



Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) – West

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Quarter I, October – December 2015



RADP-West conducts an assessment of pistachio saplings in Koshk district

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Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) - West

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Submitted to: Anafrida Bwenge, Contracting Officer Representative

Submitted by: Michael O'Mahony, Chief of Party
Chemonics International
1717 H St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

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Chemonics International Incorporated

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAEP	Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Program
ABADE	Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises
ADF	Agricultural Development Fund
AHG	Afghanistan Holding Group
AMA	Afghanistan Microfinance Association
APPF	Afghan Public Protection Force
APS	Annual Program Statement
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
CO	Contracting Officer
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DAP	Diammonium Phosphate
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	District Development Assembly
EA	Equal Access
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
FMB	First Microfinance Bank
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HVC	High Value Crops
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
MT	Metric Ton
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
RFP	Request for Proposals
SHG	Self-Help Group
SIL	Services International LLC
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

I.1 Program 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).

I.2 Geographic Coverage

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

Table 1: RADP-West 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

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During Quarter 1, 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.

For verification of results, RADP-West employed a system of phone surveys and regular field visits to beneficiaries. These efforts were opportunities for RADP-West to not only verify that farmers were utilizing distributed inputs and applying new technologies, but also to answer questions and provide additional advice to farmers.

Management Transition

Given the significant delays in project start-up and implementation during Year One, a new management team with established experience operating within the western region of Afghanistan was hired during the month of September, formally joining the project team in Herat on October 13, 2015. The new Chief of Party (COP) and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) for Operations bring a

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.’

combined experience of over 16 years working on development projects in Afghanistan, with eight years working exclusively in the western region. During the quarter, this new leadership team worked to address challenges and identify a way forward for the project in collaboration with USAID. The following text highlights key activities achieved under this new management team:

- Finalized outstanding deliverables, to include the Quarter 3 Report and the Annual Report, and received approval from USAID.
- Drafted and submitted October and November Monthly Reports.
- Developed and shared a presentation on RADP-West's plan for Year Two activities during a meeting between USAID, MAIL, and the RADPs on October 31, 2015.
- Conducted an in-depth assessment of staff capacity and capabilities, resulting in a transition of local and expatriate staff members.
- Conducted a 60-day assessment of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Department; identified deficiencies and put new measures and systems in place to better track and report beneficiary data.
- Resolved outstanding issues with Afghan Info, ensuring reported data has been verified and provided to the Afghan Info Team in alignment with Quarterly and Annual Reports.
- Standardized reporting requirements across program departments and Key Implementing Partners (KIPs).
- Disseminated and enforced USAID guidance and direction on the provision of free inputs; moving forward inputs will only be provided for use during organized training on established demonstration plots.
- Strengthened relationships with Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) program partners in Herat, Farah, and Badghis; initiated weekly coordination calls with DAIL Directors; sought direct input from DAIL Directors during development of the Year Two Work Plan.
- Renewed engagement with Shindand district leadership to identify areas for project intervention during Year Two; developed an initial village list for engagement under CLIN 2: High Value Crops; initiated discussions with a woman-owned/operated greenhouse organization for a potential grant in Shindand district.
- Laid the groundwork for the establishment of provincial offices, co-located within provincial DAIL offices, to provide support to DAIL and mentor subcontractors.
- Formally reviewed all subcontracts to assess progress to date and compliance with contractual requirements.
- Initiated discussions with DCA to increase the number of Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) from 32 to 40, per conversations with USAID.
- Based on feedback received from USAID and a comprehensive internal review, the RADP-West Home Office and Field Office coordinated a modification to the Afghanistan Holding Group's (AHG) subcontract to remove deliverables not completed and reduce the fixed amount of the subcontract due to poor performance. Developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify and select a new Baseline Survey subcontractor, scheduled for advertisement in mid-January.

2.1 Summary of Key Accomplishments during Reporting Period

Project Implementation

Wheat

- Distributed 12,000 Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags to 3,000 male beneficiary farmers in Injil, Guzara, Karukh, Koshk, and Pashtun Zarghun districts.
- Assessed 150 plots of mung bean, white bean, and clover as part of a crop rotation initiative.

- Executed eight grants for Private Seed Enterprises. These grants enabled the enterprises to contract with 4,204 regional farmers and provide each farmer with improved/certified wheat seed and fertilizer; the wheat seed was produced by the MAIL-operated Urdu Khan Research Facility in Herat.
- Assessed and monitored 760 cultivated wheat plots in Injil, Guzara, Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun, Koshk, Muqur, and Farah Center districts. The majority of planted plots have germinated, with some areas in Farah still dormant. Farmers have been actively irrigating these plots in line with best practices; however, a select number of plots are experiencing a shortage of water due to lack of rain. These sites are being tracked.

High Value Crops

- Assessed and monitored budded pistachio saplings in Karukh district and 20 cultivated vegetable plots in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts of Herat province.
- Conducted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training for 107 male farmers in Injil, Guzara, Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun, and Farah Center districts; pruning training for 119 male farmers in Injil, Guzara, Koshk, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, and Farah Center districts; and greenhouse management training for 49 male farmers from Injil, Guzara, Farah Center districts.

Livestock (DCA)

- Conducted nutrition and metabolic diseases/pharmacology training for nine VFU Paravets from Herat and Badghis provinces.
- Commenced a six-month Paravet Training Course for eight new VFU Paravets (six male, two female) from Herat and Badghis provinces.
- Conducted livestock zoonotic disease training for eight Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs) from Herat and Badghis provinces.
- Administered 75 Farmer Extension Group (FEG) extension sessions for 322 male and 206 female livestock farmers from five districts of Herat (Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, Koshk) and three districts of Badghis province (Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari).
- VFUs led a Deworming Campaign in the Kor Pa village of Karukh district, treating 4,900 sheep and goats from 64 livestock owners.
- Established a Demonstration Fodder Bank in the Eshaq Suliman village of Injil district, to be used to feed 2,500 sheep and goats and 400 cattle during the food scarce winter months.

Enabling Environment

- Delivered bookkeeping and basic accounting training for 10 male members of two grape and raisin associations and 24 women farmers in Guzara district.
- Conducted post-harvest training for 15 male grape farmers from the Injil Grape and Raisin Producer Association and 25 male grape farmers from the Guzara Grape and Raisin Producers' Association.
- Identified and assessed five agriculture and livestock cooperatives in Koshk, Karukh, Guzara, and Injil districts for potential project support.
- Facilitated the participation of seven women farmers from Injil district at a two-day training conducted by the Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA).
- Facilitated a linkage between a Herat-based food processing company and 14 beneficiary farmers from Gulbafa village in Guzara district for purchase of 12 metric tons (MT) of carrots.
- Provided logistical support for a conference on "Greenhouse Products Market Analysis and Business Match-Making" in Farah province. Aimed at Farah-based greenhouse owners, agribusinesses/traders, and relevant government departments, over 200 farmers and government representatives participated, including the provincial governor.

Gender and Nutrition

- Continued site visits to the four On-Farm Women's Training Centers in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts.
- Conducted two food safety trainings for a total of 60 women farmers in Karukh and Guzara districts; gender training for 27 women farmers in Injil district; and nutrition training for 30 women farmers in Injil district.
- Distributed plastic covering to prevent vegetable freezing to 63 women in two villages in Injil district and one village in Guzara district.

