



Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) – West

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*RADP-West HVC Personnel Demonstrate Row Cultivation Techniques
in Ab Kamari District; Badghis Province; 20 February 2016*

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Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) - West

February Monthly Report

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Name of Subcontractors:
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Afghanistan (AREA)
Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry
Areas (ICARDA)
Equal Access (EA)
Services International LLC (SIL)
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAEP	Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project
APPF	Afghan Public Protection Force
AMA	Afghanistan Microfinance Association
APS	Annual Program Statement
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue
B2B	Business-to-Business
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
COP	Chief of Party
CCHF	Crimean–Congo Hemorrhagic Fever
CCPP	Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
EA	Equal Access
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
FMFB	First Microfinance Bank
HS	Hemorrhagic Septicemia
HVC	High Value Crops
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LFEW	Local Female Extension Worker
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MT	Metric Ton
PPR	Pestes des Petites Ruminants
RDASO	Rural Development Associate Services Organization

RFA	Request for Applications
RFP	Request for Proposals
SHG	Self-Help Group
SIL	Services International LLC
SOW	Scope of Work
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
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 to Chemonics International Inc. in August 2014. RADP-West is working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) in order to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in 13 targeted districts within Herat, Farah, and Badghis provinces. The project’s specific focus is to support MAIL in improving the productivity and profitability of targeted value chains within the Wheat, High Value Crops (HVC), and Livestock value chains. The purpose of this effort is to further the development of sustainable 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 include: Agency For Rehabilitation and 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:

Table 1: RADP-West KIP Coverage Areas and Responsibilities

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

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

I.2 Geographic Coverage

Table 2: RADP-West Target Provinces and Districts

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

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

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the month of February, RADP-West continued Wheat, High Value Crop (HVC), Livestock, Enabling Environment, and Gender and Nutrition activities across selected districts within Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces. Employing targeted capacity development and assessments and with a 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, HVC, and Livestock sectors. These investments will lead to long term increases in wheat, HVC, and livestock beneficiary incomes, in addition to agribusiness growth, within these sectors.

RADP-West received USAID approval of its Year Two Work Plan on February 18, 2016. The below updates encompass project activities as outlined in the approved Work Plan.

2.1 Summary of Key Accomplishments

Wheat Production and Value Chain Programming

- Assessed and monitored germination rates of 74 cultivated wheat plots in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts (Herat province), where certified seed was planted during the October/November 2015 planting season. As of February 29, 2016, 1,328 cultivated wheat plots have been assessed.
- Administered Wheat Cultivation Training during the month in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh Districts (Herat province), in which 564 male farmers from eight villages in Injil District, nine villages in Guzara District, and two villages in Karukh District participated. Training materials developed during the month of January were utilized to disseminate information on weeding, irrigation, and fertilizer application requirements for Winter Wheat during the February and March season (development of shoots and tillering stages).
- Conducted a site visit to the Aria Flour Mill in order to build a closer relationship with Aria as a program partner for Wheat activities, invite and include Aria in the upcoming Business-to-Business (B2B) Matchmaking Event, and discuss an initial agreement with Aria for the purchase of surplus wheat from RADP-West beneficiary farmers after the wheat harvest in June/July.

High Value Crops Production and Value Chain Programming

- HVC Cultivation Training commenced during the month of February with 162 male farmers participating in Vegetable Cultivation Training in Injil and Guzara Districts (Herat Province); 20 male farmers participating in Vegetable Cultivation Training in Qala-I-Naw District (Badghis Province); 25 male farmers participating in Pruning Training in Qala-I-Naw District (Badghis Province); and 37 farmers participating in Vegetable Cultivation Training in Farah Center District (Farah Province). Vegetable Cultivation Training was also conducted for 21 female farmers in Injil District on February 16, 2016 and for 21 female farmers in Guzara District on February 17, 2016.
- Selected farmers for the establishment of 17 Orchard Demonstration Training Centers in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces.
- Selected farmers for the establishment of 15 Vineyard Demonstration Training Centers in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces.
- With a focus on the export market, the EE Department continued communications with the USAID-funded Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project in Turkmenistan, providing this project with information on the current volumes and wholesale prices of several raisin varieties and walnuts, which are grown by program beneficiaries. Fifteen kgs of Green Raisins produced by the Guzara Grape and Raisin Association are scheduled for transport to the ATAR representative in Turkmenistan in early March, to assess buyer interest.

Livestock Production and Value Chain Programming

- Facilitated a Livestock Value Chain Coordination meeting in Karukh District, bringing together leading male herders, members of the Herat Dairy Union, and representatives from the Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA), the First Microfinance Bank (FMFB), the Itahad Cotton Industrial Company, and DAIL. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a forum for the exchange of information on livestock requirements in animal feed and milk collection centers and financial support options available to livestock farmers.
- Organized four Cashmere Demonstration and Market Linkage Events in Badghis Province during the month of February between 80 livestock herders, representatives from a Cashmere Processing Company, and RADP-West and DCA personnel. As a result of these events, the Cashmere Processing Company signed agreements with 26 livestock beneficiaries for the purchase of 15.5 Metric Tons (MT) of cashmere wool during the cashmere harvest season in April/May 2016.
- In order to improve the health of livestock herds in Karukh, Injil, Guzara, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts (Herat Province) and Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, and Ab Kamari Districts (Badghis Province) for market requirements, 15 subsidized Deworming Campaigns were conducted during the month of February in six villages of four districts of Herat Province (Karukh, Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun) and eight villages of three districts of Badghis Province (Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari). A total of 21,568 sheep and goats from 399 livestock owners were dewormed during the campaign.
- Capacity development support continued for existing VFU paravets, trainee paravets (DCA Course - Herat City), Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs), and Self Help Groups (SHGs). The purpose of this support is to improve the productivity and health of livestock herds within target districts of the western region.

