



# Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) – West

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January 2016



*RADP-West HVC Personnel Assessing Pistachio Cultivation Efforts With Beneficiary Farmers in Saghariha Village, Karukh District*

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# Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) - West

## January Monthly Report

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Name of Prime Implementing Partner:  
Chemonics International Incorporated

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

Activity Start Date: August 2014

Activity End Date: August 2019

### **DISCLAIMER**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

A2F	Access to Finance
ABADE	Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises
ADF	Agricultural Development Fund
AISA	Afghanistan Investment Support Agency
APPF	Afghan Public Protection Force
APS	Annual Program Statement
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue
AWLE	Afghan Women's Leadership in the Economy
B2B	Business-to-Business
CDC	Community Development Council
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
EA	Equal Access
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
HVC	High Value Crops
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
LFEW	Local Female Extension Worker
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
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
VSU	Vetting Support Unit
WSAWDO	Welfare and Support Afghan Women Disable Organization

# I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

## I.1 Program Description

USAID awarded the five year Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) West project to Chemonics International Inc. in August 2014. RADP-West is working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & 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 agricultural development, 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 the RADP-West project with the support of Key Implementing Partners (KIPs). These KIPs are: Agency For Rehabilitation & Energy Conservation In Afghanistan (AREA); Dutch Committee For Afghanistan (DCA); International Center For Agricultural Research In Dry Areas (ICARDA); and Equal Access. The table below outlines RADP-West KIP's geographic coverage and primary responsibilities:

Key Implementing Partner	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

The RADP-West project is built on the fundamental premise that sustainable agricultural development will support the consolidation of licit economies; and is designed to support MAIL in promoting investments which will lead to sustained long term increases in farmer incomes and private sector growth. The project is designed around four primary programming components; also known as Contract Line Item Numbers (CLINs), 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 following provinces and target districts.

## I.2 Geographic Coverage

**Table I: RADP-West Target Provinces and Districts**

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

<sup>1</sup> 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 January, RADP-West continued Wheat, HVC, Livestock, Enabling Environment, and Gender and Nutrition activities across selected districts within Herat, Farah, and Badghis provinces. Employing targeted capacity development, assessments, focus on value chain development and market linkages, RADP-West continued to provide support for MAIL programming which sets the stage for promoting investments within the Wheat, High Value Crop (HVC) and Livestock sectors which will lead to long term increases in wheat, HVC and livestock beneficiary incomes and agri-business growth, within these sectors.

### 2.1 Summary of Key Accomplishments

#### ***Wheat Production & Value Chain Programming***

- Assessed and monitored germination rates of 785 cultivated wheat plots in Injil, Guzara, Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun, and Koshk districts (Herat Province), where certified seed was planted during the October/November 2015 planting season. Plans finalized to expand this assessment within Badghis and Farah (commencing in February). Wheat Cultivation training materials reviewed, edited and developed (focused on weeding, irrigation and fertilizer application requirements for Winter Wheat during the February & March season (development of shoots & Tillering stages)- training will be conducted within Herat, Farah and Badghis in February.
- Agreements were made with Private Seed Enterprises to begin coordination on inspection of certified wheat plots in Herat, Farah and Badghis and preparation for Seed Enterprises to obtain their certified seed yields in June from beneficiary farmers.
- Enabling Environment personnel have received verbal commitments from Aria and Tahr-e-Naw flour mills, that these enterprises are ready to purchase all certified wheat that is available during the upcoming harvest in June/July, as long as the yields are consistent with quality requirements. These commitments will be formalized into contracts with wheat farmer beneficiaries. In addition, the EE Department has also assessed the capabilities and production requirements of the Besmellah Flour Producer in Badghis and will develop this enterprises capability to purchase wheat from program beneficiaries.