Subcontracts

AREA: Under RADP-West's new program management, a complete review of AREA's programmatic activities under Task Order 1 was conducted. It was clear after this review that AREA was not performing in line with the requirements; the program revised the Task Order 2 to focus on Wheat and High Value Crop "production" activities only, leaving value chain activities to be led by RADP-West's Enabling Environment Department, with support from provincial personnel that will be located within the Badghis and Farah DAILs. The Task Order 2 Scope of Work will be shared with USAID; AREA will be authorized to resume programming in January 2016. There were no field activities implemented during the quarter, with the exception of continued coordination meetings with program partners.

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA): CHA's last activities were conducted during Quarter 4, FY 2015. During Quarter 1, FY 2016, RADP-West and CHA held discussions leading to the close-out of the CHA subcontract. All remaining discussions will be held between CHA and the Chemonics Home Office.

DCA: Activities continued as planned during the quarter. No modifications or amendments were made to DCA's subcontract during the quarter.

Equal Access (EA): During the quarter and in consultation with RADP-West's Wheat, HVC, and Communications teams, EA developed a series of illustrative training flyers for use during wheat seed distribution, pruning training, greenhouse management training, and raisin sorting, grading, cleaning, and storage training.² On November 29, RADP-West submitted detailed feedback on EA's Year Two Work Plan to the EA Home Office. On December 19, EA submitted an updated Year Two Work Plan for RADP-West's review and approval. As of December 31, this review was ongoing.

AHG: RADP-West undertook a comprehensive review of AHG's work to date under their subcontract for the Baseline Survey. Based on feedback received from USAID and a comprehensive internal review, the RADP-West Home Office and Field Office coordinated a modification to AHG's subcontract to remove deliverables not completed and reduce the fixed amount of the subcontract due to poor performance. All remaining discussions regarding this subcontract will be held between AHG and the Chemonics Home Office. An RFP for the selection of a new Baseline Survey Subcontractor has been developed and is scheduled for advertisement in mid-January 2016.

² All flyers developed by EA and distributed by RADP-West are included in the Quarterly Report submission email.

2.2 Summary of Constraints and Critical Issues

Insecurity in Western Afghanistan

The majority of constraints faced by the RADP-West team and its KIPs were caused by insecurity in some villages within the project's target districts. Specifically, security concerns in some villages within Farah Center, Anar Dara, Pusht Rod, and Muqur districts prevented RADP-West staff from conducting assessments of cultivated wheat plots in those areas during the quarter. DCA also reported some security concerns in Ab Kamari district, though this insecurity has not yet affected DCA's activities.

Lack of Access to Financial Institutions

A severe lack of district-level financial institutions is a main constraint preventing agribusinesses and farmers from gaining access to seasonal credit for the purchase of inputs. Financial institutions are located close to, or in, urban centers. The state of security and the banks' inability to collect loan repayments are the main challenges in extending credit programs to the district-level and in remote areas. RADP-West, as a facilitator, is working with the AMA to address this issue. However, this issue requires national and provincial government intervention at the policy level.

3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Wheat Value Chain

Distribution of Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) Bags: In an effort to reduce post-harvest wheat losses due to poor storage practices, RADP-West distributed 12,000 PICS bags to farmers in Herat province during the quarter. During the distribution, RADP-West provided guidance on the use and benefits of PICS bags. The goal of the distribution was to encourage farmers to adopt this new technology; it is expected that once the farmers experience the benefits of this improved storage practice first hand, they will purchase more PICS bags at their own cost during the next harvest season.



PICS bags distribution in Robot Sangi Sufla village, Koshk district

Table 2: PICS Bags Distribution

#	District	Target Farmers Per District	October Distribution (# of Farmers)	November Distribution (# of Farmers)	December Distribution (# of Farmers)	Total Bags Distributed ³
1	Injil	600	533	0	67	2,400
2	Guzara	600	540	0	60	2,400
3	Karukh	600	0	551	49	2,400
4	Koshk	600	324	276	0	2,400
5	Pashtun Zarghun	600	0	0	600	2,400
Total		3,000	1,397	827	776	12,000

Crop Rotation—Improving Soil Fertilization for Wheat Planting: During the previous quarter, RADP-West distributed mung bean, white bean, and clover seeds to 150 male farmers in three villages in Injil district and two villages in Guzara district. When planted, these crops help balance the level of nitrogen in the soil for the next rotation of wheat. During the current quarter, RADP-West assessed all 150 plots (50 mung bean, 50 white bean, and 50 clover plots). The mung bean and white bean plots in all five villages had been planted and harvested; the clover harvest will take place during the month of April 2016. The below table shows the mung bean and white bean distribution and yields for farmers in each of the five villages. In total, 3,915 kg of mung bean were harvested and 1,607 kg of white bean were harvested. The farmers use the mung bean and white bean in preparation of family meals and sell surplus product at the market.



RADP-West assesses a mung bean plot in Qala Gerd village, Guzara district; 12 October 2015

Table 3: Mung and White Bean Distribution and Yields (as of December 31, 2015)

#	District	Village	# of Farmers Received Mung Bean	Kg per Village ⁴	Yield (Kg) ⁵	# of Farmers Received White Bean	Kg per Village ⁶	Yield (Kg)
1	Injil	Sara-e-Naw	10	40	356	10	40	206
2		Soofian	10	40	920	10	40	350
3		Gerdaab	10	40	644	10	40	392
4	Guzara	Goshmeer	10	40	1,180	10	40	313
5		Kalagerd	10	40	815	10	40	346
Total			50	200	3,915⁷	50	200	1,607⁸

Seed Multiplication Program: In partnership with the Herat, Farah, and Badghis DAILs, RADP-West provided grants to eight Private Seed Enterprises during the month of November to enable these companies to contract with 4,204 regional farmers and provide each farmer with the following:

³ Each farmer received four PICS bags.

⁴ Each farmer received four kg of mung bean.

⁵ Variations in kg/village for mung bean are due primarily to access to water/irrigation in each village. Climate, soil, and weeding skills of the farmers are also contributing factors for the variation.

⁶ Each farmer received four kg of white bean.

⁷ Yield information obtained via farmer phone survey.

⁸ Yield information obtained via farmer phone survey.

- **Herat Province:** Each farmer received 25 kg of improved/certified wheat seed, 25 kg of Ammophos fertilizer, and 16.5 kg of Urea fertilizer.
- **Farah Province:** Each farmer received 25 kg of improved/certified wheat seed and 25 kg of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizer.
- **Badghis Province:** Each farmer received 50 kg of improved/certified wheat seed, 50 kg of Ammophos fertilizer, and 33 kg of Urea fertilizer.



Farmers in Karukh district examine improved wheat seed (Nov 2015)

The wheat seed was produced by the MAIL-operated Urdu Khan Research Farm in Herat. A total of 87.5 MT of improved/certified wheat seed, 87.5 MT of Ammophos fertilizer, and 57.75 MT of Urea fertilizers were distributed in Herat and Badghis provinces. 23.875 MT of improved/certified wheat seed and 23.875 MT of DAP fertilizer were distributed in Farah province.

