



Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) – West

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Quarter 2, January – March 2016



Female farmer extension group (FEG) members discuss best practices for caring for newborn lambs; 17Mar16

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Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) - West

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

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAEP	Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Program
ADF	Agricultural Development Fund
AMA	Afghanistan Microfinance Association
ANHDO	Afghanistan National Horticulture Development Organization
APPF	Afghan Public Protection Force
APS	Annual Program Statement
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue
B2B	Business-to-Business
CCHF	Crimean–Congo Hemorrhagic Fever
CCPP	Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
CO	Contracting Officer
COR	Contracting Officer’s Representative
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DoWA	Directorate of Women’s Affairs
DTC	Demonstration Training Center
DV	Dynamic Vision
EA	Equal Access
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
FINCA	Foundation for International Community Assistance
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
FMFB	First Microfinance Bank
GAALO	Green Afghanistan Agriculture and Livestock Organization

GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
HS	Hemorrhagic Septicemia
HVC	High Value Crops
IADC	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
LFEW	Local Female Extension Worker
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MCC	Milk Collection Center
MFI	Morvarid Food Industries
MT	Metric Ton
PMU	Program Management Unit
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
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
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 agriculture, which will support the consolidation of licit economies, fuel economic growth, and provide alternatives to poppy cultivation. In addition, the project’s Enabling Environment Department is designed to support MAIL in its efforts to adopt longer term improvements in national agricultural policy and regulatory development. Chemonics implements RADP-West with the support of Key Implementing Partners (KIPs). These KIPs include: Agency For Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA), Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)¹ and Equal Access. The table below outlines RADP-West KIP’s geographic coverage and primary responsibilities:

Table 1: RADP-West KIP Coverage Areas and Responsibilities

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

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

I.2 Geographic Coverage

Table 2: RADP-West Target Provinces and Districts

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

¹ The ICARDA subcontract has not yet been finalized.

² Muqur District in Badghis Province is referred to as ‘Muqur-1’ in USAID’s MTM capture tool and ArcGIS. RADP-West will refer to this district throughout this report as ‘Muqur’.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During Quarter 2, RADP-West continued Wheat, HVC, Livestock, Enabling Environment, and Gender and Nutrition activities across selected districts within Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces. Through targeted trainings, assessments, and capacity building, RADP-West established support for existing MAIL programming and set the stage for providing farmers with means for increased household incomes.

2.1 Summary of Key Accomplishments during the Quarter

Wheat Production and Value Chain Programming

- Assessed and monitored germination rates of 859 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.
- Administered Wheat Cultivation Training for 1,578 male farmers from villages in Injil, Guzara, Karukh, and Koshk Districts (Herat Province); Muqur, Qadis, Qala-I-Naw, and Ab Kamari Districts (Badghis); and Farah Center and Pusht Rod Districts (Farah Province). 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.
- Administered Wheat Post-Harvest Training for 63 female farmers in four villages of Badghis Province (one each in Qadis, Ab Kamari, Qala-I-Naw, and Muqur Districts). These beneficiaries will benefit from an additional post-harvest training during the wheat harvesting period.
- Held follow-up meetings and received verbal commitments from the Aria and Tahr-e-Naw Flour Mills that these enterprises are ready to purchase all certified wheat that will be available during the upcoming harvest in June and July, as long as the yields are consistent with quality requirements.
- Identified and commenced the establishment of 14 Wheat Demonstration Training Centers (DTCs) in Herat and Farah Provinces.

High Value Crops Production and Value Chain Programming

- Commenced seed distribution for the Spring Planting Season for male farmers in Herat Province (tomato, eggplant, sweet pepper, squash, cucumber, okra, onion seeds), Badghis Province (tomato and eggplant seeds), and Farah Province (tomato, watermelon, cucumber, onion seeds). Female farmers in Herat Province received squash, okra, cucumber, tomato, eggplant, onion, parsley, coriander, green bean, basil, radish, and dill seeds.
- Conducted Vegetable Cultivation Training in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces, with 179 male farmers participating in Herat Province; 248 male farmers participating in Badghis Province; and 37 male farmers participating in Farah Province. Vegetable Cultivation Training was also conducted for 42 female farmers in Injil District, 21 female farmers in Guzara District (Herat Province), 38 female farmers in Qadis District, 42 female farmers in Qala-I-Naw District, 21 female farmers in Ab Kamari District, and 21 female farmers in Muqur District (Badghis Province).
- Conducted Pruning Training on stone fruits, which include pistachio and apricot, in Badghis Province for 25 male farmers in Qala-I-Naw District to promote better orchard management and increase yields.
- In addition to selecting beneficiary farmers for participation in RADP-West's Year Two Orchard Programming, selected and worked with lead farmers to establish Orchard DTCs in Injil and Guzara Districts (Herat Province) and Muqur and Qadis Districts (Badghis Province). A total of two Apricot, one Peach, and three Plum Orchard DTCs were established in Herat and one Walnut and one Apple Orchard DTC in Badghis.