Enabling Environment Programming

- Prepared and submitted four constraint analyses to RADP-South on February 29, as follows:
 - Constraint #7: Lack of Functionality/Sustainability of Agricultural Associations and Cooperatives
 - Constraint #8: Lack of Skills Training for Women in the Agriculture Sector
 - Constraint #9: Lack of Availability, Access, and Utilization of Mechanization in the Agriculture Sector
 - Constraint #10: Lack of Proper Range Management
- To address gaps in the livestock value chain, particularly in meat processing, RADP-West met with Herat and Farah Province Municipal Abattoir (Slaughterhouse) Officials to discuss issues of meat quality, food safety, and product hygiene.
- In coordination with the Farah DAIL, RADP-West delivered a three-day awareness workshop on February 8, 9, and 10 at the Farah DAIL training hall. During the workshop, participants learned about the new cooperatives by-law and business plan development. Workshop participants included members of four Farah-based agricultural and livestock cooperatives in addition to board members from three Farah-based agribusinesses.
- Conducted Food Safety Training for 20 female members of the Rabat Pirzada Women Food Processing Center on February 18, 2016 in Injil District, Herat Province.

Subcontractor Highlights

AREA (Badghis): RADP-West finalized negotiations with AREA regarding the Task Order #2 Scope of Work and Budget during the month of February, signing the final Task Order on February 4, 2016. AREA's first deliverable submission—including the Provincial Work Plan, Procurement Plan, and Training Schedule/Materials—was received by Chemonics on February 29 for review and approval. In addition to these deliverables, AREA provided substantial support to RADP-West personnel in Badghis Province during commencement of Spring Planting Season activities; activities specific to AREA's Provincial Work Plan are scheduled to commence in March 2016. More

information on activities in Badghis Province supported by AREA is included in Section 3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming.

DCA (Herat and Badghis): Activities continued as planned. Scope of Work (SOW) and budget discussions between DCA and the Chemonics Home Office continued during the month regarding an expansion in scope, to include expanding livestock activities into Farah province and increasing the number of VFUs established from 32 to 40.

Equal Access (EA) (Herat, Farah, Badghis): During the month on February, RADP-West reviewed EA's updated Year Two Work Plan and Budget submissions. On February 24, RADP-West's Chief of Party formally approved EA's Year Two Work Plan, with activities commencing immediately. During the month of February, Equal Access also provided support in the development of five illustrative training flyers for RADP-West's Wheat and HVC activities. Three flyers were designed for Wheat activities, and covered the six stages of wheat growth, weeding, irrigation, and fertilizer application. Two flyers were designed for HVC activities, and covered the furrow irrigation system for vegetables, plastic tunnels for vegetables, seedling production, raised seed beds for vegetable seedlings, and staking and fastening of tomatoes in open area cultivation. These flyers were utilized during trainings conducted during the month, and serve as a reference farmers throughout cultivation, harvest, and post-harvest seasons.

Baseline and Control Data Survey: On January 24, 2016, RADP-West issued RFP RADP-W02016-0002 for the completion of the RADP-West Baseline Survey. Responses to Offeror questions were posted to the ACBAR site on February 2, 2016; the final due date for proposals was also extended from February 7 to February 11, 2016 to allow sufficient time for quality responses to be developed and received. On February 21, 2016, RADP-West convened a technical evaluation committee and a tentative subcontractor was selected. RADP-West initiated budget negotiations and commenced a pre-award assessment on February 23, 2016 for the anticipated subcontractor. As of February 29, 2016, negotiations were still ongoing; RADP-West anticipates submission of an approval request for USAID Contracting Officer Consent to Subcontract in late March.

International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) (Farah): ICARDA, a collaborative partner listed in the RADP-West technical proposal, was selected to replace Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) for Wheat and HVC activities in Farah Province. The ICARDA Subcontract was submitted to the Chemonics Home Office for final rate review and approval on February 20; RADP-West, in coordination with the Chemonics Home Office, will finalize the rate review and issue an IQS and Task Order to ICARDA for Farah activities.

Sayara International: Vetting approval was received on February 6, 2016, and a Fixed Price Subcontract was issued by RADP-West on February 16, 2016 for completion of the RADP-West Enabling Environment Constraint Analysis Reports. During the month, Sayara commenced research and preparation for the constraint reports due in March to RADP-South; Sayara will be responsible for completing three constraint reports per month through August 2016.

Rural Development Associate Services Organization (RDASO) (Herat Province): RADP-West finalized negotiations with RDASO for the establishment of ten Orchard Demonstration Training Centers in Injil and Guzara Districts (Herat Province) and issued a Fixed Price Subcontract on February 29, 2016. RADP-West also submitted a USAID approval request for sapling procurement in support of this activity. All ten Orchard Demonstration Training Centers are anticipated to be established by the end of March 2016.