Table 4: Wheat Seed and Fertilizer Distribution

#	Province	District	# of Farmers			Wheat Seed (MT)	Ammophos (MT)	Urea (MT)	DAP (MT)
			Male	Female	Total				
1	Herat	Injil	599	0	599	15	15	9.9	0
2		Guzara	600	0	600	15	15	9.9	0
3		Karukh	600	0	600	15	15	9.9	0
4		Koshk	600	0	600	15	15	9.9	0
5		Pashtun Zarghun	600	0	600	15	15	9.9	0
6	Farah	Farah Center	650	50	700 ⁹	17.5	0	0	17.5
7		Anar Dara	225	0	225	5.625	0	0	5.625
8		Pusht Rod	30	0	30	0.75	0	0	0.75
9	Badghis	Muqur	250	0	250	12.5	12.5	8.25	0
Total			4,154	50¹⁰	4,204	111.375	87.5	57.75	23.875

Cultivated Wheat Plot Assessments: Following November's improved/certified wheat seed distribution, RADP-West devised an assessment schedule to provide guidance to farmers, capture each plot's GPS location, record dates of cultivation and germination, and ensure that the plots had been irrigated 21 days after sowing, in line with wheat cultivation best practices. The GPS points for each plot will be used to perform mapping of planted wheat plots and determine the size and scope of cultivated plots and GPS locations for tracking purposes, as RADP-West will continue to work with these beneficiary farmers over the life of the program. A total of 760



A farmer reviews a wheat flyer during wheat seed distribution in Guzara District

⁹ The Distribution Plan required that Sadiq Zada Private Seed Enterprise would distribute seed/fertilizer for 500 farmers (Farah Center) and Asim Salim Farahi Private Seed & Agricultural Services Company would distribute seed/fertilizer to 250 farmers (Pusht Rod District) and 250 farmers (Anar Dara District). However, due to security concerns and with written confirmation from the Farah DAIL, only 30 farmers in Pusht Rod and 225 farmers in Anar Dara were assisted. It was determined by Farah DAIL that Asim Salim would distribute seed/fertilizer to 200 replacement beneficiaries in Farah Center. The remaining wheat seed/fertilizer packages (for 45 beneficiaries) are currently in storage under the control of the Farah DAIL Office, to be utilized during the 2016 growing season.

¹⁰ The RADP-West COR has raised the concern that female beneficiaries were only selected in Farah; this concern will be shared with RADP-West's program partners. Moving forward under Year 2, 15% of all Wheat programming beneficiaries will be female, in line with program indicators.

cultivated wheat plots were assessed in Injil, Guzara, Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun, Koshk, Muqur, and Farah Center districts in Herat, Badghis, and Farah provinces.

Table 5: Cultivated Wheat Plot Assessments

#	Province	District	# of Wheat Plots Assessed
1	Herat	Injil	170
2		Guzara	45
3		Karukh	234
4		Pashtun Zarghun	0
5		Koshk	118
6	Badghis	Muqur	40
7	Farah	Farah Center	153
8		Anar Dara	0
9		Pusht Rod	0
Total			760

Major Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Assess and monitor remaining cultivated wheat plots in Injil, Guzara, Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun, and Karukh districts of Herat province to provide advice to farmers on weeding, irrigation, and fertilizer application; perform mapping of planted wheat plots.
- Contract master trainer companies to conduct productivity training for 3,000 wheat farmers in Herat province.
- Conduct joint site visits between RADP-West, DAIL, and the Private Seed Enterprises to assess the quality of the planted wheat crops; these visits will begin in February, after the seed has successfully germinated and assistance can be provided to improve cultivation practices.

3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain

Orchard Crops

Pistachio Sapling Assessments: During the quarter, RADP-West assessed the budded pistachio saplings in Saghariha village, Karukh district. During the assessment, RADP-West provided technical advice on the weeding, irrigation, and maintenance of the pistachio saplings, which were budded in June 2015. In this district, RADP-West provided 200 certified pistachio scions and technical support to one male orchard owner. The assessment results for these 200 saplings were satisfactory; the size of the new shoots is 30-80cm. These budded pistachio saplings will be used as mother stock for the future production of certified scions.

IPM Training: During the quarter, RADP-West conducted five one-day Integrated Pest Management



Participants practice the application of Bordeaux paste during IPM training in Farah province; 6 December 2015

(IPM) trainings for a total of 107 male farmers¹¹ in Guzara (November 15), Injil (November 16), Karukh¹² (November 17), Pashtun Zarghun (November 18) and Farah Center (December 6). Farmers were selected in close coordination with DAIL. During the training, farmers learned about different IPM techniques including prevention, quarantine, field hygiene, resistant cultivars, virus-free stock, and traps. In addition, farmers were shown how to make Bordeaux paste and Bordeaux mixture through a practical demonstration, which aim to control gummosis, act as fungicides, and control trunk diseases on stone fruit trees. Each of the trainees received a demonstration toolkit (including a 20-liter sprayer, protective clothing, boots, safety gloves, and a mask) so that they could apply the knowledge disseminated during the training on their orchards. RADP-West will monitor these farmers through phone surveys and in-person field visits to determine the application rate of these new technologies/techniques. While the RADP-West program is not working directly with pesticides, it was determined under the former project leadership that beneficiaries be provided with the requisite protective clothing, as these materials may be shared amongst community farmers who may utilize pesticides in a capacity unrelated to our programming activities. The provision of these kits for beneficiaries has been halted; however, the RADP-West program will reserve the right to provide training kits for established Demonstration Training Centers if and when the need arises and in collaboration with USAID.

Pruning Training: During the quarter, RADP-West conducted six one-day pruning trainings for a total of 119 male farmers¹³ in Guzara (November 29), Injil (November 30), Koshk (December 15), Pashtun Zarghun (December 16), Karukh (December 17), and Farah Center (December 07). During the training, farmers participated in a practical demonstration and received demonstration toolkits so that they could apply this new technology/technique on their orchards. Each toolkit included pruning scissors and pruning loppers. Trainees also received a flyer illustrating pruning techniques for their future reference.



Pruning training in Tish Rezha village, Pashtun Zarghun district; 16 December 2015

Grapes

No grape production activities were undertaken during the quarter. Please refer to the Enabling Environment update for details on grape/raisin post-harvest training (pg. 18).

Vegetables

Cultivated Vegetable Plot Assessments: During the month of October, RADP-West assessed and monitored a total of 20 cultivated vegetable plots established in July in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts. On October 11, 12, and 13, RADP-West assessed 11 plots in Guzara district; on October 20, six plots were assessed in Karukh district, and on October 21, three plots were assessed in Injil district. Farmers who had received green bean, okra, tomato, squash, radish, cucumber, pepper, and hot pepper seeds and/or seedlings harvested these vegetables during the month of October, and farmers who received carrot, spinach, eggplant seeds and/or seedlings harvested these vegetables during the month of November. RADP-West continues to assess and monitor these plots on a routine basis.

¹¹ 20 farmers attended each of the trainings in Guzara, Injil, and Karukh districts (60 total); 17 farmers attended the training in Pashtun Zarghun district; 30 farmers attended the training in Farah Center.

¹² 20 farmers were invited to each of the four trainings of Herat province.

¹³ 20 farmers participated in the pruning trainings held in Guzara, Injil, and Pashtun Zarghun districts. 19 farmers participated in the training held in Karukh district. 10 farmers participated in the training held in Koshk district. 30 farmers attended the training held in Farah Center.