- In addition to selecting beneficiary farmers for participation in RADP-West's Year Two Grape Programming, selected and worked with lead farmers to establish Vineyard DTCs in Guzara District (Herat Province); Muqur, Qala-I-Naw, Ab Kamari, and Qadis Districts (Badghis Province); and Farah Center District (Farah Province). A total of 12 Vineyard DTCs were established in March.
- With a focus on the export market, the Enabling Environment Department continued communications with the USAID-funded Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project in Turkmenistan during the quarter. Fifteen kilograms of Green Raisins produced by the Guzara Grape and Raisin Association were transported to the ATAR representative in Turkmenistan on March 3, 2016, to assess buyer interest.
- Conducted needs assessments of two raisin houses in Guzara District (Herat Province) to assess capabilities and identify needs for future RADP-West intervention.

Livestock Production and Value Chain Programming

- Continued capacity development support activities for existing Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) Paravets (refresher training courses), student Paravets (DCA course in Herat City), Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs), 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.
- Established linkages between Paravets and a Cashmere Processing Company in Herat by facilitating an exposure visit for 10 VFU Paravets from Herat and Badghis Provinces; during the visit, Paravets were briefed on the entire production process and were requested to transfer extension information to livestock farmers in their villages.
- In coordination with the Herat Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL), hosted a "Livestock Farmer Field Day" to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned regarding livestock health and management practices for 165 livestock stakeholders from Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, and Koshk Districts (Herat Province).
- 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 nine Cashmere Demonstration and Market Linkage Events in Herat and Badghis Provinces during the quarter between 200 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 58 livestock beneficiaries for the purchase of 21.38 Metric Tons (MT) of cashmere wool during the cashmere harvest season in April and May 2016.
- In order to improve the health of livestock herds in Karukh, Injil, Guzara, Koshk, and Pashtun Zarghun Districts (Herat Province) and Qala-I-Naw, Qadis, and Ab Kamari Districts (Badghis Province) for market requirements, 18 additional Deworming Campaigns were conducted during the quarter in nine villages of five 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 24,371 sheep and goats were dewormed during the campaign.
- To address gaps in the livestock value chain, particularly in meat processing, RADP-West met with Herat and Farah Province Municipal Abattoir (Slaughterhouse). Officials during the month of February to discuss issues of meat quality, food safety, and product hygiene. Follow-on Meat Value Chain Conferences were held in Herat and Farah Provinces during the month of March to raise awareness of poor slaughterhouse conditions and improve hygienic practices. Hygiene training was also conducted for participants during the conference.
- RADP-West continued to assess the capabilities and sustainability of agribusinesses and cooperatives during the quarter, conducting assessments of nine agribusinesses in Badghis Province and nine Milk Collection Centers (MCCs) in Herat Province for potential support.

Enabling Environment Programming

- In collaboration with RADP-North, RADP-South and USAID, prepared and submitted the following seven constraints to MAIL (via RADP-South):
 - 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
 - Constraint #7: Lack of Functionality/Sustainability of Agricultural Associations and Cooperatives
 - Constraint #8: Lack of Skills Training for Women in the Agriculture Sector³
 - Constraint #9: Lack of Availability, Access, and Utilization of Mechanization in the Agriculture Sector
 - Constraint #10: Lack of Proper Range Management
- In coordination with the Herat, Badghis, and Farah DAILs, RADP-West delivered three Cooperative By-Law/Business Plan Development Workshops during the quarter to provide vital information to cooperative members on the need for a viable business plan in order to renew their licenses with MAIL and continue operation. This involved participants from wheat, livestock and HVC.
- To address gaps in knowledge regarding available financing options, RADP-West hosted an Access to Finance Awareness Conference in Herat, with the support of DAIL, other USAID projects, and regional Microfinance Institutions. This involved participants from wheat, livestock and HVC.
- In collaboration with the Herat and Farah DAIL Offices, RADP-West conducted two, full-day Strengthening Women's Engagement in Agriculture Technology Workshops with the purpose of expanding women's participation in the sector.
- RADP-West supported the attendance of six western region agribusinesses at the 2016 Spring Agriculture Fair in Kabul, where these agribusinesses advertised their products and services and met with government representatives and a range of market actors. Sales made by these agribusinesses during the four-day event totaled 1,533,658 AFN (22,255.96 USD). During this period, 69 women working with the program recorded total sales of \$17,082 from their vegetable crops while cashmere exports amounted to \$551,798.

Subcontractor Highlights

AREA (Badghis):

- RADP-West finalized negotiations with AREA 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, and undertook activities specific to its Provincial Work Plan during the month of March. More information on activities in Badghis Province supported by AREA is included in Section 3.2 High Value Crops Value Chain Programming.
- RADP-West has employed a performance review approach with AREA under Task Order #2 to ensure that programmatic deficiencies are identified and resolved as they arise. A complete record of AREA's performance will be maintained during Year Two.