#### ***High Value Crops Production & Value Chain Programming***

- In collaboration with the Herat DAIL, beneficiary selection was undertaken for the Year 2 Orchard, Grape, and Vegetable programming, which includes the establishment of 51 Vegetable, 31 Orchard and 5 Vineyard Demonstration Training Centers. During the month of January, 862 beneficiaries were selected in Injil (25 villages), Guzara (5 villages) Koshk (7 villages), Karukh (15 villages) and Pashtun Zarghun (19 villages) districts. Plans developed to commence beneficiary selection and Demonstration Training Center establishment in Badghis and Farah, beginning in February. HVC Cultivation training materials reviewed, edited and developed (focused on Vegetable, Orchard and Vineyard establishment; and irrigation and fertilizer application requirements- training will be conducted with Herat, Farah and Badghis in February.
- The EE Department was successful in having 5,760 kg of carrots grown within the target districts of Herat; delivered and sold to Tanin Tak Food Processing Company.
- With a focus on the export market, the EE Department is communicating with the USAID funded ATAR project in Turkmenistan; providing this program with information on the current volumes and wholesale prices of Green Raisins, Fakhri Abjoosh Raisins Mir Ahmadi Abjoosh Raisins and walnuts, which are grown by program beneficiaries.

#### ***Livestock Production & Value Chain Programming***

- In order to improve the health of livestock herds in Guzara and Koshk Districts (Herat Province) for market requirements, a subsidized Deworming Campaign was conducted in;

Guzara (Mir Dawood Village) and Koshk (Maydane Tayara Village) districts; 2,318 sheep and goats were treated. This campaign will address internal parasites present within the herds; and improve the yields and quality of meat, wool and dairy produce - which is a key concern of regional slaughterhouses, cashmere processors and dairy processors.

- Capacity development support continued for existing VFU paravets (differential diagnosis training), student paravets (DCA Course-Herat City), Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs) and Self Help Groups (SHG's). The purpose of this support is to improve the productivity and health of livestock herds within target districts of the western region.
- The EE Department identified the Herat Ice Cream Company & Herat Milk Pasteurization Company as viable and sustainable agri-businesses. The EE Department, briefed these enterprises on the RADP-West project, potential for market linkages with existing livestock beneficiaries and outlined the requirements for grant funding; to assist in improved processing capabilities of dairy produce (milk) obtained from program beneficiaries.

### **Enabling Environment Programming**

- Prepared and submitted three constraints for MAIL, to RADP-South on January 31; these included;
  - Constraint #4: Limited Use of Post-Harvest Handling Practices; Lack of Processing and Storage Facilities
  - Constraint #5: Lack of Access to High Quality Chemicals
  - Constraint #6: Lack of Opportunities for Women to Participate in Agriculture

### **Gender and Nutrition**

- Under Wheat Value Chain, HVC and Livestock programming, 15% of Year 2 program beneficiaries will be female; this is in line with our Year 2 Workplan.
- Under HVC programming, the Gender Team conducted 70 site visits to cultivated vegetable plots in Injil district; to re-confirm participation of women farmers, receipt of past seed distributions, cultivation, land size, effectiveness of past training; while making preparations for the Year 2 Spring programming. Under the former project leadership (prior to Oct 2015), RADP-West had not undertaken a clear and comprehensive assessment of female participation in HVC activities within Injil District.

### **Subcontractor Highlights**

#### **AREA (Badghis):**

- The Scope of Work (SOW) for AREA under Task Order #2 was finalized and shared with USAID on January 19. AREA will be focused on Wheat and High Value Crop "production" activities only; in line with the Year 2 Workplan; with value chain programming to be led by the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department. AREA is expected to resume programming during the first week of February<sup>2</sup> as soon as spring conditions allow. There were no field activities implemented by AREA during the month of January. Due to winter conditions and the development of the final SOW, there were no field activities performed by AREA during the month of January.

#### **DCA (Herat & Badghis):**

- 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. Upcoming activities are included in Section 3.4 "Major Activities Planned for Next Month" and will continue to be reflected in upcoming reports.

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<sup>2</sup> Task Order 2 is fully executed as of February 5, 2016.

- Led by the RADP-West PMU, negotiations are continuing between Chemonics and DCA in order to expand the number of VFU's from 32-40 and commence programming in Farah Province.

#### **Equal Access (EA) (Herat, Farah, Badghis):**

- On January 15, EA submitted an updated budget and revised Scope of Work to the RADP-West PMU, which better reflected our program's needs. This SOW and budget will be finalized, so that EA can commence their programming as outlined under the RADP-West Year 2 Workplan.