Greenhouse Management Training: In order to increase farmers' knowledge of greenhouse vegetable production, RADP-West conducted training at the MAIL-run Urdu Khan Research Facility in Injil district on November 25 for 24 male farmers from 16 villages in Injil and Guzara districts. In addition, RADP-West conducted the same training on December 8 for 25 male farmers from 13 villages of Farah province at the Farah DAIL compound. During the trainings, participants learned about proper greenhouse conditions (light, relative humidity, air movement, and soil), seedbed preparation, greenhouse planting methods, fertilization and irrigation, vegetable trimming, and the benefits of using mulch. During the training in Herat province, trainees visited a greenhouse operated by the Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Project (AAEP) II, where they witnessed the mulching system and compared different types of greenhouses. To complement the training, each of the farmers received a demonstration toolkit consisting of some small gardening tools and five picking and harvesting baskets. Flyers were also distributed to the trainees.



Participants practice operation of the mulching system during a training in Herat; 25 November 2015

To complement the training, each of the farmers received a demonstration toolkit consisting of some small gardening tools and five picking and harvesting baskets. Flyers were also distributed to the trainees.

Major Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Establish vegetable training centers and vegetable plots in Herat.
- Conduct technical training for grape, orchard, and vegetable growers.
- Establish demonstration, commercial, and training center orchards in Herat.
- Provide regular technical support to grape/raisin and pistachio associations.
- Provide technical support to potential grantees (seed enterprises) to produce certified vegetable seeds for distribution to farmers.

3.3 Livestock Value Chain

The RADP-West Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) has raised concerns that DCA is not sufficiently active in Livestock Value Chain activities. RADP-West is taking this concern very seriously and moving forward with DCA and the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department to ensure that required value chain activities are being implemented in accordance with USAID requirements. These activities will be better reflected in upcoming reports.

Supporting VFU Paravets

VFU Training:

- From October 25-29, DCA conducted a five-day refresher training course on nutrition for nine VFU Paravets from Herat and Badghis provinces. The purpose of the training was to enhance the capacity of VFUs to provide guidance on livestock feeding practices for farmers.
- From November 8-12, DCA held a one-week refresher training course on metabolic diseases and pharmacology for nine VFU paravets. The



Paravet Course trainees review vaccination techniques in Khosh Rod Village, Injil District

course was held at the DCA Training Center in Herat and aimed to provide VFU paravets with the skills necessary to diagnose, prevent, and treat metabolic diseases.

- The six-month Paravet Training Course commenced during the quarter for the eight new paravets (six male, two female) selected from Herat and Badghis provinces. The course is scheduled to conclude in April 2016. The aim of this course is to train new paravets for the establishment of new VFUs in RADP-West target districts in 2016. By establishing new VFU paravets in targeted districts, it is expected that farmers will have better access to VFU veterinary and extension services and consequently, animal health and husbandry practices will be improved. The RADP-West Grants and Subcontracts Team is moving forward in collaboration with DCA and USAID to ensure that motorbikes are provided for the eight new VFUs when established.



Paravet Course trainees practice vaccinating livestock in Khosh Rod Village, Injil District

VFU Monitoring: During the quarter, DCA conducted visits to 12 existing VFU Paravets (out of 16 total)¹⁴. 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 recordkeeping procedures. DCA found that all 12 of the VFUs visited were following what they learned regarding recordkeeping procedures, and good quality medicines and vaccines were available in their offices. The cold chain system for seven of the 12 VFUs was not working properly, and some of the VFU equipment was found to be in need of replacement; DCA plans to replace this equipment during the next quarter. These monitoring visits also allowed DCA staff to provide technical advice as needed to the VFU Paravets. During the visits this quarter, DCA advised VFUs to spend at least 50% of their time in the field providing veterinary services for livestock farmers and conducting extension work. DCA staff also helped answer questions from the VFU Paravets regarding disease diagnosis and treatment.

Supporting LFEWs

LFEW Training: From October 25-29, DCA conducted a five-day training course on livestock zoonotic diseases, the role of gender in livestock, and food security for eight LFEWs at the DCA office in Herat. These LFEWs work closely with female livestock farmers in their villages to transfer knowledge and provide extension services. At the conclusion of the training, DCA distributed animal hygiene kits for use in the field.

LFEW Monitoring: During the quarter, DCA monitored the activities of 21 LFEWs in 16 villages located in five districts of Herat province and 9 villages of two districts in 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 provide advice on the provision of quality extension services to female livestock farmers. DCA found that all 21 LFEWs monitored were working closely with female livestock farmers in their villages. Overall, DCA witnessed an increase in the awareness level among female livestock farmers, who were putting into practice better hygiene, caring for newborn animals, and appropriate feeding and watering practices.

Farmer Extension Group (FEG) Extension Sessions: During the quarter, DCA conducted 75 FEG extension sessions for 322 male and 206 female livestock farmers from five districts of Herat

¹⁴ Khoja Mahyuddin (Khosh Rod VFU, Injil district) passed away on December 25. RADP-West is working with DCA to ensure a replacement is possible.

province (Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, Koshk) and three districts of Badghis province (Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari). The main 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. Topics covered during these sessions included sheep and goat pox, livestock reproduction cycles, enterotoxaemia, brucellosis disease, and ecto-parasites. In addition, a demonstration on urea treatment was conducted for FEG members in three villages: two in Pashtun Zarghun district (December 28 and 31) and one village in Injil district (December 03). A total of 73 male FEG members attended these demonstrations, which aimed to increase farmer knowledge on the benefits of treating dry feed with urea, which improves the feed's nutritional value and renders it more easily digestible.



FEG Meeting in Baghban village of Qala-I-Naw District; 12 December 2015

Self-Help Groups (SHGs): DCA staff visited five SHGs in three districts of Herat and two districts of Badghis provinces during the quarter. The purpose of these visits was to encourage SHG members to collect money to start running a business related to livestock and evaluate the overall performance of SHG members. In addition, two new SHGs were established during the quarter (Injil and Koshk districts).

Establishing a Demonstration Fodder Bank: DCA established a Demonstration Fodder Bank in the Eshaq Suliman village of Injil district in Herat province on November 18 with the goal of addressing animal feed scarcity during the winter months. The fodder bank is semi-commercial; the village maintains an administrative arrangement for managing the fodder bank, which will be handled on a revolving basis. The fodder bank leaders have been trained by DCA on how to run their business and how to maintain accurate records. The farmers contributed by preparing the land and building a room for the fodder bank. With 70 members in total (including a manager board of four members), the fodder bank will be used to feed approximately 2,500 sheep and goats and 400 cattle.

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 16 existing VFUs supported by RADP-West treated 31,110 sheep and goats and vaccinated 55,758 sheep and goats in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis provinces during the quarter.

Extension Sessions by VFU Paravets: VFUs conducted 32 FEG sessions for 192 male livestock farmers in targeted districts in Herat and Badghis provinces during the quarter. These FEG sessions covered the topics of enterotoxaemia disease, zoonotic disease, foot-and-mouth disease, sheep pox disease, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia disease, taking care of newborn animals, and pasteurellosis disease.¹⁵

¹⁵ 16 VFUs trained and supported by DCA/RADP-West conducted 32 FEG extension sessions for 192 livestock farmers during the month (the livestock farmers trained by the VFUs are counted as indirect beneficiaries).