Master Trainer Subcontracts: In accordance with the approved Year Two Work Plan, RADP-West finalized negotiations with the Master Training subcontractors (Dynamic Vision and Green Afghanistan Agriculture and Livestock Organization) and aligned their respective scopes of work with Work Plan activity objectives. Each subcontract is anticipated to be signed in mid-March 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 undertaken in line with improved wheat cultural practices. During the month of February, 74 cultivated plots with certified wheat were assessed by wheat department field personnel in Injil District (22), Guzara District (22), and Karukh District (30).



RADP-West personnel provide advice to a farmer in the Mohammad Azam Khan Village of Karukh District in Herat Province during cultivated wheat plot assessment visit; 02 February 2016

Table 3: Cultivated Wheat Plot Assessments

#	Province	District	# of Wheat Plots Inspected
1	Herat	Injil	22
2		Guzara	22
3		Karukh	30
Total			74

Wheat Cultivation Training: Wheat Cultivation Training was administered during the month in Injil, Guzara, and Karukh districts (Herat province), in which 564 male farmers from eight villages in Injil district, nine villages in Guzara district, and two villages in Karukh district participated. Training materials developed during the month of January were utilized to disseminate information on weeding, irrigation, and fertilizer application requirements for Winter Wheat during the February and March season (development of shoots and tillering stages).

Table 4: Wheat Cultivation Training

Province	District	Village	Date	# of Participant Farmers
Herat	Injil	Sarwestan	February 2, 2016	30
		Sofian	February 8, 2016	30
		Mala Dan	February 8, 2016	30
		Oqaab	February 9, 2016	30
		Gerdab	February 9, 2016	30
		Tow Barian	February 10, 2016	30
		Saleh Abad	February 10, 2016	30
		Qafaslan	February 16, 2016	30
	Guzara	Skokor Khani	February 16, 2016	28
		Khal Chan	February 17, 2016	30
		Talas	February 17, 2016	30

		Gawashan	February 22, 2016	30
		Zahedan	February 22, 2016	26
		Mahal Baghbanha	February 23, 2016	30
		Gushmir	February 23, 2016	30
		Akhondan	February 24, 2016	30
		Gul Bafha	February 24, 2016	30
	Karukh	Bagh Dasht	February 29, 2016	30
		Arghavan Shah	February 29, 2016	30
TOTAL				564



A member of the Aria Flour Mill removes a bag of wheat flour from the Aria Flour Mill storage location in Herat; 24 February 2016

Follow-Up with Aria Flour Mill: On February 24, 2016, RADP-West conducted a site visit to the Aria Flour Mill in order to build a closer relationship with Aria as a program partner for Wheat programming, invite and include Aria in the upcoming B2B Matchmaking Event, and discuss an initial agreement with Aria for the purchase of surplus wheat from RADP-West beneficiary farmers after the wheat harvest in June/July.

During the site visit, Aria communicated its frustrations with donor programming in the past, which did not consult the private sector and needs of the local market. RADP-West shared information with Aria on the availability of improved high-gluten content certified wheat in the coming years, as a result of RADP-West's work with Private Seed Enterprises and wheat farmers in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces. Aria communicated that the high-gluten variety of wheat is preferred by flour mills, as this is the type demanded in the market by bakeries and Afghan families. Aria expressed interest in further developing its relationship with RADP-West and signing contracts with beneficiary wheat farmers for the purchase of surplus wheat after the harvest in June/July. Aria also expressed interest in participating in RADP-West's upcoming Business-to-Business Matchmaking Conference (date TBD). RADP-West will continue to develop this relationship and others with flour mills in target provinces in support of further developing the Wheat Value Chain in the western region.

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, and Pusht Rod Districts (Farah Province). Particular focus will be placed on weeding, irrigation, and application of fertilizer.
- Continue Wheat Cultivation Training in Karukh and Koshk Districts (Herat Province) and commence Wheat Cultivation Training in Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari, and Muqur Districts (Badghis Province).
- Identify 2,100 Wheat farmers for participation in RADP-West Wheat programming in Badghis province (AREA).
- Establish 15 Wheat Demonstration Training Centers in Herat Province, in collaboration with the respective provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) offices.
- Continue collaboration with flour mills in Herat and Badghis Provinces for the purchase of surplus wheat from RADP-West beneficiaries after the June/July harvest.

3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming

Spring Planting Season Commences: February marked the beginning of RADP-West’s Spring planting activities, which encompass seed and seedling distribution, as well as vegetable, orchard, and vineyard demonstration training center establishment; these centers will act as central locations for the administration of comprehensive training programs aimed at increasing production and reducing losses. The below table outlines the crop types and seasons for planting through the rest of RADP-West’s Year Two programming:

Table 5: HVC Crops and Seasons

Province	High Value Crop Value Chain	Crop Type
Herat	Grapes	Grapes and Raisins (Lal, Fakhari, Kishmishi, Shangul Khani, Roucha Varieties) ²
Herat	Vegetables	Spring Season: Onions, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Peppers, Sweet Peppers, Celery, Squash ³ Fall Season: Cauliflower, Cabbage, Carrots, Green Beans
Herat	Orchard Crops (Fruits and Nuts)	Fruits: Apricots, Apples, Peaches, Plums Nuts: Almonds, Pistachios
Farah	Grapes	Grapes & Raisins (Lal, Shangul Khani, Kishmishi) ⁴
Farah	Vegetables	Spring Season: Tomatoes, Watermelons, Cucumbers, Onions Fall Season: N/A
Farah	Orchard Crops (Fruits and Nuts)	Fruits: Pomegranates, Jujube Nuts: Pistachio
Badghis	Grapes	Grapes and Raisins (Lal, Fakhari, Roucha, Mir Ahmadi) ⁴
Badghis	Vegetables	Spring Season: Tomatoes, Eggplant, Okra ⁴ Fall Season: Cauliflower
Badghis	Orchard Crops (Fruits and Nuts)	Fruits: Apples Nuts: Pistachios, Walnuts

Vegetables

Herat – During the month of February, RADP-West commenced distribution of tomato, eggplant, and sweet pepper seeds to beneficiary farmers in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, and Koshk Districts (Herat Province). Twenty-five farmers (24 male, one female) received the seed for planting and production of seedlings in 25 row tunnel systems⁵, also provided by RADP-West. Once the tomato, eggplant, and pepper seedlings are ready for transplant, these 25 farmers (in addition to 158 other farmers) will re-plant the seedlings on their land.

Badghis – During the month of February, RADP-West commenced distribution of tomato and eggplant seeds to beneficiary farmers in Muqur, Ab Kamari, Qala-I-Naw, and Qadis Districts

² These varieties represent a sample of those that will be utilized.

³ Germination test results from the Herat DAIL were pending as of February 29, 2016 for onions, cucumber, celery, and squash.

⁴ Germination test results from the Herat DAIL were pending as of February 29, 2016 for okra.

⁵ 11 row tunnels for seedling production were established in ten villages of Karukh District; six in six villages of Guzara District; six in six villages of Injil District; one in one village of Pashtun Zarghun District; and one in one village of Koshk District (Herat Province).



Farmers from Gul Bafha Village in Guzara District sign distribution forms for tomato, eggplant, and sweet pepper seeds in Herat Province; 13 February 2016

(Badghis Province). Six male farmers received the seed for planting and production of seedlings in six row tunnel systems⁶, also provided by RADP-West. Once the tomato and eggplant seedlings are ready for transplant, these six farmers (in addition to 50 other farmers) will re-plant the seedlings on their land.

Farah – Spring planting in Farah Province did not begin during the month of February due to pending germination tests for watermelon, cucumber, and onion. Once the test results are received from Herat DAIL, seed distribution and planting will commence (expected March 2016).

Vegetable Cultivation Training: RADP-West conducted Vegetable Cultivation Training in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces during the month, with 162 male farmers participating in Injil and Guzara Districts (Herat Province); 20 male farmers participating in Qala-I-Naw District (Badghis Province); and 37 farmers participating in Farah Center District (Farah Province). Topics discussed during the training included the following: (a) Understanding of Basic Horticultural Practices (b) Soil Enrichment (c) Compost Preparation (d) Soil Bed Formation (e) Land Preparation.



RADP-West personnel assist in the installation of row tunnels in Daizangi Village of Ab Kamari District, Badghis Province; 18 February 2016

Table 6: Vegetable Cultivation Training in Herat, Badghis, Farah Provinces

Province	District	Village	Date	# of Participant Farmers
Herat	Injil	Navin Sufla	February 23, 2016	21
		Akhondan	February 3, 2016	20
	Guzara	Gul Bafha	February 7, 2016	30
		Gul Bafha	February 8, 2016	32
		Gushmir	February 18, 2016	20
		Dehtapa	February 22, 2016	20
		Golb Nazar	February 24, 2016	19
Badghis	Qala-I-Naw	Center	February 28, 2016	20
Farah	Farah Center	Center	February 24, 2016	20
			February 25, 2016	17
TOTAL				219

⁶ Two row tunnels for seedling production were established in two villages of Ab Kamari District; two in two villages of Qala-I-Naw District, one in one village of Muqur District, and one in one village of Qadis District (Badghis Province).

Orchard Crops

Pruning Training: RADP-West conducted Pruning Training in Badghis Province during the month, with 25 male farmers participating from Qala-I-Naw District. During the training, farmers learned how to properly prune their trees and manage their orchards with the goal of increasing yields.

Selection of Farmers for Orchard Demonstration Training Center Establishment: Pending USAID approval of RADP-West's certified sapling purchase request, RADP-West moved forward with orchard programming during the month by selecting beneficiaries and land for the establishment of orchard demonstration training centers. Ten male farmers from five villages in Injil District and five villages in Guzara District were selected in Herat Province; three male farmers from two villages in Farah Center and one village in Anar Dara District were selected in Farah Province; and four male farmers from one village in Ab Kamari District, one village in Qadis District, one village in Qala-I-Naw District, and one village in Muqur District were selected in Badghis Province. Once approved, RADP-West will distribute saplings and establish orchard demonstration training centers in these locations.