³ In response to an inquiry from the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), RADP-West notes that the project does not choose constraints; they are identified by consensus in a process led by RADP-South.

DCA (Herat and Badghis): Activities continued as outlined under the subcontract. Budget discussions between DCA and the Chemonics Home Office continued during the quarter regarding the required livestock activities in Farah Province and increasing the number of VFUs established from 32 to 40. Final negotiations are currently being handled by the Field Office Grants and Subcontracts Department.

Equal Access (EA) (Herat, Farah, Badghis): On January 15, 2016, EA submitted an updated budget and revised Scope of Work (SOW) to the RADP-West Program Management Unit (PMU), in order to address the program's Communications and Public Outreach needs under the Year Two Work Plan. The final SOW was approved by the RADP-West Chief of Party on February 24, 2016. Negotiations and discussions continued between Equal Access and the RADP-West PMU during the month of March, with the final Modification signed on March 22, 2016. During the quarter, Equal Access continued to provide technical support in the development of Wheat and HVC training materials covering the following subject matter: 1) Wheat - six stages of wheat growth, weeding, irrigation, and fertilizer application; HVC - furrow irrigation for vegetable crops, plastic tunnels, seedling production, raised seed beds, staking and fastening tomatoes, and fertilizer application (see Annex 6.7).

Baseline and Control Data Survey Report: On January 24, 2016, RADP-West issued Request for Proposal (RFP) RADP-W-2016-0002 for the completion of the RADP-West Baseline Survey. Responses to Offeror questions were posted to the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (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 identified a shortlist of subcontractors. RADP-West initiated budget negotiations and began a pre-award assessment on February 23, 2016. Negotiations commenced during the month of March with the first choice candidate; however, a workable agreement was not reached due to disagreements on implementation requirements. The RADP-West PMU assumed responsibility for negotiations and has engaged in negotiations with the second choice candidate. SOW and budget discussions are currently ongoing.

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

Sayara Strategies: Sayara 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, with vetting approval received on February 6, 2016. RADP-West issued a Fixed Price Subcontract on February 16, 2016. Sayara is responsible for completing 3-4 constraint reports per month through August 2016.

Rural Development Associate Services Organization (RDASO): RADP-West finalized negotiations with RDASO for the establishment of ten Orchard Demonstration Training Centers (DTCs) 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 on February 12, 2016 for sapling procurement in support of this activity, and received approval on March 8, 2016 for several varieties. On April 19, 2016, RADP-West issued Modification #1 to the RDASO subcontract, reducing the number of required Orchard DTCs from 10 to six. This reduction was made due to re-evaluation of the ability of the subcontractor to establish the demonstration training centers based on the orchard cycle.

Master Trainer Subcontracts: In accordance with the approved Year Two Work Plan, RADP-West finalized negotiations with the Master Trainer subcontractors (Dynamic Vision and Green Afghanistan Agriculture and Livestock Organization - GAALO) and aligned their respective scopes of work with Work Plan activity objectives. For Wheat training, the RADP-West PMU submitted a request for CO consent on April 5, 2016, as the total budget was over \$150,000.

2.2 Summary of Constraints and Critical Issues

Insecurity in Western Afghanistan

The RADP-West team and its KIPs faced increasing insecurity in some areas within the project's target districts during the quarter. Specifically, a security incident on February 22, 2016 where RADP-West staff were verbally threatened by a group of criminals precipitated suspension of all RADP-West staff travel to Gawashan village in Guzara District. As at the end of the quarter, this security restriction was still in place. Another village in Guzara District, Siashwan, was also under restriction due to frequent rocket attacks originating in the area. In addition, the road between Farah Center District and Anar Dara District in Farah Province continued to be insecure. Pusht Rod District also became increasingly unstable during the quarter, with approximately 90% of villages under Taliban control. RADP-West worked closely with the Farah DAIL Director to identify the security status and plan activities in Farah Province during the quarter.

Delay in Orchard Establishment

Under HVC programming, RADP-West was unable to establish one Almond and three Peach orchards due to seasonally warmer conditions this winter/spring; as such, there was insufficient time to transfer saplings prior to blossoming. These activities have been reassigned to November 2016.

Staffing

Due to the ongoing discussions with USAID regarding Modification #4, the restructuring of the RADP-West organizational chart is not yet final. Until the Modification #4 budget is approved, the project is delaying the onboarding of several positions in order to ensure only the hiring of approved staff. The current level of staffing is less than that necessary to implement all activities outlined under the Year Two Work Plan⁴; activities will ramp back up with increased staffing after the successful completion of the Modification.

⁴ The RADP-West Year Two Work Plan was approved by USAID on February 18, 2016. This Work Plan covers the period October 1, 2015 – September 30, 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 quarter, 859 cultivated plots with certified wheat were assessed by wheat department field personnel in Injil District (171), Guzara District (204), Karukh District (246), Pashtun Zarghun District (114), and Koshk District (124). The technical team and DAIL staff are still validating the assessment findings and the results will be reported in Q3.