Extension Sessions by LFEWs: During the quarter, 33 LFEWs, trained by RADP-West, conducted 133 FEG sessions for female livestock farmers in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis provinces. These FEG sessions covered the topics of poultry husbandry, zoonosis, cashmere, helping with birth/delivery, milking, identifying first signs of sickness, taking care of pregnant livestock, housing and cleaning livestock, watering, feeding, and brucellosis.¹⁶

Deworming Campaign: A Deworming Campaign was conducted by VFU Paravets in the Kor Pa village of Karukh district over the course of three days (November 26-28). During the campaign, paravets conducted demonstrations aimed at preventing internal worms in animals during the fall and winter seasons of the year. A total of 4,900 sheep and goats from 64 livestock owners were dewormed during the campaign. The overall goal of the campaign was to improve the performance and production of livestock so that farmers could understand the effectiveness of seasonal deworming (improved health, reduced weight loss).

Major Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Continue the Paravet Training Course through the month of April.
- Establish new male and female FEGs in eight RADP-West target districts.
- Establish new male and female SHGs in eight RADP-West target districts.
- Continue practical demonstrations for FEG members.
- Hold a deworming campaign for the treatment of approximately 30,000 sheep and goats.
- Continue training program for SHGs.

3.4 Enabling Environment

Bookkeeping and Basic Accounting Training:

- On November 15, RADP-West delivered a one-day bookkeeping and basic accounting training course for 10 participants from two grape and raisin associations in the Guzara District Development Assembly (DDA) office. Participants included management board members and active association members. The purpose of the training was to highlight the importance of saving and filing documentation related to sales, revenue, expenses, inventory, product deliveries, and membership transactions. At the conclusion of the training, the associations received a small assortment of office supplies (file folders, shelves, and calculators) to assist in the set-up of filing and recordkeeping systems. RADP-West also provided the associations with standardized accounting forms; the associations started using these forms during the quarter.
- On December 14, RADP-West delivered a one-day bookkeeping and basic accounting training course for 26 woman farmers from the Rubat Solaiman village in Guzara district. These women represent the members of four SHGs. The training was held at the village community center and focused on the benefits of establishing and maintaining SHGs and the importance of recording product sales, income, and expenses for planning purposes.

Post-Harvest Training: RADP-West conducted two one-day post-harvest trainings during the quarter, as follows:

- On November 25, RADP-West conducted post-harvest training for 15 male grape farmers from the Injil Grape and Raisin Producer Association. Farmers attended the training at the Shadi Jam Village Community Hall, but traveled from four other villages in Guzara district in addition to Shadi Jam (Nangabad, Nisan, Ghasha, Koshkak). Participants received training on raisin cleaning, grading, packaging, and storage; they also received a toolkit that included

¹⁶ 33 LFEWs trained and supported by DCA/RADP-West conducted 133 FEG extension sessions for female livestock farmers (female farmers trained by LFEWs are counted as indirect beneficiaries).

cartons and plastic for packaging and screens and tarpaulins to demonstrate proper handling techniques.

- On December 1, the same post-harvest training was delivered to 25 male grape farmers from the Guzara Grape and Raisin Producers' Association. Farmers attended the training in Ziaratjah village, but traveled from eight other villages in Guzara district in addition to Ziaratjah (Sara Now, Mahal Mostawfi, Joyan, Seranan, Ghuran, Mallan, Esfaghan, Kofan). Participants received training on raisin cleaning, grading, packaging, and storage; they also received a toolkit that included cartons and plastic for packaging and screens and tarpaulins to demonstrate proper handling techniques.

Agribusiness and Cooperative Assessments:

- On November 23, 25, 30 and December 2 and 15, RADP-West conducted field assessment visits to five agriculture and livestock cooperatives (Khaji Malal, Ulfat, Ziyaratjah, Mowalana Abdul Rahman Jami and Khaja Mohammad Faiz)¹⁷. The purpose of the assessments was to evaluate each cooperative's operating status, core business, and plans for re-registration with MAIL, per the new cooperative registration policy.
- RADP-West identified and assessed two agribusinesses during the quarter: the Caspian Fruit Processing Company and the Herat Cooling House Company. The purpose of these assessments was to evaluate each business' capacity in the raisin, fresh fruit, and vegetable value chains and identify areas for potential RADP-West support.
 - Caspian Fruit Processing Company: RADP-West visited this company on October 29. Based in the Herat Industrial Park, the Caspian Fruit Processing Company processes and exports approximately 400 MT of dry fruit products each year and has a staff of 50 female and 25 male seasonal workers. The company is interested in applying for support from RADP-West to improve its cold storage facilities; as at the end of the quarter, RADP-West is working with the company on development of a concept note. RADP-West has also encouraged Caspian to apply for a loan from the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF).
 - Herat Cooling House Company: RADP-West visited this company on November 22. Based in Herat City, the Herat Cooling House Company currently rents its cool storage facilities to local meat traders. However, the company is interested in transitioning from this renting arrangement in order to store fresh fruit and vegetables for local, domestic, and potential export markets. This company is interested in receiving support from RADP-West in the form of training and coaching for the company's personnel to build their capacity and knowledge of best practices for storing a variety of fruits and vegetables. The Herat Cooling House Company also requested assistance in expanding its facilities and linkages with grape and raisin association farmers. The company would also like RADP-West's assistance in linking with a reliable financial institution to gain access to credit.



Participants sort and grade raisins during a post-harvest raisin training in Guzara district; 01 December 2015

¹⁷ Khaji Malal Cooperative focuses on milk processing and is located in Koshk district; Ulfat Cooperative focuses on milk processing and is located in Karukh district; Ziyaratjah Cooperative focuses on the grape/raisin value chain and is located in Guzara district; Mowalana Abdul Rahman Jami Cooperative focuses on dairy and vegetable processing and cold storage and is located in Injil district; Khaja Mohammad Faiz Cooperative focuses on raisin processing and cold storage and is located in Injil district.

- In order to evaluate potential support to the private livestock industry, RADP-West visited the Sodias Saoud Cashmere Exporting Company located in Herat City on December 13. Established in 2001, this company has been exporting raw cashmere to China for the past 15 years. With 110 employees (80 male, 30 female), the company cleans, sorts, and washes the raw cashmere for export; currently, the company is not engaged in any value-addition activities. RADP-West will undertake a profit and loss analysis during the coming quarter to determine whether the addition of spinning equipment will result in higher company profits and increased employment.
- On December 15, RADP-West visited the Herat Ice Cream Company. Operating since 2003, the company employs between 230 and 250 workers, with 65% of its staff being female. The company produces nationally recognized, high-quality products using the latest machinery and technology. The Herat Ice Cream Company is interested in expanding their market to other parts of Afghanistan, and possibly to Tajikistan, and asked RADP-West to help with the improvement of milk supplies (hygiene and volume) as well as marketing and packaging. RADP-West will guide them in developing a business plan and deciding on the most profitable approach.

SHG Members Open Savings Accounts: RADP-West established four female SHGs with a total of 25 members during the quarter in Rubat Salaiman village, Guzara district; the members of these four SHGs are participants in the On-Farm Women's Training Center in the same village. These women have committed to saving between 50 - 100 Afs per week in their individual savings accounts; RADP-West provided support to these women by introducing them to the First Microfinance Bank (FMFB) located in Herat City. RADP-West also provided the SHGs with ledgers to record their transactions. These women plan to use their collective savings to invest in additional resources for their vegetable cultivation plots.