#### **Baseline & Control Data Survey Report:**

- On January 24, the Baseline & Control Data Survey Report- Request For Proposal (RFP) was advertised on ACBAR, with a scheduled closing date of February 11.

#### **International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA):**

- 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 (CO) consent was received on January 28 and scope of work/budget discussions were ongoing during the month of January.

#### **Sayara Strategies:**

- Sayara Strategies was selected to complete the RADP-West Constraint Analysis Reports. Subcontract negotiations were completed in January and the required documentation was submitted to the Kabul Vetting Support Unit (VSU) on January 24. RADP-West expects to receive vetting approval<sup>3</sup> and sign the subcontract in early February 2016.

## **3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **3.1 Wheat Value Chain Programming**

- **Cultivated Wheat Plot Assessments:** Following November's improved/certified wheat seed distribution and planting, the RADP-West Wheat Department developed an assessment schedule, where crop growth rates are monitored by field personnel, cultivation guidance is provided to farmers, GPS locations, dates of cultivation and germination are recorded; appropriate irrigation is provided and both weeding and fertilizer application is being undertaken in line with improved wheat cultural practices. During the month of January, 785 cultivated plots with certified wheat were assessed by wheat department field personnel; Injil District (149), Guzara District (182), Karukh District (216), Pashtun Zarghun District (114), Koshk (124).
- **Coordination With Private Seed Enterprises:** A key component of the RADP-West Wheat and Enabling Environment programming is collaboration with Private Seed Enterprises on tracking the growth of certified seed and ensuring that wheat farmers are applying improved wheat cultural practices and will have sufficient certified seed to sell back to the Enterprises after the June harvest. During January, tentative plans were developed which reflected collaboration in visiting certified seed locations. These site visits will not begin until later February/early March when winter conditions have passed.
- **Commitment Received From Aria & Tahr-e-Naw Flour Mills:** During the month of January, verbal commitments were received from the Aria and Tahr-e-Naw Flour Mills in Herat City, stating they are ready to purchase all available certified wheat harvests, on condition that crop quality standards are in line with their own. These commitments will be formalized into contracts with wheat farmers; beginning in Spring, after the winter conditions

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<sup>3</sup> Vetting approval was received on February 6, 2016.

have passed and flour mill representatives have had an opportunity to meet with wheat farmers on established Demonstration Training Centers.

### Major Activities Planned For Wheat Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Assess, monitor and provide technical guidance for the remaining certified wheat plots in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun and Koshk Districts (Herat Province); Muqur District (Badghis Province); Farah Center & Pusht Rod Districts ( Farah Province). Particular focus will be placed on weeding, irrigation and application of fertilizer.
- Development of wheat cultivation seasonal training materials; addressing the following subject matter; (a) Improved Cultural Practices (b) Irrigation Techniques (c) Fertilizer Application (d) Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Workplans updated to begin wheat cultivation field training in Herat, Farah and Badghis.
- Identify and select Wheat Demonstration Training Centers in Herat, Farah and Badghis, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices. These activities will be designed in line with the Year 2 Workplan.
- Plan joint site visits between RADP-West Wheat Department, Enabling Environment Department, DAIL, and the Private Seed Enterprises to assess the quality of the planted certified wheat crops; these visits should begin in February, (depending on weather conditions) after the seed has successfully germinated and assistance can be provided to improve cultivation practices.

### 3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming

Province	High Value Crop Value Chain	Crop Type
Herat	Grapes	Grapes & Raisins (Lal, Fakhari, Kishmishi, Shangul Khani, Roucha Varieties) <sup>4</sup>
Herat	Vegetables	<b>Spring Season:</b> Onions, Tomatoes, Cucumber, Eggplant, Peppers, Sweet Peppers, Celery, Squash <b>Fall Season:</b> Cauliflower, Cabbage, Carrots, Green Beans
Herat	Orchard Crops (Fruits & Nuts)	<b>Fruits:</b> Apricots, Apples, Peaches, Plums <b>Nuts:</b> Almonds, Pistachios
Farah	Grapes	Grapes & Raisins (Lal, Shangul Khani, Kishmishi) <sup>1</sup>
Farah	Vegetables	<b>Spring Season:</b> Tomatoes, Water Melon, Cucumber, Onions <b>Fall Season:</b> N/A
Farah	Orchard Crops (Fruits & Nuts)	<b>Fruits:</b> Pomegranates, Jujube <b>Nuts:</b> Pistachio
Badghis	Grapes	Grapes & Raisins (Lal, Fakhari, Roucha, Mir Ahmadi) <sup>1</sup>

<sup>4</sup> These varieties represent a sample of those that will be utilized.