RADP-West Wheat Personnel provide irrigation advice to a Wheat Farmer in Chalista Village, Karukh District, Herat Province

Data validation will be carried out in Badghis and Farah provinces as well.

Table 3: Cultivated Wheat Plot Assessments

#	Province	District	# of Wheat Plots Inspected
1	Herat	Injil	171
2		Guzara	204
3		Karukh	246
4		Pashtun Zarghun	114
5		Koshk	124
Total			859

Wheat Cultivation Training: Wheat Cultivation Training was administered during the quarter in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces in which 1,578 male farmers from Injil, Guzara, Karukh, and Koshk Districts (Herat Province); Muqur, Qadis, Qala-I-Naw, and Ab Kamari Districts (Badghis); Farah Center and Pusht Rod Districts (Farah Province) 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.



RADP-West Personnel lead a practical demonstration during Wheat Cultivation Training in Akhondan Village in Guzara District; 24Feb16

Table 4: Wheat Cultivation Training for Male Farmer Beneficiaries

Province	District	Village ⁵	Date	# of Participant Farmers
Herat	Injil	Sarwestan	February 2, 2016	30
		Sufyan	February 8, 2016	30
		Meladan	February 8, 2016	30
		Kababyan	February 9, 2016	30
		Gerdab	February 9, 2016	30
		Taw Beryan	February 10, 2016	30
		Saleh Abad	February 10, 2016	30
		Qafaslan	February 16, 2016	30
		Sara Naw	March 2, 2016	30
		Badallu	March 2, 2016	30
	Guzara	Shakoor Khani	February 16, 2016	28
		Khalachan	February 17, 2016	30
		Talas	February 17, 2016	30
		Gawashan	February 22, 2016	30
		Zahidan	February 22, 2016	26
		Mahale BaghBanha	February 23, 2016	30
		Goshmir	February 23, 2016	30
		Akhondan	February 24, 2016	30
		Gol Vafa	February 24, 2016	30
		Karukh	Bagh Dasht	February 29, 2016
	Arghwan Shah		February 29, 2016	30
	Bala Mahala		March 22, 2016	30
	Payan Mahala		March 23, 2016	30
	Koshk	Qanat Wakil	March 29, 2016	27
		Khwaja Gul Bed	March 28, 2016	30
		Khwaja Qasem	March 28, 2016	28
		Sanjari	March 29, 2016	28
		Koti Ha	March 29, 2016	30
		Shir Baye	March 30, 2016	30
		Rabat-i-Sangi-i-Bala	March 31, 2016	30
Badghis ⁶	Mukur	Center	March 8, 2016	30
		Center	March 9, 2016	30
		Chashma-i-Dozakh	March 16, 2016	42
		Chashma-i-Dozakh	March 27, 2016	42
	Qadis	Arbab Sarwar	March 21, 2016	42
		Center	March 23, 2016	42
		Center	March 24, 2016	40
		Center	March 15, 2016	42
	Qala-I-Naw	Tagab-i-Ismail	March 17, 2016	42
		Gharghaitu	March 28, 2016	42

⁵ Village indicates the Training Location. Participants were typically from villages in the immediate surrounding area, unless otherwise noted.

⁶ Trainings conducted in Badghis Province were conducted by RADP-West's subcontractor AREA.

	Ab Kamari	Center ⁷	March 7, 2016	30
		Center ⁸	March 10, 2016	30
		Agha Sufi	March 22, 2016	39
		Khwaja Ahmadi	March 26, 2016	63
Farah	Farah Center	Center	March 8, 2016	30
			March 9, 2016	24
			March 14, 2016	28
			March 15, 2016	24
		Pusht Rod	March 16, 2016 ⁹	29
TOTAL				1,578

Establishment of Wheat Demonstration Training Centers (DTCs): In line with the approved Year Two Work Plan, RADP-West commenced the identification and establishment of Wheat DTCs in Herat and Farah provinces during the quarter. These DTCs will provide a forum for RADP-West Wheat Department personnel, DAIL Extension Workers, subcontracted Master Trainers, agribusinesses, and private seed enterprises to provide capacity development instruction and extension services to wheat farmer beneficiaries in RADP-West target districts. In total, RADP-West identified and commenced the establishment of 14 DTCs in Herat and Farah provinces in the following districts; Injil (two), Guzara (three), Pashtun Zarghun (three), Karukh (two), and Koshk (one) Districts of Herat Province, and in Farah Center (three) District of Farah Province. These DTCs will be fully established during Quarter 3.