Linkage with the Private Sector: On October 27, 14 of RADP-West's beneficiary farmers from Golbafa village in Guzara district signed a contract with the Tanin Herat Food Processing Company for the supply of 12 MT of carrots. This deal was a direct result of RADP-West's linkage facilitation between Tanin Herat and farmers during the month of September. Tanin uses the carrots to make a popular Afghan dish called *muraba-e-zardak*, or carrot jam. As of December 31, a total of 6.6 MT of carrots have been delivered by the farmers and purchased by Tanin Herat at an agreed upon fair market value.



The farmers delivered their first supply of 450 kg of carrots in early November, at a price of 6.25/kg.

Major Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Conduct analyses of the following agricultural constraints for formal submission to RADP-South:
 - Limited use of post-harvest handling practices, and lack of processing and storage facilities
 - Lack of access to high quality chemicals
 - Lack of opportunities for women to participate in the agriculture sector
 - Lack of functionality/sustainability of agricultural associations and cooperatives
 - Lack of skills training for women in the agriculture sector
 - Lack of availability, access, and utilization of mechanization in the agriculture sector
 - Lack of access to finance
 - Lack of proper range management
 - Lack of public-private partnerships

- Lack of effective/functioning customs and border procedures to facilitate cross border trade of agricultural products
- Lack of access to high quality livestock inputs and services
- Identify and assess four agribusinesses/cooperatives in Farah province and five agribusinesses/cooperatives in Badghis province.
- Conduct Business Plan Development and Access to Finance awareness training for cooperatives, associations, and agribusinesses in Herat, Farah, and Badghis provinces.
- Conduct Food Safety Standard Training for 60 women from three woman-owned/operated food processing centers in Herat province.
- Conduct Food Safety Standard Training for 60 raisin and grape growers' association members in Herat province.
- Conduct Export Market Awareness Training for grapes, raisins, pistachio, pomegranate, and jujube for 60 raisin and grape growers' association members from Herat and Farah provinces, to include discussion of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certifications.
- Conduct Access to Finance awareness training and joint business matchmaking sessions for 40 producers, processors, and exporters in Herat province. The ADF and Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) project will also be invited.

3.5 Cross-Cutting Themes

3.5.1 Gender and Nutrition

Women Training Centers: RADP-West continued training and regular visits to the four On-Farm Women's Training Centers in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts during the quarter. RADP-West visited individual women's plots, provided guidance on harvesting, and addressed issues with current production.

- *Food Safety and Follow-Up Accounting Training:* RADP-West conducted two food safety trainings during the quarter. The first training was conducted for 30 women farmers in the Qala-e-Bala village of Karukh district from October 28-29. Topics included the importance of hygiene, safe food preparation, and water sanitation. In conjunction with this training, on October 29 RADP-West also provided bookkeeping and simple accounting training for these 30 women. The training aimed to help these women formally record their transactions (sales). The second food safety training was conducted for 30 women farmers in the Rubat Solaiman village of Guzara district on November 12.
- *Gender Training:* RADP-West conducted gender training in the Sara Now village of Injil district on October 26 for 27 women farmers. Topics included defining gender roles, gender mainstreaming, and gender equality.
- *Nutrition Training:* RADP-West conducted nutrition training for 30 women farmers in Sara Now village (Injil district) on November 10. Topics included the importance of macro and micro-nutrients, food diversity, and energy balance.



Participants complete a group activity during Gender training in the Sara Now village of Injil district; 26 October 2015

Plastic Sheet Distribution: On November 5, RADP-West distributed plastic covering to 63 women in the Ghaizun Sanger and Sara Now villages located in Injil district and the Rubat

Solaiman village located in Guzara district. The women received 15m of plastic covering each and will use it to cover their vegetables to prevent freezing.

Surplus Vegetable Sales: During the quarter, participants in RADP-West’s Women’s Training Centers harvested vegetables and sold surplus products at the market, reporting a total of \$11,252 in sales.¹⁸ Types of vegetables sold by the women included onion, carrot, turnip, cress, leek and basil.

Table 6: Surplus Vegetable Sales by Women Farmers

#	District	Village	# of Farmers Reporting Sales	Total Value of Products Sold (Afs)
1	Injil	Ghaizun Sanger	27	426,105
2	Injil	Sara Now	21	131,577
3	Guzara	Rubat Solaiman	21	162,816
Total			69	720,498

Women’s Vegetable Plot Assessments: During the month of December, RADP-West initiated a series of monitoring visits to female beneficiaries participating in the On-Farm Women’s Training Center Program in Ghaizun Sanger village, Injil district. A total of 60 women farmers were interviewed to confirm participation, receipt of seeds, cultivation, land size, and usefulness of provided training. The monitoring visits will continue during the coming quarter.

Major Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Establish on-farm training centers for vegetable production.
- Support the establishment of additional packhouses.
- Conduct nutrition and food security awareness training for women.

3.5.2 Grants

Concept Notes: As of December 31, RADP-West has received 67 concept notes in response to Annual Program Statement (APS) No. RADPW-APS-01. Of these 67 concept notes, 12 were either submitted by woman-owned/operated businesses or contained a substantial gender component.

Technical Evaluation:

- **Seed Multiplication Grants:** Nine concept notes were submitted by eight private seed enterprises during the month of November. All nine concept notes were found to be responsive and, due to their completeness, were considered as full applications. Grant applications were developed and submitted to USAID for Contracting Officer (CO) approval on November 3; CO approval for all nine grant applications was received on November 4. After processing supporting documentation and conducting the necessary background and financial checks, grant agreements were signed on November 19 between RADP-West and the eight private seed enterprises. Details on these nine grants can be found in Annex 6.3.
- In addition to these nine concept notes, 11 additional concept notes were received during the quarter. Five of these applicants were invited to submit full applications for consideration. Out of these five applications, three were evaluated during the month of

¹⁸ These sales were self-reported by the women farmers, using Sales Record Forms provided by RADP-West. The exchange rate used for the quarter: 1 USD = AFN 64.03.

October (6, 12, 28); the grants for these three applications are currently in process. The remaining two applications were reviewed during a technical evaluation held on December 3; the first application was found to be technically acceptable with some minor changes; RADP-West provided comments for revision and resubmission of the final application. The second application was found to be technically unacceptable; feedback was provided to the applicant as part of grantee capacity building. RADP-West encouraged this applicant to submit an application that more closely demonstrates its ability to implement activities based on its current capacity.

APS Radio Advertisement: RADP-West developed a one-minute script for advertisement of the Annual Program Statement (RADPW-APS-01) for broadcast in Herat, Farah and Badghis provinces via local radio stations. The purpose of this radio advertisement is to raise awareness of RADP-West and the APS among farmers and association members. Each of the radio stations broadcast the script six times per day from December 5, 2015 through January 3, 2016. Copies of the APS were also submitted to each of RADP-West's targeted district extension departments for sharing with interested farmers and associations.

Concept Note Workshop: RADP-West conducted two Concept Note Workshops during the quarter, the first on October 29 for four interested applicants and the second on November 25 for two interested applicants. During the workshop, the Grants team 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 the concept note.

Ethics Training: RADP-West conducted ethics training for the eight seed companies/enterprises which were awarded grants in November, prior to signing their grant agreements. During the training, RADP-West explained the importance of key ethics topics, including the importance of keeping complete and truthful records.