Badghis	Vegetables	<b>Spring Season:</b> Tomato, Eggplant, Okra <b>Fall Season:</b> Cauliflower
Badghis	Orchard Crops (Fruits & Nuts)	<b>Fruits:</b> Apples <b>Nuts:</b> Pistachios, Walnuts

- The HVC Department field personnel began working with existing beneficiaries to determine the condition of their existing fruit & nut crops and whether these orchards were significantly affected by the winter months. On January 26, HVC personnel visited existing beneficiaries in Saghariha Village, Karukh District (Herat Province) to inspect current orchards and provide technical guidance to beneficiaries on how to prepare lands for new sapling planting.
- In collaboration with the Herat DAIL, beneficiary selection was undertaken for the Year 2 Orchard, Grape, and Vegetable programming, which includes the establishment of 51 Vegetable, 31 Orchard and 5 Vineyard Demonstration Training Centers. During the month of January, 862 beneficiaries were selected in Injil (25 villages), Guzara (5 villages) Koshk (7 villages), Karukh (15 villages) and Pashtun Zarghun (19 villages) districts. Plans developed to commence beneficiary selection and Demonstration Training Center establishment in Badghis and Farah, beginning in February. HVC Cultivation training materials reviewed, edited and developed (focused on Vegetable, Orchard and Vineyard establishment; and irrigation and fertilizer application requirements- training will be conducted with Herat, Farah and Badghis in February.
- The EE Department was successful in having 5,760 kg of carrots grown within the target districts of Herat; delivered and sold to Tanin Tak Food Processing Company.
- With a focus on the export market, the EE Department is communicating with the USAID funded ATAR project in Turkmenistan; providing this program with information on the current volumes and wholesale prices of Green Raisins, Fakhri Abjoosh Raisins Mir Ahmadi Abjoosh Raisins and walnuts, which are grown by program beneficiaries.

### Major Activities Planned For HVC Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Development of High Value Crop cultivation seasonal training materials; addressing the following subject matter; **Vegetable:** (a) Understanding of Basic Horticultural Practices (b) Soil Enrichment ( c) Compost Preparation (d) Soil Bed Formation (e) Land Preparation; **Orchard:** (a) Orchard Establishment (b) Site Selection (c) Layout (d) Selection of Cultivars (e) Land Preparation; **Vineyard:** (a) Land Preparation, Cultivation & Planting Techniques, (b) Trellising (c) Fertilization & Irrigation. Workplans updated to begin HVC cultivation field training in Herat, Farah and Badghis.
- Identify and select Vegetable, Orchard and Vineyard Demonstration Training Centers and beneficiaries in Herat, Farah and Badghis, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices. These activities will be designed in line with the Year 2 Workplan.
- Prepare HVC Spring seed and sapling requirements and submit an approval request to USAID.

### 3.3 Livestock Value Chain Programming

- The EE Department identified the Herat Ice Cream Company & Herat Milk Pasteurization Company as viable and sustainable agri-businesses. The EE Department, briefed these enterprises on the RADP-West project, potential for market linkages with existing livestock beneficiaries and outlined the requirements for grant funding; to assist in improved processing capabilities of dairy produce (milk) obtained from program beneficiaries.