Table 5: Selected Wheat Demonstration Training Center Locations

Province	District	Village
Herat	Injil	Sufyan
		Tow Barian
	Guzara	Gosh Mir
		Gol Vafa
		Talas
	Pashtun Zarghun	Qasr Naser
		Mahmora
		Dogh Abad
		Payan Mahala
	Karukh	Qala Bala
Khaja Qasim		
Koshk	Kabuli Ha	
	Arbab Khil	
	Qala Bebod	

Capacity Development of Badghis DAIL Extension Workers: RADP-West, through its subcontractor AREA, conducted a capacity development and technical support training for four male Badghis DAIL Extension Workers in Qala-I-Naw on March 13, 2016. This capacity development training was held to further expand the delivery of extension services by provincial DAILs. By

⁷ This training was conducted in Qala-I-Naw Center, but was comprised of beneficiary farmers from two villages in Muqur District. The training was re-located due to security issues.

⁸ This training was conducted in Qala-I-Naw Center, but was comprised of beneficiary farmers from one village in Muqur District. The training was re-located due to security issues.

⁹ This training was conducted in Farah Center District, but was comprised of beneficiary farmers from Pusht Rod District. The training was re-located due to security issues.



A member of the Aria Flour Mill removes a bag of wheat flour from the Aria Flour Mill storage location in Herat; 24Feb16

providing this training at the start of the training season, these extension workers will be better equipped to take a more active role in upcoming trainings for beneficiaries.

Coordination with Herat DAIL and 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/July harvest. To formalize this collaboration, on March 6, 2016 RADP-West hosted a

meeting with the Herat DAIL Extension Department and representatives from four Private Seed Enterprises to discuss the inspection plan for the cultivated foundation wheat seed plots. The Herat DAIL shared that, while it is required to inspect all 1,200 of the foundation seed plots¹⁰ in Herat and issue certification, the Herat DAIL lacks the logistical and human resources to undertake this required number of foundation seed plot inspections. The Private Seed Enterprises suggested that the government and RADP-West work together to undertake the required inspections. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that the Herat DAIL's Seed Certification Department would draft an inspection plan, and that RADP-West and the Seed Certification Department would work together to implement the plan.

Private Seed Enterprises Linked with Commercial Flour Mills: On February 24, 2016, RADP-West conducted a site visit to the Aria Flour Mill Company in order to discuss an initial agreement with Aria for the purchase of surplus wheat from RADP-West beneficiary farmers after the wheat harvest in June/July. Previously, during the month of January, Aria verbally committed to purchasing all available certified wheat harvests, on the condition that crop quality standards were in line with their own. 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.

On March 17, 2016, RADP-West facilitated an introductory visit between the Aria Flour Mill Company and four Private Seed Enterprises that participated in November's Seed Multiplication Program. Each of the Seed Enterprises explained their business plan, source of inputs, and how they sell their products. Aria shared that, in the past, they have exclusively imported wheat due to its high quality and lower price than the wheat available locally. RADP-West will continue to facilitate conversations and report progress on agreements between the Aria Flour Mill, the Private Seed Enterprises, and beneficiary wheat farmers.

Follow-On Grants for Seed Enterprises: RADP-West worked with five Herat Seed Enterprises during the quarter to assess the possibility of follow-on awards, which would enable these Seed Enterprises to distribute an additional 50 Kg of Urea fertilizer and storage bags to 3,000 contracted farmers.

¹⁰ All 1,200 of the foundation seed plots are located in Herat. The plots in Farah and Badghis provinces contain certified seed, and do not require separate certification from DAIL.

Major Activities Planned for Wheat Value Chain Programming Next Quarter

- Continue to identify and select Wheat Demonstration Training Centers in Herat, Farah and Badghis, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices. These DTCs will be identified and selected by the subcontractor in preparation of year 3 activities to avoid delays in establishing the DTCs as experienced during year 2.
- Carry out joint site visits between the RADP-West Wheat Department, Enabling Environment Department, DAIL, and the Private Seed Enterprises to assess the quality of the planted foundation wheat crops.
- Assess, monitor, and provide technical guidance for the remaining certified wheat plots in Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces.
- Continue Wheat Training in target districts of Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces, with a focus on harvest and post-harvest activities.
- Commence Crop Rotation Training during the month of June, to coincide with wheat post-harvest activities.
- Continue collaboration with flour mills in Herat and Badghis Provinces for the purchase of surplus wheat from RADP-West beneficiaries after the June/July harvest.

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 DTC establishment. Once established, 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 6: HVC Crops and Seasons

Province	High Value Crop Value Chain	Crop Type
Herat	Grapes	Grapes and Raisins (Lal, Fakhari, Kishmishi, Shangul Khani, Roucha Varieties) ¹¹
Herat	Vegetables	Spring Season: Onions, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Peppers, Sweet Peppers, Celery, Squash, Okra 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) ⁵
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) ⁵
Badghis	Vegetables	Spring Season: Tomatoes, Eggplant, Okra Fall Season: Cauliflower
Badghis	Orchard Crops (Fruits and Nuts)	Fruits: Apples Nuts: Pistachios, Walnuts

¹¹ These varieties represent a sample of those that will be utilized.