A total of 71 orchard demonstration training centers are planned for establishment during Year Two in Herat (31), Badghis (20), and Farah (20) Provinces, which will enable beneficiary farmers to receive training in the following topics: Orchard Establishment; Site Selection; Layout; Selection of Cultivars; Land Preparation; Spacing; Pruning; Thinning; Pest and Disease Control; Proper Irrigation and Fertilization; Weed Control and Orchard Management; Introduction and Cultivation of Certified Saplings; Integrated Pest Management (IPM); Disease Diagnosis and Technical Control; Water Management; Water Needs Assessment; Optimum Timing, Rate, and Methods of Irrigation; Introduction of Effective Irrigation Systems; Intercropping; Improved Harvesting and Post-Harvest Techniques; Cleaning, Drying, Sorting, and Packing.

Grapes: During the month of February, RADP-West moved forward with grape programming by selecting beneficiaries and land for the establishment of vineyard demonstration training centers. In coordination with the Herat, Badghis, and Farah DAIL offices, RADP-West will establish new "Chapar" vineyards, which utilize metal trellises instead of mud slopes. This allows the vines to grow faster and taller and avoids the need for vines to rest on one another, protecting individual vines from pests, allowing for increased ventilation, and ensuring that maintenance and irrigation can be easily accomplished. Five male farmers from three villages in Guzara District and two villages in Injil District were selected in Herat Province; five male farmers from two villages in Muqur District, one village in Qala-I-Naw District, one village in Qadis District, and one village in Ab Kamari district in Badghis Province; and five male farmers from five villages in Farah Center in Farah Province. A total of 15 "Chapar" vineyards will be established in Herat (5), Badghis (5), and Farah (5), enabling beneficiary farmers to receive training in the following topics: Land Preparation; Cultivation and Planting Techniques; Trellising; Fertilization and Irrigation; Green Pruning and Cluster Constricting; Organic Pest/Disease Control; and Harvesting/Post-Harvesting Techniques.



RADP-West personnel take measurements for a vineyard demonstration training center in Qala Ghulam Sadiq Village of Farah Center; 21 February 2016

Coordination with ATAR Turkmenistan: With a focus on the export market, RADP-West continued communications with the USAID-funded Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project

in Turkmenistan during the month. Fifteen kgs of Green Raisins produced by the Guzara Grape and Raisin Association are scheduled for transport to the ATAR representative in Turkmenistan in early March, to assess buyer interest.

Major Activities Planned for HVC Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Continue to identify, select, and establish Vegetable, Orchard and Vineyard Demonstration Training Centers and beneficiaries in Herat, Farah, and Badghis, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices, and in line with the Year Two Work Plan.
- Continue to develop High Value Crop cultivation seasonal training materials for Orchard and Vineyard training topics, as follows: **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.
- Continue Vegetable Cultivation Training and routinely assess the progress of cultivated vegetable seeds in the row tunnel system, and provide advice as farmers transplant seedlings to their fields in Herat, Badghis, and Farah provinces.
- Continue seed/seedling/sapling distribution in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces for remaining crop types, pending USAID approval and germination test results from DAIL.

3.3 Livestock Value Chain Programming

Supporting VFU Paravets

- **VFU Training:** The six-month Paravet Training Course continued during the month of February for the 8 new paravets (6 male, 2 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 VFUs in target districts, it is expected that farmers will have better access to VFU veterinary and extension services and consequently, animal health and husbandry practices will be improved. This improvement will lead to increased income for farmers. Theoretical topics covered during the month of February included surgery procedures, anatomy, physiology, parasitology, pharmacology, reproduction, and animal husbandry. Practical demonstrations included disease diagnosis, sheep dissection, deworming, and group work in pharmacology. In addition, trainees viewed video clips of how various diseases affect livestock, including anthrax disease, milk fever, and Newcastle disease.

Supporting Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs)

- **LFEW Monitoring:** During the month of February, DCA monitored the activities of eight LFEWs in eight villages of three districts of Herat 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 observed that the performance of all eight LFEWs was acceptable; the LFEWs are conducting monthly meetings with female livestock farmers and providing guidance.

Supporting Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs)

- **FEG Sessions:** During the month of February, DCA extension workers conducted 15 FEG extension sessions for 111 male and 161 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 main purpose of these extension sessions is

to disseminate information on livestock disease prevention, control and diagnosis, the importance of vaccines and proper animal treatment, and good feeding practices. DCA achieves this through targeted training and information sharing relevant to the season and each FEG's geographic location. DCA also helps link these groups with VFUs. Topics covered during these 15 sessions included contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Crimean–Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), pasteurellosis, and Hemorrhagic septicemia (HS) disease, the role of women in animal husbandry, taking care of newborn animals, hygiene, winter feed, milking, estrus cycle, feed supply, and processing animal products.

- **New FEGs:** During the month of February, one female and two male FEGs were established in three villages in Karukh Districts of Herat Province. These groups comprise a total of 20 female and 50 male livestock farmers.

Supporting Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- **SHG Training:** During the month of February, DCA conducted five-day training courses in two villages of two districts in Badghis Province and one village of one district in Herat Province for 67 female members from two SHGs and 30 male members from one SHG. The purpose of the training was to encourage participants to start their own small businesses and empower participants to utilize their own resources in more effective ways in order to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods.
- **New SHGs:** Two new SHGs were established during the month of February, one in the Fristan-Abgarmak village of Qala-I-Naw District on February 1, 2016 and one in the Robot Gorazan village of Injil District on February 4, 2016. Each group comprises 30 female members (60 female members total).