- The six-month Paravet Training Course continued 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 improve. RADP-West is moving forward in collaboration with DCA and USAID to ensure that motorbikes are provided for the eight new VFUs when established; the procurement process will commence in March 2016, in anticipation of the April 2016 graduation.
- **FEG Sessions:** DCA extension workers conducted 16 FEG extension sessions for 135 male and 134 female livestock farmers from five districts of Herat province (Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, Koshk) and three districts of Badghis province (Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari). The purpose of these 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 16 sessions included *peste des petites ruminants* (PPR), *contagious caprine pleuropneumonia* (CCPP), *Crimean–Congo hemorrhagic fever* (CCHF), enterotoxaemia disease, the role of women in animal husbandry, value of cashmere, blood parasites, processing animal products, feeding, watering, taking care of newborn animals, milking, and housing. **New FEGs:** During the month of January, three new female and two new male FEGs were established in Qadis and Ab Kamari districts of Badghis province. These groups comprise a total of 78 female and 45 male livestock farmers.
- **FEG Practical Demonstrations:** During the month of January, urea treatment demonstrations were conducted for nine male and three female FEG groups from four villages in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts (January 3, 10, 17, 19) and eight villages in Qadis, Ab Kamari, and Qala-I-Naw districts (January 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24). A total of 166 male and 60 female FEG members attended these demonstrations, which aimed to increase farmer knowledge on the benefits of treating dry feed with urea, which improved the feed's nutritional value and renders it more easily digestible. Demonstrations on making molasses bricks for feed blocks were conducted for one female and two male FEG groups from three villages in Qadis and Ab Kamari districts (January 24 and 25). A total of 45 male and 20 female FEG members attended these demonstrations.
- **VFU Services:** The 15 existing VFUs<sup>5</sup> supported by RADP-West treated 14,093 sheep and goats and vaccinated 23,408 sheep and goats in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis provinces during the month of January.
- **Deworming Campaign:** A Deworming Campaign was conducted by VFU Paravets in the Maidan Tayara village of Koshk district in Herat province on January 25 and in the Mirdawood village of Guzara district in Herat province on January 7. During the campaigns, paravets conducted demonstrations aimed at preventing internal worms in animals during the fall and winter seasons of the year. A total of 2,318 sheep and goats from 67 livestock owners were dewormed during the campaign. The overall goal of these campaigns 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 Livestock Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Collaborate with the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department to bring DCA livestock beneficiaries together with representatives from Cashmere Processing Centers in Herat and Badghis to obtain practical instructions on how to improve cashmere yields and sales and lay the groundwork for contracts; enabling cashmere processors to receive improved yields of wool from goat herds that have benefited from vaccinations and access to better nutrition.

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<sup>5</sup> Khoja Mahyuddin (Khosh Rod VFU, Injil district) passed away on December 25. RADP-West is working with DCA to ensure a replacement is possible.

- Collaborate with the RADP-West Enabling Environment to bring DCA livestock beneficiaries together with the Herat Ice Cream Company and Herat Milk Pasteurization Company, so that beneficiaries can understand the quality requirements required by these companies within their district milk collection centers and lay the groundwork for contracts.
- Continue VFU de-worming campaign within target districts of Herat and Badghis provinces; to reach 30,000 sheep, goats and cattle.

### 3.4 Enabling Environment Programming

#### Cooperative By-Law/Business Plan Development Workshops

- Supported DAIL Workshops (January 11-12 in Herat and January 25-27 in Badghis), to educate existing and sustainable cooperatives on new MAIL by-law requirements. 10 Co-operatives (50 Members) were instructed on the need for a viable business plan in order to renew their licenses with MAIL. The RADP-West EE Department will work with these cooperatives to prepare business plans; as these enterprises play an active role in the receipt and sale of wheat, high value crop and livestock produce to regional agri-businesses; within our program's target districts.
- Between January 5-10, the EE Department assessed the capabilities and sustainability of 9 agri-businesses in Badghis (Qala-e-Naw 5; Qadis 1; ab Kamari 2; Muqur 1. These included;
  1. Shahid Nooraddin Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative (Ab Kamari)
  2. Mohammad Nabi Shahid Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative ( Muqur)
  3. Hanzala Kaharan Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative (Qala-e-Naw)
  4. Khaja Charum Langar Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative (Qadis)
  5. Khaja Mohammad Dehistan Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative (Ab Kamari)
  6. Abdul Sami Rahim, Dairy Processor (Qala-e-Naw)
  7. Nematullah, Animal Skins Agri-business (Qala-e-Naw)
  8. Besmellah, Wheat & Flour Agri-Business (Qala-e-Naw)
  9. Nazhat Poultry Farming (Qala-e-Naw)