Vegetables

Herat – During the month of February, RADP-West commenced distribution of seeds to beneficiary farmers in Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, and Koshk Districts (Herat Province). Twenty-five farmers (24 male, one female) received tomato, eggplant, or sweet pepper seeds for planting and production of seedlings in 25 row tunnel systems, also provided by RADP-West.¹² Once the tomato, eggplant, and sweet pepper seedlings are ready for transplant, these 25 farmers (in addition to 158 other farmers) will re-plant the seedlings on their land. During the month of March, RADP-West continued seed distribution in Herat, with 128 male farmers in Guzara district, 149 male farmers in Injil district, and 14 male farmers in Pashtun Zarghun district receiving squash, cucumber, okra, or onion seeds, which can be cultivated directly on the farmers' land (and do not need to be planted in the row tunnel systems for seedling production). Also during the month of March, 143 farmers in Karukh district received okra, onion, or tomato seeds and 15 male farmers in Koshk district received onion seeds. RADP-West followed up on the 25 row tunnel systems established in February, to ensure that farmers were able to produce the required number of seedlings; RADP-West also provided advice to the farmers on weeding and temperature control. RADP-West determined that the number of seedlings in production was sufficient, and that they would be ready for planting in the field during the month of April.



Farmers from Gol Vafa Village in Guzara District sign distribution forms for tomato, eggplant, and sweet pepper seeds in Herat Province; 13Feb16

Badghis – During the month of February, RADP-West, with support from its subcontractor AREA, commenced distribution of tomato and eggplant seeds to beneficiary farmers in Muqur, Ab Kamari, Qala-I-Naw, and Qadis Districts (Badghis Province). Six male farmers received the seed for planting and production of seedlings in six row tunnel systems¹³, 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 Herat DAIL sent the test results on March 2, 2016, onion, watermelon, cucumber, and tomato seed distribution and planting commenced for 40 male farmers in Farah Center and 20 male farmers in Anar Dara districts. Due to security issues on the road between Farah Center and Anar Dara, the 20 farmers from Anar Dara were invited to receive seed from Farah Center.¹⁴

¹² 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).

¹³ 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).

¹⁴ These 20 farmers from Anar Dara traveled to Farah Center to receive their seeds during the month of April.

Vegetable Cultivation Training for Male Beneficiaries: RADP-West conducted Vegetable Cultivation Training in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces during the quarter, with 179 male farmers participating in Injil and Guzara Districts (Herat Province); 248 male farmers participating in Qala-I-Naw, Ab Kamari, Qadis, and Muqur Districts (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.¹⁵



RADP-West Personnel discuss the appropriate layout for vegetable plots during Vegetable Cultivation Training in Delgharar Village, Injil District; 23Feb16

Table 7: Vegetable Cultivation Training in Herat, Badghis, Farah Provinces

Province	District	Village	Date	# of Participant Farmers
Herat	Injil	Nawin-i-Sufla	February 23, 2016	21
		Del Garar	March 2, 2016	17
	Guzara	Akhondan	February 3, 2016	20
		Gol Vafa	February 7, 2016	30
		Gol Vafa	February 8, 2016	32
		Gosh Mir	February 18, 2016	20
		Dehtapa	February 22, 2016	20
		Qolb Nazar	February 24, 2016	19
Badghis	Qala-I-Naw	Gharghaitu	February 29, 2016	20
		Baghban Ha	March 15, 2016	18
		Haji Ghulam Haidar	March 27, 2016	42
	Ab Kamari	Roji	March 21, 2016	42
		Agha Sufi	March 27, 2016	42
	Qadis	Center	March 22, 2016	42
	Muqur	Center	March 23, 2016	42
Farah	Farah Center	Center	February 24, 2016	20
			February 25, 2016	17
TOTAL				464

Orchard Crops

Pruning Training: RADP-West conducted Pruning Training in Badghis Province during the month of February, 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.

Orchard Demonstration Training Center (DTC) Establishment: During the month of February, while awaiting USAID approval of RADP-West's certified sapling purchase request, RADP-West moved forward with orchard programming by selecting beneficiaries and land for the establishment of orchard demonstration training centers in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces.

¹⁵ Beneficiaries in Badghis Province also received additional training on pre- and post-harvest topics that will be addressed more in-depth during future trainings.

Approval was received on March 7, 2016, at which time RADP-West began to distribute saplings and establish orchard DTCs in these locations, as follows:

Herat and Badghis – RADP-West established six orchard DTCs in Injil (2) and Guzara (4) Districts (Herat Province) during the month of March. Establishment included selection of the lead farmer and the land, in addition to working with the farmer to determine the layout for the orchard. In addition, RADP-West provided the necessary saplings and provided guidance to the farmer in leveling the land. The terms of the contract for the DTC were discussed, with drafting and final signature planned for April. In Badghis, RADP-West’s subcontractor AREA established two orchard DTCs in Muqur (one) and Qadis (one) Districts. Each of the DTCs in Herat and Badghis are 4,000 m². These DTCs will be used as a forum for RADP-West HVC personnel, DAIL Extension Workers, subcontracted Master Trainers, and agribusinesses to provide capacity development instruction and extension services to orchard farmer beneficiaries.