Additional Activities

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

- **VFU Services:** The 15 existing VFUs supported by RADP-West treated 16,583 sheep and goats and vaccinated 22,915 sheep and goats in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces during the month of February.
- **Extension Sessions by VFU Paravets:** During the month of February, VFUs conducted 15 FEG sessions for 145 male livestock farmers in targeted districts in Herat and Badghis provinces. These FEG sessions covered the topics of enterotoxaemia, FMD, peste des petites ruminants (PPR), Newcastle disease, CCPP and Brucellosis diseases, endo-parasites, dystocia, feeding, taking care of newborn animals and the importance of vaccinations.
- **Extension Sessions by LFEWs:** During the month of February, 33 LFEWs trained by RADP-West conducted 33 FEG sessions for 588 female farmers in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis provinces. These FEG sessions covered the topics of cashmere harvesting, milking, taking care of newborn animals, poultry husbandry, marketing, CCPP, and zoonotic diseases.
- **Deworming Campaign:** In order to improve the health of livestock herds in Karukh, Injil, Guzara, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts (Herat Province) and Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, and Ab Kamari Districts (Badghis Province) for market requirements, 15 Deworming Campaigns were conducted



A VFU paravet participates in the deworming campaign in Saleh Abad Village, Injil District; 24 February 2016

during the month of February in six villages of four districts of Herat Province (Karukh, Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun) and eight villages of three districts of Badghis Province (Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari). A total of 21,568 sheep and goats from 399 livestock owners were dewormed during the campaign. These campaigns aim to address internal parasites present within the herds, which is a key concern of regional slaughterhouses, cashmere processors, and dairy process. By addressing this concern through deworming campaigns, the yields and quality of meat, wool, and dairy products will improve.

Major Activities Planned for Livestock Value Chain Programming Next Month

- Continue capacity development support for existing VFU paravets, VFU paravet trainees, FEG members, LFEWs, and SHG members to improve the productivity and health of livestock herds within target districts of the western region.
- Continue VFU de-worming campaigns within target districts of Herat and Badghis provinces. The next scheduled campaign will take place in Guzara District (Herat Province).

3.4 Enabling Environment Programming

Cooperative By-Law/Business Plan Development Workshop: RADP-West supported a Farah DAIL-led workshop held on February 8, 9, and 10 to educate existing and sustainable cooperatives on new MAIL by-law requirements. During the workshop, 16 cooperative members from four cooperatives and three representatives from three agribusinesses were instructed on the need for a viable business plan in order to renew their licenses with MAIL. The RADP-West Enabling Environment Department will work with these cooperatives to prepare business plans, as these enterprises play an active role in the receipt and sale of wheat, HVC, and livestock produce to regional agribusinesses within RADP-West target districts.



Cooperative members and agribusiness representatives in Farah Province learn about new MAIL by-law requirements during a three-day workshop; 8 February 2016

Livestock Value Chain Coordination

Meeting in Karukh District:

On February 7, 2016, RADP-West facilitated a coordination meeting in Karukh District bringing together leading male herders, members of the Herat Dairy Union, and representatives from the Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA), the First Microfinance Institution Bank (FMFB), the Itahad Cotton Industrial Company, and DAIL. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a forum for the exchange of information on livestock requirements in animal feed and milk collection centers. In addition, the meeting aimed to provide information to herders on financial support options and methods by which to increase profits and profitability. A total of 50 participants attended the meeting. RADP-West will follow-up on commitments made during the coordination meeting, and report tangible outcomes in future reports.

Meeting between Herat Dairy Union and Itahad Cotton Industrial Company:

As a follow-up to the meeting in Karukh District on livestock value chain improvement, on February 10, 2016 RADP-West facilitated a meeting between board members of the Herat Dairy Union and the Itahad Cotton Industrial Company. The board members visited each other's premises and discussed their past experiences, current products, capabilities, and animal feed products. The Herat Dairy Union also provided a brief overview on the processing of sheep and goat milk into dry yogurt and the

provision of feed to herders. Initial discussions on potential collaboration and business deals between the Herat Dairy Union and the Itahad Company—in the form of purchase agreements for milk and dry yogurt from RADP-West beneficiaries as well as provision of cotton seed cake products from the Itahad Company—were initiated during the meeting. RADP-West will continue to follow-up and provide support to both parties as they shape potential business deals.

Cashmere Demonstration and Market Linkage Events: During the third week of February, Cashmere Demonstration and Market Linkage events were held in Qala-I-Naw District (February 22), Qadis District (February 23), Ab Kamari District (February 24) and Muqur District (February 25). These events were led by the Badghis DAIL and included 20 livestock herders each, in addition to representatives from the Sodais Soud Cashmere Processing Company, RADP-West, and DCA. The events included academic and practical demonstration instructions on how to improve the volume and quality of cashmere wool harvests, how to access regional markets, cashmere buyer requirements and laying the foundation for future organized activities between sellers and buyers.



DCA trainer shows how to properly harvest cashmere by combing; 25 February 2016

At the end of each event, the Sodais Soud Cashmere Processing Company signed agreements with livestock beneficiaries, committing to purchase 15.5 Metric Tons (MT) of cashmere wool during April and May 2016. RADP-West will continue to track these activities to confirm that the sale of cashmere is completed.