#### Key Outcomes From These Assessments

##### 1. Shahid Nooraddin Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative

Address: Mobarkshah Village, Ab Kamari District, Badghis Province

Year Established: 2009

# of Members: 150 (Male)

# of Irrigated Hectares: 202

# of Rain Fed Hectares: 156

**Key Findings:** Primary agricultural crops are wheat, barley, peas, melons, pistachios, sesame, caraway and watermelons. While the cooperative is active, it is currently unlicensed until it submits a business plan to MAIL. Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West include the preparation and submission of a viable business plan, achieve licensing through MAIL, and expand current efforts to support improved wheat & pistachio production.

##### 2. Mohammad Nabi Shahid Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative

Address: Hichkah Village, Muqur District, Badghis Province

Year Established: 2007

# of Members: 220 (Male)

# of Irrigated Hectares: 200

# of Rain Fed Hectares: 600

**Key Findings:** Primary agricultural crops are wheat, barley, peas, sesame, pistachios, melon, caraway and watermelon. While the cooperative is active, it is currently unlicensed until it submits a business plan to MAIL. Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West include the preparation and submission of a viable business plan, achieve licensing through MAIL and expand current efforts to support improved wheat & pistachio production.

##### 3. Hanzala Kaharan Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative

Address: District 3, Qala-e-Naw City, Badghis Province

Year Established: 2011

# of Members: 75 (Female)

# of Irrigated Hectares: 64.8

# of Rain Fed Hectares: 81 Hectares

**Key Findings:** Primary agricultural crops are tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peas, wheat, barley, melons, caraway and watermelon. While the cooperative is active, it is currently unlicensed until it submits a business plan to MAIL. Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West include the preparation and submission of a viable business plan, achieve licensing through MAIL and expand current efforts to support improved vegetable production in line with the crops outlined within the Year 2 Workplan.

#### **4. Khaja Charum Langar Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative**

Address: Langar Village, Qadis District, Badghis Province

Year Established: 2011

# of Members: 104 (Male)

# of Irrigated Hectares: 90

# of Rain Fed Hectares: 400

**Key Findings:** Primary agricultural crops are potatoes, corn, caraway, wheat, turnips, tomatoes, carrots and red beans. While the cooperative is active, it is currently unlicensed until it submits a business plan to MAIL. Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West include the preparation and submission of a viable business plan, achieve licensing through MAIL and expand current efforts to support improved wheat and vegetable production (in line with the vegetable crops outlined within the Year 2 Workplan).

#### **5. Khaja Mohammad Dehistan Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative**

Address: Masjed Jama Dehistan Village, Ab Kamari District, Badghis Province

Year Established: 2007

# of Members: 241 (Male)

# of Irrigated Hectares: 40

# of Rain Fed Hectares: 600

**Key Findings:** Primary agricultural crops are potatoes, wheat, corn, caraway, turnips, tomatoes, carrots and red beans. While the cooperative is active, it is currently unlicensed until it submits a business plan to MAIL. Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West include the preparation and submission of a viable business plan, achieve licensing through MAIL and expand current efforts to support improved wheat and vegetable production (in line with the vegetable crops outlined within the Year 2 Workplan).

#### **6. Abdul Sami Rahim, Dairy Processor**

Address: Bandar Qadis, Qala-e-Naw City Bazaar, Badghis Province

Year Established: 2014

**Key Findings:** Local access to sufficient quantities of milk is low, limiting the processing capability of the Abdul Sami Rahim Company to produce milk and yoghurt products. As a result, storekeepers within Qala-e-Naw obtain their dairy produce from Herat and other regions, increasing the costs for the consumers; (e.g 1 kilogram of yoghurt is priced at AFN50- 60 per kg, based on quality). Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West include increasing access to livestock farmers whose herds benefit from improved nutrition and medical care, improving milk collection capabilities at the district level; improving management and processing capabilities.