RADP-West Personnel discuss correct planting methods during a visit to a Walnut Orchard DTC in Muqur District

Table 8: Orchard DTCs Established in March 2016

Province	District	Village	Type of Orchard	Variety
Herat	Injil	Sufyan	Apricot	Amiri
		Khar Duzdan	Plum	Formosa
	Guzara	Gol Vafa	Peach	Maycrest
		Mahale Dasht	Plum	Formosa
		Rabati Sulayman	Plum	Formosa
	Talas	Apricot	Qaisi	
Badghis	Muqur	Jahan Dosti	Walnut	Israeli
	Qadis	Khalifa Ayaz	Apple	Lubnani

Grapes:

Vineyard Demonstration Training Center (DTC) Establishment: 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, or the traditional trellis system vineyards. The “Chapar” structure 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; however, this structure is not appropriate for some areas in Badghis and Farah Provinces, where the weather and landscape is not suitable for the “Chapar” structure. RADP-West will work closely with each of the provincial DAILs to select the most appropriate, and most beneficial, type of vineyard for each DTC.

Herat, Badghis, Farah – RADP-West established two vineyard DTCs in Guzara District (Herat Province) during the month of March. Establishment included selection of the lead farmer and the land, in addition to working with the farmer to determine the layout for the vineyard. In addition, RADP-West provided the necessary vines and guidance to farmers in planting the vines. The terms



RADP-West Personnel provide advice on digging holes to plant vines in Malan Village, Guzara District; 16Mar16

of the contract for the DTCs were discussed, with drafting and final signature planned for April. In Badghis, RADP-West's subcontractor AREA established five vineyard DTCs in Muqur (two), Qala-I-Naw (one), Ab Kamari (one), and Qadis (one) Districts. In Farah, RADP-West also established five vineyard DTCs in Farah Center District. Each of the DTCs in Herat, Badghis, and Farah are 2,000 m² (one jerib). These DTCs will be used as a forum for RADP-West HVC personnel, DAIL Extension Workers, subcontracted Master Trainers, and agribusinesses to provide capacity development instruction and extension services to grape farmer beneficiaries.

Table 9: Vineyard DTCs Established in March 2016

Province	District	Village	Type of Orchard	Variety
Herat	Guzara	Rabati Sulayman	Vineyard	Lal, Kishmishi, Shudo Khani
		Malan	Vineyard	Lal, Kishmishi, Shudo Khani
Badghis	Muqur	Zad Nasir	Vineyard	Lal, Fakhri
		Kharistan	Vineyard	Lal, Fakhri
	Qala-I-Naw	Tagab-i-Ismail	Vineyard	Lal, Fakhri
	Ab Kamari	Agha Sufi	Vineyard	Lal, Fakhri
	Qadis	Zad Saleh	Vineyard	Lal, Fakhri
Farah	Farah Center	Center	Vineyard	Lal, Kishmishi, Shudo Khani
		Genakan	Vineyard	Lal, Kishmishi, Shudo Khani
		Qala-I-Muhammad	Vineyard	Lal, Kishmishi, Shudo Khani
		Ghulam Sadiq Khan	Vineyard	Lal, Kishmishi, Shudo Khani
		Darabad Bala	Vineyard	Lal, Kishmishi, Shudo Khani

Coordination with ATAR Turkmenistan: With a focus on the export market, RADP-West continued communications with the USAID-funded ATAR project in Turkmenistan during the quarter. Fifteen kilograms of Green Raisins produced by the Guzara Grape and Raisin Association were sent to the ATAR representative in Turkmenistan on March 3, 2016, to assess buyer interest. As at the end of Quarter 2, the results were pending.

Raisin House Assessments: On March 15, 2016, RADP-West visited two raisin houses (out of a total of 10 raisin houses) in the Sara Payen and Mahal Mostawfi villages of Guzara District to assess their capabilities and identify needs for future RADP-West intervention. Both raisin houses were previously constructed by the National Horticulture and Livestock Program (NHLP). Farmers requested the following support: scissors for harvesting grapes, metal pots for use during the grape harvest, wheelbarrows, 200 liter metal barrows for washing grapes, and packaging materials for grapes and raisins. RADP-West is assessing the request internally, and will identify appropriate interventions during Quarter 3.

