiations with one applicant during the month to ensure that the full application met RADP-West and Annual Program Statement (APS) objectives.

- **Dostan Afghan Development Agricultural Organization:** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with the Dostan Afghan Development Agricultural Organization on April 25, 2016 and requested that the applicant revise their application. The proposed activity includes training and establishment of a Greenhouse Program in Herat and Badghis Provinces. RADP-West also reviewed the budget and requested the applicant to conduct market research prior to moving forward with budget negotiations.

Major Activities Planned for Grants Programming Next Month

- Continue to conduct technical evaluations for concept notes and full applications received in response to the RADP-West APS.
- Continue to conduct Concept Note Workshops during the quarter as needed and requested by interested applicants.
- Conduct negotiation meetings with selected companies to request revisions to concept notes and/or add technical comments for full applications.
- Hold budget negotiations and conduct a pre-award risk assessment for Request for Applications (RFA) No. RADP-W-RFA-EE-01.

- Conduct pre-award assessments for applications that have been approved by technical teams.

4. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

4.1 USAID and non-USAID Funded Projects

Please see Executive Summary for information on the submission of constraint analysis reports.

4.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Feasibility Study and Packhouse Selection in Farah and Badghis Provinces: On April 3, 2016, RADP-West conducted a joint feasibility assessment with Farah DAIL Extension Staff in the Dar Abad, Yazidi, and Rigi villages of Farah Center District. The purpose of this assessment was to determine suitable locations for two packhouses planned for establishment in Farah Province (one male, one female). The team assessed locations in each village for community access, access to water, and availability of electricity. However, during the assessment the Farah DAIL Director requested that both packhouses be for male farmers, due to security reasons. The Farah DAIL Director also requested that the design of the packhouses be changed from the original tent design to that of a full warehouse/permanent structure. RADP-West is currently considering these requests from the Farah DAIL before moving forward. From April 10-12, 2016, RADP-West, in collaboration with the Badghis DAIL and AREA, also conducted assessments of five sites for the potential establishment of packhouses in Badghis Province. RADP-West visited the Sanjidak village in Muqur District, Haji Qurban Ha village in Qadis District, and Haji Shams, Bagh Dashti, and Bagh Bana villages in Qala-I-Naw District. Three locations were selected for the establishment of packhouses using the same criteria as above for Farah Province.

In addition to this activity, RADP-West continued its regular collaboration with DAIL Departments during the month, which is reflected in the detailed text above under each CLIN. Such collaboration included joint foundation wheat plot assessments, coordinated selection of Wheat and Vegetable DTCs, and support during the Meat Value Chain Conference and the Women's Engagement in Agriculture Technology Conference. DAIL Extension Workers in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces were also invited and encouraged to attend all RADP-West trainings.

5. ANNEXES

5.1 April 2016 Beneficiaries

See attached Excel file.

5.2 April 2016 Monthly JPEG Photos

See attached Zip file.