#### **7. Nematullah, Animal Skins Agri-Business**

Address: Garaj-e-Shakh, Qala-e-Naw City Bazaar, Badghis Province

Year Established: 1996

**Key Findings:** Animal skins and wool are purchased from all districts within Badghis province. On average, 5000 raw skins are purchased per month; the wool is removed and the skins are cleaned and salted. Primary markets include both Herat and Pakistan. Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West include improving processing capabilities and improve market linkages nationally.

#### **8. Besmellah, Wheat & Flour Agri-Business**

Address: Next To Provincial Council Department, Qala-e-Naw City, Badghis Province

Year Established: 2010

**Key Findings:** The business trades in both wheat and flour (averages 15 ton per month). Some wheat is milled on site with local flour sold; however the quality standards vary and most flour customers prefer flour products that are shipped in from Herat. Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West includes;

improved collaboration with wheat farmers who grow certified wheat; investment in improved milling capabilities and improvement in market linkages nationally; to reduce reliance on Herat.

### 9. Nazhat Poultry Farm

Address: First Street of Qiamat Qul, Qala-e-Naw City, Badghis Province

Year Established: 2015

**Key Findings:** The poultry farm currently has 8000 chickens; with an average of 3000 chickens sold per month in local marketplaces. The production rate of chickens, from birth to sale usually runs about 50 days; with sales including both live chickens and meat. There is an increased demand for chicken meat within the Qala-e-Naw and Herat marketplaces, which this company is unable to meet; as they are unable to expand production. Potential support that can be provided by RADP-West includes investment in improved heating capabilities and incubators within the hatcheries; increased access to DCA VFU's for vaccinations and expanded access to regional markets.

- On January 18 & 19, 2016, the EE Department began working directly with the Tanin Tak Food Processing Company (Vegetable Processing) and Morvarid Company (Dry Fruits & Nuts) to assess current marketing efforts and conduct a review of internal operations (productivity, efficiency and profitability). This support will be a long term approach throughout the life of the program and will enable farmers within the target districts to sell directly to these enterprises.
- On January EE tracked and recorded program beneficiary farmer sales to Tanin Tak Food Processing Company.

Farmer name	District	Village	Carrot (Kg)	Amount (AFA)
Shir Aga	Injil	Gulbafa	1,832	7,328
Nesar Ahmad	Injil	Gulbafa	1,353	5,412
Abdul Wahab	Injil	Gulbafa	1,148	4,592
Saifuddin	Injil	Gulbafa	1,427	5,708
Total			5,760	23,040

### Major Activities Planned For Enabling Environment Programming Next Month

- Continue to work with and mentor identified cooperatives in Herat, Badghis and Farah, 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 agri-businesses.
- Development of the following training materials; (a) Access To Finance (b) Food Safety. Workplans will be updated to begin this training next month for selected agri-businesses and cooperatives in Herat, Farah and Badghis.
- Assessments of Slaughterhouses, Livestock Value Chain Actors and District Milk Collection Centers will continue in Herat and Badghis provinces, to remain responsive to USAID's concerns on the lack of focus to date on Livestock Value Chain programming.
- Conduct a Cashmere Harvest Demonstration Training in target districts of Badghis province, ensuring that livestock owners receive input directly from the cashmere processors on what is required in terms of volume and quality and what the market prices are for raw (greasy) cashmere.
- Develop and analyze the following constraints for MAIL
  - Underdeveloped pastureland management
  - Lack of functionality/sustainability of agricultural associations and cooperatives
  - Lack of opportunities for women to participate in agriculture.
  - Lack of availability, access, and utilization of mechanization in the agriculture sector
- Develop, print and distribute sales recordkeeping books for Wheat, HVC & Livestock farmer beneficiaries and agri-businesses- to assist in maintaining a record of the USD\$ of sales obtained as a result of the support provided by RADP-West.

### 3.5 Grants & Subcontracts Programming

**Concept Notes Evaluated:** RADP-West established a technical evaluation committee to review and evaluate ten concept notes between January 3 and January 5, 2016. The technical evaluation found six that were technically acceptable and four unacceptable. The six technically acceptable applicants were invited to submit full applications for consideration; RADP-West provided comments to each company to assist them in improving their applications. For those four 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 our program workplan.