Table 7: Contract Agreements Signed between Livestock Beneficiaries and Sodais Soud Cashmere Processing Company

District	Location	Date	Livestock Farmer Participants	# of Contracted Farmers	Quantity (kg)
Qala-I-Naw	Badghis DAIL Conference Hall	February 22, 2016	20	7	7,100
Ab Kamari	Ab Kamari DAIL Conference Hall	February 23, 2016	20	3	400
Muqur	Muqur District Conference Hall	February 24, 2016	20	6	620
Qadis	Qadis DAIL Conference Hall	February 25, 2016	20	10	7,400
Total			80	26	15,520

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.
- Conduct a Cashmere Harvest Demonstration Training in Herat 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.

- Coordinate a meeting with the Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project (AAEP) II and the Herat Agriculture University to discuss cooperation and potential involvement in setting up a Market Information Center.
- Sayara International will provide a complete report on constraint analyses, including economic analyses, for the below topics by March 25, 2016. RADP-West will review and submit the reports to RADP-South by March 31, 2016:
 - Lack of Access to Finance
 - Lack of Public Private Partnerships
 - Lack of Access to Value Chain Markets
 - Lack of Effective/Functioning Customs/Border Procedures to Facilitate Cross-Border Trade of Agricultural Products.
- Conduct an assessment of raisin houses and select 10 in Herat Province to be considered for support by RADP-West for improvement in raisin quality, hygiene, and marketing.
- Conduct an Access to Finance Awareness Conference for agribusinesses in coordination with MFIs and DAIL at the DAIL Plant Protection Department in Herat on March 16, 2016.
- Conduct Meat Value Chain Conferences in Herat, Farah and Badghis Provinces.
- Support six agribusinesses to participate in the International Agriculture Fair, scheduled for March 20-24, 2016 in Kabul at the Badam Bagh Research Farm.

3.5 Cross-Cutting Themes

3.5.1 Gender and Nutrition Programming

Vegetable Cultivation Training: RADP-West conducted Vegetable Cultivation Training for 21 female farmers in the Sara Now Village of Injil District on February 16, 2016 and for 21 female farmers from the Rubat Sulaiman Village of Guzara District on February 17, 2016. Seedbed preparation, the correct use of fertilizer, compost-making, cultivation methods, and seedling production were discussed during these trainings.

Sales Book Distribution: RADP-West developed, printed, and distributed 110 sales recordkeeping books for female beneficiary farmers in Rubat Sulaiman Village (Guzara District), Sara Now Village (Injil District), and Ghaizun Sanger Village (Injil District) during the month of February. These sales recordkeeping books will assist female farmers in maintaining a record of the USD value of sales obtained as a result of the support provided by RADP-West.

Food Safety Training: On February 18, 2016, RADP-West conducted a full-day training for 20 female board members of the Rabat Pirzada Women Food Processing Center located in Rabat Pirzada Village in Injil District (Herat Province). This processing center was established in 2010 and is licensed by the Ministry of Justice and Chamber of Commerce. In the past, this processing center produced pickles, jams, and tomato paste, but experienced difficulty in selling their products due to poor quality control and packaging. RADP-West is providing support to this business in development of a business plan. Once complete, this processing center plans to submit a grant application for further support.

The training covered general hygiene practices, food safety standards, and good manufacturing practices (GMP). During the training, participants learned how to keep packing areas clean, the importance of clean water for fruit and vegetable cleaning, and proper use of distributed hygiene toolkits, which included a coat, hat, gloves, and a mask.

Major Activities Planned for Gender and Nutrition Next Month

- Continue to identify and select female beneficiaries in Herat, Farah, and Badghis, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices, and in line with the Year Two Work Plan.
- Continue Vegetable Cultivation Training and routinely assess the progress of cultivated vegetable seeds in the row tunnel system, and provide advice as female farmers transplant seedlings to their fields in Herat Province.

3.5.2 Grants Programming

Concept Notes Evaluated: RADP-West established a technical evaluation committee to review and evaluate ten concept notes between February 1 and 10, 2016. The technical evaluation committee reviewed the concept notes and found two technically acceptable; revision comments for one concept note were submitted to the applicant for review and resubmission.

Full Application Evaluation: RADP-West established a selection committee on February 10, 2016 to review and evaluate one full application for the Morvarid Food Industry Company. The technical team reviewed and evaluated the application, finding it technically acceptable. RADP-West conducted a pre-award assessment and completed the required pre-award documentation requirements. A site visit was conducted on February 25, 2016 with no major issues identified; the full grant approval package will be submitted to USAID for approval in March 2016.

Concept Note Workshop: On February 25, 2016, RADP-West conducted a Concept Note Workshop for three interested applicants. During the workshop, RADP-West explained the Annual Program Statement's objectives and the Grants Lifecycle. A concept note template was distributed and instructions were provided on how to complete and submit the concept note.

Request for Applications Posting: RADP-West drafted and finalized a Request for Applications (RFA) during the month of February with the goal of enhancing the capacity of RADP-West identified agribusiness beneficiaries in developing effective requests for funding, including the development of business plans and grant proposals/concept notes. RFA No. RADP-W-RFA-EE-01 for RADP-West Enabling Environment Business Plan Development Proposal Writing Grant Support was posted to the ACBAR site on February 16, 2016.⁷ The end date for application submissions is March 17, 2016.