Major Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- A request for applications (RFA) will be released in early February 2016 for business planning and proposal writing to support 20 agribusinesses to improve their operations and prepare to apply for RADP-West grants (CLIN 4: Enabling Environment).
- An RFA will be released in early February 2016 to support agribusinesses to improve sales and profitability. Through targeted training, this grant activity will also support producers in improving the quality of their products (CLIN 4: Enabling Environment).
- Pending USAID approval, grants will be issued to greenhouse pilot projects in Injil and Shindand districts for vegetable production and training to beneficiary farmers (CLIN 2: High Value Crops).

4. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

4.1 USAID and non-USAID Funded Projects

Selection of Constraints/Constraints Analysis in Coordination with RADP-South:

- On October 19, RADP-West submitted a list of ten priority constraints to RADP-South for onward submission to USAID and MAIL.
- On November 28, RADP-West received a list of six constraints from RADP-South for assessment and analysis. Three constraints were analyzed during the month of December and submitted to RADP-South, as follows:

- Constraint #1: Inadequate Agricultural Extension Services
- Constraint #2: Poor Water Resources Management
- Constraint #3: Poor Quality of Seeds and Planting Materials

Data for the analysis was collected in Herat, Farah and Badghis provinces from individual farmers, farmer groups, associations, DAIL, and other USAID-funded projects (AAEP II).

IP Coordination Meeting: On October 7 and December 2, RADP-West participated in the regular USAID IP coordination meetings, held at the ADF and Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE) offices, respectively. Representatives from RADP-West, ADF, ABADE, and FAIDA reported on their key accomplishments, challenges, and plans for the next month.

Linkage with ADF: RADP-West facilitated a meeting between the ADF and the Caspian Fruit Processing Company on November 9. Based on this meeting, Caspian has submitted a loan application for USD 150,000 to use as working capital. Pending the success of the loan application, RADP-West will link Caspian with farmers in its target districts, for potential supply of pistachios and grapes. As of the end of the quarter, Caspian planned to discuss its loan application with ADF at an appointment scheduled for January 26.

Access to Finance Training for Women: RADP-West facilitated the participation of seven women farmers from Ghaizun Sanger village in Injil district at a two-day training conducted by the AMA from October 6-7 in Herat city. During the training, the women increased their awareness of finance options, including Islamic financing. In addition, the participants learned about the different financial institutions operating in Herat province.

4.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Meetings with DAIL's Cooperative Department:

- On November 12, RADP-West met with DAIL's Cooperative Department in Herat to discuss the current status of cooperatives in Herat. The Cooperative Department provided a list of 24 cooperatives for potential support. RADP-West evaluated the list and selected five cooperatives (Khaji Malal, Olfat, Ziaratjah, Mowalan Abdul Rahman Jami and Khaja Mohammad Faiz) for assessment. They were chosen based on their activities, recent accomplishments, involvement in the value chains supported by RADP-West, and their interest in working with RADP-West on improving their operations.
- On December 27, RADP-West met with the Herat DAIL Cooperative Head to collect information on the new MAIL requirements for re-activation and re-registration of cooperatives in Herat. A document on the changes in the bylaws and a MAIL-approved business plan template were shared with RADP-West. At the end of the meeting, RADP-West agreed to conduct business plan training for five cooperatives and facilitate development of business plans and concept notes. A full update will be provided in the January monthly report.

Support to Farah DAIL's Conference: At the request of the Farah DAIL Director, RADP-West provided logistical support for a conference on "Greenhouse Products Market Analysis and Business Match-Making." The conference took place on December 14 in the Golchin Conference Hall located in Farah province. Aimed at Farah-based greenhouse owners, agribusinesses, traders and relevant government



Farah Provincial governor responds farmers and traders questions- 14 Dec 2015

departments, over 200 farmers and government representatives participated, including the provincial governor.

Challenges and potential solutions were identified and discussed during the conference, as below:

Table 7: Challenges and Solutions Discussed During Farah Conference

Challenges	Solutions
Farmers deliver low quality cucumbers (too large and overripe) to agribusinesses.	Training on proper harvesting time of cucumbers.
Road maintenance tax has increased from 50 to 500 Afs during product transfer out of Farah City.	Traders will request relevant government departments to solve these problems and address the high tax and transportation permit fee on agriculture products.
Transport movement permit fees are between 1,600 Afs to 3,500 Afs, which is expensive. There is also a lack of security on the highway for transferring the products from Farah city to other provinces.	
During the harvest time of cucumbers, Iran is flooding the market, which results in lower prices for local products.	Farah DAIL and other relevant sectors should look into this issue.

The Farah Provincial Governor noted all of the barriers and issues discussed and promised that the province would provide support and solutions as soon as possible.

Herat Governor’s Coordination Meeting: On December 27, DCA participated in the Herat Governor’s Coordination Meeting, organized by the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR). Common challenges faced by NGOs were discussed during the meeting.

Coordination Meeting with the Herat Animal Health and Husbandry Directorate: On December 12, DCA participated in a coordination meeting with the Herat Animal Health and Husbandry Directorate to coordinate RADP-West livestock activities in Herat province.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

5.1 Personnel

As of December 31, 2015, RADP-West has a total of 70 long-term local national employees and five long-term expatriate employees.¹⁹ The project team consists of 28 technical, 23 operations, and 19 support staff members.²⁰ Local national positions filled in the quarter included: one Cook, one Cook Assistant, one Procurement Manager, two Procurement Coordinators, three Maintenance Technicians, five Cleaners, one HR Manager, one Facilities Manager, one Transportation Coordinator, one Inventory Coordinator, one Operations Coordinator, one Logistics/Inventory Control Manager, and one Finance Assistant.

¹⁹ These 75 employees are Chemonics staff. In addition, RADP-West subcontractors AREA, DCA, and Equal Access employed 53 staff during the quarter; 88 staff were employed by the APPF and SIL to perform security functions.

²⁰ Operations includes Grants, Procurement, Finance, HR, IT, Transportation, Logistics, and Inventory; Support includes Facilities and Maintenance.

On December 15, the DCOP - Technical departed the program. RADP-West is conducting a recruit for a local national to fill this vacancy, and anticipates doing so in the next quarter.

In response to programmatic needs, a new management team, inclusive of the COP and DCOP for Operations, joined the project in Herat on October 13, 2015. The Communications Specialist also joined the project in Herat on October 16, 2015.

5.2 Adaption of the Activity

No adaptations to location or strategic elements of the project's activities took place during the quarter.

5.3 Modifications and Amendments

Prime contract Modification #3 was signed on November 18, and incrementally funded RADP-West in the amount of \$12,923,802.

Prime contract Modification #4, intended to realign the program budget to reflect up-to-date expenditures and renewed budget forecasting, was requested on November 23, 2015. Discussions continued through December and will be completed in the next quarter.

6. ANNEXES

6.1 Key Activities Accomplished During the Quarter

See attached Excel file.

6.2 Indicator Performance Table

See attached Excel file.

6.3 Grants Tracking Sheet/Update

See below (pg. 27-29).

6.4 Success Story

See below (pg. 30) and attached Word file.

6.5 Wheat and High Value Crops Training Flyers

See attached PDFs.