**Grant Negotiations:** RADP-West conducted negotiations with applicants to ensure that full applications met RADP-West and APS objectives. Please see the following;

- **Welfare and Support Afghan Women Disable Organization (WSAWDO):** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with WSAWDO on January 20 to discuss the grantees plans to establish greenhouses, orchards and provide capacity development in Herat (Shindand District) and Farah (Farah Center, Pusht Rod, Anar Dara Districts). These activities will be linked with our HVC Demonstration Training Centers.
- **Pioneer Support and Services:** On January 19, RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with Pioneer Support and Services to discuss plans to provide greenhouses in Injil District (Herat Province); promote off-season vegetable cultivation, demonstrate good agricultural practices, and develop a training manual on greenhouse agriculture. These activities will be linked with our HVC Demonstration Training Centers.
- **Morvarid Food Industries:** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with Morvarid Food Industries on January 25. RADP-West and Morvarid are in the process of finalizing an in-kind grant to increase their ability to contract with existing and future HVC farmer beneficiaries and provide packaging materials.

#### Major Activities Planned for the Next Month

- A request for applications (RFA) will be released in early February 2016 for business planning and proposal writing to support 23 agribusinesses to improve their operations and prepare to apply for donor funding (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, as well as Orchard Management training in Farah Province for beneficiary farmers (CLIN 2: High Value Crops).
- Pending USAID approval, an in-kind grant will be issued to an agribusiness to support increased sales in the domestic and international markets (CLIN 4: Enabling Environment).
- RADP-West will conduct a Concept Note Workshop during the month of February 2016 to assist potential grantees in the development of their concept papers under RADP-West APS 01.
- RADP-West will conduct a Grantee Workshop for the Enabling Environment RFA focused on business planning and proposal writing support for 23 RADP-West agribusiness beneficiaries. The purpose of the workshop, which will be held February 25, will be to support the development of potential grant applications.

## 4. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

### 4.1 USAID and non-USAID Funded Projects

#### **Submission of Constraints/Constraints Analysis to RADP-South:**

Three constraints were analyzed during the month of January and submitted to RADP-South on January 31, as follows:

- Constraint #4: Limited Use of Post-Harvest Handling Practices; Lack of Processing and Storage Facilities
- Constraint #5: Lack of Access to High Quality Chemicals
- Constraint #6: Lack of Opportunities for Women to Participate in Agriculture

Data for these analyses was collected in Herat, Farah and Badghis provinces from individual farmers, farmer groups, associations, and DAIL.

**IP Coordination Meeting:** On January 6, RADP-West participated in the regular USAID IP coordination meetings, held at the Agricultural Development Fund office in Herat. Representatives from RADP-West, ATAR, Agricultural Development Fund (ADF), Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE), Afghan Women's Leadership in the Economy (AWLE), Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA), the Economy Directorate, GIZ/NMD, and Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) reported on their key accomplishments, challenges, and plans for the next month.

**Linkage with the Herat Agricultural University:** RADP-West contacted the Herat Agricultural University during the month of January to obtain information on the number of women working at DAIL to inform the "Lack of Opportunities for Women to Participate in Agriculture" constraint analysis.

### 4.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

#### **Cooperation with DAIL in Herat, Farah, Badghis:**

- RADP-West participated in the DAIL Technical Extension Coordination Meeting on January 27 in Herat to discuss activities conducted during the month and planned activities for February.
- RADP-West worked with the Herat, Badghis, and Farah DAIL Cooperatives Departments on the identification and selection of cooperatives for upcoming Business Plan Training.
- RADP-West coordinated with the DAIL Plant Protection Department to collect information on chemical inputs for the "Lack of Access to High Quality Chemicals" constraint analysis.
- RADP-West engaged with the Herat, Badghis, and Farah DAIL Offices to collect information for the "Limited Use of Post-Harvest Handling Practices; Lack of Processing and Storage Facilities" constraints analysis.

## 5. ANNEXES

### 5.1 Indicator Performance Table

See attached Excel file.

### 5.2 January Monthly JPEG Photos

See attached Zip file.