Pre-Application Workshop: On February 25, 2016, RADP-West conducted a Pre-Application Workshop for five representatives of three companies. During the Workshop, RADP-West reviewed the objectives, main activities, and expected results for RADP-W-RFA-EE-01. Questions raised during the Workshop were noted by RADP-West staff, with responses posted to the ACBAR site for the review of all potential applicants.⁸

Grant Negotiations: RADP-West conducted several negotiations with applicants during the month to ensure that full applications met RADP-West and Annual Program Statement (APS) objectives. RADP-West negotiated with the following companies and provided comments as needed:

- **Najiaa Food and Agriculture Development:** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with Najiaa Food and Agriculture Development and requested that the applicant

⁷ <http://www.acbar.org/files/downloads/RADP-W-RFA-EE-01.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.acbar.org/files/downloads/RFPwest.pdf>

revise their application. RADP-West is negotiating with the grantee to develop activities aimed at strengthening women's capacity in agriculture. This will be accomplished through training and on-the-job assistance in planting, harvesting, processing, packaging and marketing, with the goal of increasing income and revenues.

- **Qala-e-Sharbat Processing Center:** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with the Qala-e-Sharbat Processing Center during the month of February and is working closely with the center to determine whether the center's solar panel system can support the proposed processing machine as part of this grant activity. The proposed activities include upgraded equipment and facilities, in addition to standards certification focused on tomato paste, jam, pickles, and vegetable drying for 26 women working at the center.
- **Sodais Soud Ltd.:** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with Sodais Soud Ltd. to discuss the company's concept for cashmere raw material collection and processing. The proposed activity will enable the company to export processed goods to Europe, and will include the provision of machinery for processing. The cost of the grant will be shared by RADP-West and the grantee.

Major Activities Planned for Grants Programming Next Month

- Pending USAID approval, grants will be issued to greenhouse pilot projects in Injil (Pioneer Support and Services) and Shindand (Welfare and Support Afghan Women Disable Organization - WSAWDO) districts for vegetable production and training, as well as Orchard Management training in Farah Province (WSAWDO) for beneficiary farmers (CLIN 2: High Value Crops).
- Pending USAID approval, an in-kind grant will be issued to the Morvarid Food Industries 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 March 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 RADP-W-RFA-EE-02 focused on operational and sales support for agribusiness beneficiaries. The purpose of the workshop will be to support the development of potential grant applications.
- RADP-West plans to issue follow-on grants to five Seed Enterprises to continue work carried out under grants issued in November 2015. Under the Year Two Work Plan, RADP-West is committed to working with seed enterprises in order to achieve both productivity and profitability in Herat's Wheat sector. Therefore, RADP-West is proposing a new grant to enable five Seed Enterprises to distribute an additional 50 kg of Urea fertilizer and woven polypropylene bags to 3,000 contracted farmers to achieve their objective in wheat productivity and profitability for the 2016 harvest. The grants will also ensure that Foundation Seed provided to farmers in November 2015 is able to be certified in accordance with DAIL regulations.

4. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

4.1 USAID and non-USAID Funded Projects

Submission of Constraints/Constraints Analysis to RADP-South:

- Four constraints were analyzed during the month of February and submitted to RADP-South on February 29, as follows:
 - Constraint #7: Lack of Functionality/Sustainability of Agricultural Associations and Cooperatives
 - Constraint #8: Lack of Skills Training for Women in the Agriculture Sector
 - Constraint #9: Lack of Availability, Access, and Utilization of Mechanization in the Agriculture Sector
 - Constraint #10: Lack of Proper Range Management

4.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Spring Agriculture Fair 2016: MAIL has announced plans for a four-day Agriculture Fair, to be held in Kabul March 20-24, 2016. RADP-West will provide support to six agribusiness to attend this year's Ag-Fair, where the agribusinesses will learn about new national and international market requirements and meet competitors, national producers, and traders.

Municipal Abattoir (Slaughterhouse) Assessments:

- On February 2, 2016, RADP-West conducted a slaughterhouse assessment in Herat Province. The purpose of the visit was to identify and address some of the gaps in the livestock value chain, especially in processing. The Herat Slaughterhouse is located in an old building with outdated equipment; there is a lack of washing tools, water supply network, cleaning equipment and canalization, hygiene and sanitation. Although RADP-West cannot support the construction and renovation needed by this slaughterhouse, the project plans to work with butchers to improve hygiene, sanitation, and health and safety practices.
- On February 7, 2016, RADP-West visited the Farah Province Slaughterhouse and met with one butcher shop representative. The Farah Municipality leased the slaughterhouse to a private sector operator. The team observed that the condition of the slaughterhouse is very poor; there is a lack of proper equipment and poor hygiene standards. The butcher shop representative listed difficulties faced by the butchers, including lack of electricity, lack of knowledge of hygiene standards, and lack of enclosures for meat displays or screens in windows to stop flies. The RADP-West assessors recommended that the butchers be provided with technical support, including training and demonstration materials, in order to improve hygiene, food safety and production capabilities.



During an assessment of the Herat Slaughterhouse, RADP-West personnel noted that the canals were not working (no water flow); 2 February 2016

5. ANNEXES

5.1 Indicator Performance Table

See attached Excel file.

5.2 February Monthly JPEG Photos

See attached Zip file.