6.2 Grants Tracking Sheet/Update

S/N	Sector/ CLIN	Grantee	Grant Amount (USD)	Purpose and Main Activities	Start Date	End Date	Geographic Coverage		Grantee Contact Info and Address
							Province	District/s	
1	I	Asim Salim Farahi Private Seed & Agricultural Services Company	\$12,375.00	Contracting with 250 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Pusht Rod District, Farah Province to provide each farmer with 25 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL-operated Urdu Khan Research Station located within Herat Province. The grant also provides for DAP fertilizer for each farmer.	15-Nov-15	18-Nov-15	Farah	Pusht Rod	Abdul Naser, Company President/ 0799992333/ abdullnaser.afzali@gmail.com / Char Burjak Village, Farah City Center, Farah Province
2	I	Asim Salim Farahi Private Seed & Agricultural Services Company	\$12,375.00	Contracting with 250 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Anar Dara District, Farah Province to provide each farmer with 25 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL-operated Urdu Khan Research Station, located within Herat Province. The grant also provides for DAP fertilizer for each farmer.	15-Nov-15	18-Nov-15	Farah	Anar Dara	Abdul Naser, Company President/ 0799992333/ abdullnaser.afzali@gmail.com / Char Burjak Village, Farah City Center, Farah Province
3	I	Hambastagi Private Seed Enterprise	\$24,555.00	Contracting with 600 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Guzara District, Herat Province to provide each farmer with 24 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL operated Urdu Khan Research Station located within Herat City. The grant also provides for Ammophos and Urea fertilizer for each farmer.	8-Nov-15	9-Nov-15	Herat	Guzara	Abdul Qader, Company President/ 0799208784 / hambastagi@ymail.com / Gulbafa Village, Guzara District, Herat Province

4	I	Imam Fakhr-e-Razi Private Seed Enterprise	\$24,625.00	Contracting with 250 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Muqur District, Badghis Province and provides each farmer with 50 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL operated Urdu Khan Research Station located within Herat City. The grant also provides for Ammophos and Urea fertilizer for each farmer.	15-Nov-15	17-Nov-15	Badghis	Muqur	Haji Safayatullah, Company President / 0786197381 imamf_sseedcompany@yahoo.com / Opposite to District Chief Commander Office, Karukh District Center, Herat Province
5	I	Khaja Mohammad Sabz Poosh Private Seed Enterprise	\$24,574.00	Contracting with 600 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Pashtun Zarghun District, Herat Province and provides each farmer with 24 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL operated Urdu Khan Research Station located within Herat City. The grant also provides for Ammophos and Urea fertilizer for each farmer.	10-Nov-15	11-Nov-15	Herat	Pashtun Zarghun	Abdul Karim, Company President/ 0797546301 / khmsats@gmail.com / Turkan Ulia Village, Injil District, Herat Province
6	I	Sadiq Zada Private Seed Enterprise	\$24,750.00	Contracting with 500 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Farah Center, Farah Province and provides each farmer with 25 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL operated Urdu Khan Research Station located within Herat City. The grant also provides for DAP fertilizer for each farmer.	15-Nov-15	18-Nov-15	Farah	Farah	Qudratullah, Company President/ 0799126683 / farooqi.qudratullah@gmail.com / Qala Ghulam Seddiq Village, Farah City Center, Farah Province

7	I	Sheikh Marouf Karukhi Private Seed & Agricultural Services Company	\$24,587.00	Contracting with 600 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Karukh District, Herat Province and provides each farmer with 24 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL operated Urdu Khan Research Station located within Herat City. The grant also provides for Ammophos and Urea fertilizer for each farmer.	8-Nov-15	9-Nov-15	Herat	Karukh	Sayed Abdul Qader, Company President/ 0799372220 / ksc_herat@yahoo.com / Karukh District Center, Herat Province
8	I	Sheikh-UI-Islam Herawi Private Seed Enterprise	\$24,496.00	Contracting with 600 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Injil District, Herat Province and provides each farmer with 24 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL operated Urdu Khan Research Station located within Herat City. The grant also provides for Ammophos and Urea fertilizer for each farmer.	8-Nov-15	9-Nov-15	Herat	Injil	Haji Mohammad Hamid, Company President/ 0799567808 / shiekh.islam@outlook.com / Savah Bridge, Imam Shish Noor Road, Injil District, Herat Province
9	I	Drokshshan Private Seed Enterprise	\$24,561.00	Contracting with 600 seasoned and advanced district farmers in Koshk District, Herat Province and provides each farmer with 24 Kilograms (Kg) of Foundation Wheat Seed or Certified Wheat Seed (High Gluten and UG 99 Resistant), which has been produced by the MAIL operated Urdu Khan Research Station located within Herat City. The grant also provides for Ammophos and Urea fertilizer for each farmer.	10-Nov-15	11-Nov-15	Herat	Koshk	Mohammad Aref, Company President/ 0799358641 / dorokshshan@ymail.com / Kushk-e-Robat Sangi District Center, Herat Province

6.3 Success Story²¹



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

SNAPSHOT

Private Markets Provide Economic Lifeline For Wheat Farmers

Farmers embrace contracting with seed companies to become seed multipliers



Wheat farmers review a flyer while receiving certified seed under contract from a private seed company in Karukh district.

"This is a new design of seed program that is completely different from past wheat seed distribution programs. We expect that with the improved seeds you receive today, the resulting production increases will enable us to be more self-sufficient in the year ahead."

Mr. Naqibullah Arvin,
Injil District Governor

"This program will enable farmers to produce higher quality seed and sell at a higher price."

Mr. Ahmad Ahmady
DAIL Extension Officer (Muqur)

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

Afghanistan's western region has traditionally produced large volumes of wheat, however over recent years, farmers have complained of the poorer yields being obtained from local seed varieties; which produce less grain and have a lower gluten content, limiting the sale of these grain harvests to regional flour mills and other agri-businesses, accepting lower prices for their yields and remaining trapped in a cycle of subsistence farming.

In partnership with the Herat, Farah and Badghis DAIL's the Regional Agriculture Development Program-West (RADP-West) provided targeted grants to eight Private Seed Enterprises; enabling them to contract with 4,000 regional farmers and provide each with 25-50kg of improved/certified seed, which was produced by the MAIL operated Urdu Khan Research Facility in Herat. Under contract, these farmers are designated as "seed multipliers" and required to plant the certified seed, sell back surplus 2nd generation seed to these Enterprises and increase the availability of improved/certified seed throughout the region.

Provision of the contracted seed took place in Herat, Farah and Badghis during the first two weeks of November; with Private Seed Enterprises collaborating directly with our Provincial DAIL partners to distribute 100 metric tons; enough to cultivate 4,500 jeribs.

With continued support from the Provincial DAILs, RADP-West and Private Seed Enterprises, the post-harvest wheat crop productivity for these farmers is expected to increase; enabling 2nd generation seeds to be sold back to the Enterprises and improved gluten content yields to the regional flour mills, increasing local community incomes, supporting the regional economy and reducing the reliance on flour import substitution.

Regional Agriculture Development Program-West (RADP-West) is a USAID funded MAIL led agricultural program, designed to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in targeted districts of Herat, Farah and Badghis provinces. The sustainable agricultural development program will support the consolidation of licit economies to fuel economic growth.

²¹ As discussed with the RADP-West COR on January 26, this Success Story will be modified over the coming months to incorporate the "Transforming Lives" requirement of the USAID DOC office. The Word version of this Success Story is included in the Quarterly Report submission email.