Major Activities Planned for HVC Value Chain Programming Next Quarter

- Continue to identify, select, and establish Vegetable, Orchard and Vineyard DTCs and beneficiaries in Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices, and in line with the Year Two Work Plan. Orchard DTCs will be used for training during the fall season, while vegetable DTCs will be used during June – August period. Due to heavy rains during the month of March, RADP-West will establish its first Vegetable DTCs during the month of April.
- In collaboration with Master Trainer Subcontractors and respective provincial DAIL offices, oversee and manage the preparation of training materials and the roll-out of seasonally appropriate Vegetable, Orchard, and Vineyard training in Herat, Badghis and Farah Provinces.
- Routinely assess the progress of cultivated vegetable seeds in the row tunnel systems, and provide advice as farmers transplant seedlings to their fields in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces during the month of April.
- Work with the Herat and Badghis DAIL Offices to provide 3,500 certified pistachio scions to farmers in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces. RADP-W will provide the certified pistachio scions from an orchard in Shoranda village (Daman district of Kandahar province). Last year RADP-W provided 1,000 scions to its beneficiaries from this source and recorded good results and both farmers and DAIL were satisfied with the results, hence requested more scions.
- Administer an assessment of the eight remaining raisin houses in Herat Province for potential RADP-West support in improving raisin quality, hygiene, and marketing.



DCA Personnel conduct a Refresher Training Course on Differential Diagnosis for VFU Paravets at the DCA Training Center in Herat

3.3 Livestock Value Chain Programming

Supporting VFU Paravets

VFU Training: 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; this improvement will lead to increased income for farmers. Theoretical topics covered during the quarter included surgery procedures, anatomy, physiology, parasitology, bacteriology, virology, pharmacology, reproduction, animal husbandry, and recordkeeping. Practical demonstrations included disease diagnosis, sheep dissection, deworming, and group work in pharmacology. In addition, trainees viewed video clips on castration, surgery, and how various diseases affect livestock, including anthrax disease, milk fever, and Newcastle disease.

RADP-West is moving forward in collaboration with DCA and USAID to ensure that motorbikes are provided for the eight new VFUs when established. A request for CO approval of the purchase was submitted to USAID on April 25, 2016.

VFU Refresher Training: From January 17-21, DCA conducted a five-day refresher training course on differential diagnosis for 10 male VFU Paravets from Herat and Badghis Provinces. DCA also

conducted a three-day 'Value Chain' training course for 10 male VFU Paravets. Topics discussed during the Value Chain Training included value chain mapping, value chain approaches, linkages in a value chain, and value chain upgrades; the purpose of this training was to enhance the capacity of Paravets in understanding how the value chain operates in the livestock sector. Both courses were held at the DCA Training Center in Herat and aimed to enhance the capacity of VFU Paravets to provide high quality veterinary and extension services for livestock farmers in target districts. The VFU Paravets who attended this training are expected to be the linkage between the farmers and agribusinesses. They are also expected to help the livestock owners in the facilitation of the links to livestock market including livestock processing companies.

VFU Monitoring: Monitoring visits continued during the quarter, with DCA visiting the Guzara Center VFU on January 14 and the Karukh Center VFU on March 24. The objective of this ongoing monitoring effort is to evaluate the overall situation of VFUs, including their access to good quality medicines and vaccines, performance of cold storage, and quality of record-keeping procedures. Monitoring visits also allow DCA staff to provide technical advice as needed to VFU staff. The overall situation of both VFUs was excellent; the farmers reported satisfaction with the veterinary services provided by this VFU, and the cold chain facility was active.

Establishing Linkages between Paravets and Cashmere Processing Companies: On March 8, 2016, RADP-West facilitated an exposure visit for 10 VFU Paravets from Herat and Badghis Provinces to visit the Sodais Saud Cashmere Processing Company in Herat. During the visit, Paravets were briefed on the entire production process, from the dehairing processing line to the packing stage. During the visit, the Chairman of the Sodais Saud Cashmere Processing Company requested that the Paravets transfer the following information to livestock farmers in their areas of operation: 1) Use combs to harvest cashmere instead of scissors; 2) Harvest the goat cashmere at the appropriate times (not too early); 3) White-colored cashmere has a higher value and better market; 4) Avoid mixing the cashmere with other materials (which decreases the price); 5) Sell cashmere directly to cashmere processing companies, and not retailers. At the end of the visit, the Paravets requested that Sodais Saud open branches at the district levels in order to improve direct linkages with livestock farmers; Sodais Saud agreed to explore the option of assigning focal points at the district level to accommodate this request.



Paravets from Herat and Badghis meet with the Sodais Saud Cashmere Processing Company in Herat; 8Mar16

Supporting Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs)

LFEW Monitoring: During the quarter, DCA monitored the activities of 15 LFEWs in four districts of Herat Province (out of 33 LFEWs total). 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. The performance of these 15 LFEWs was satisfactory during the visits; they are conducting meetings with livestock female farmers on a monthly basis. The performance was satisfactory due to the fact that every month, each of the LFEWs held at least one hour extension session for a group of 10 women farmers who benefitted from trainings on the animal husbandry practices and health. DCA advised the LFEWs to continue providing relevant information to livestock farmers based on the season and needs of the community.

Table 10: LFEW Monitoring Visits Conducted During the Quarter

Province	District	Village	Date of Monitoring Visit	Findings
Herat	Injil	Nuqara	January 26, 2016	Satisfactory
		Rabat Gurazon	February 03, 2016	Satisfactory
		Bulugh Alem Jan	February 10, 2016	Satisfactory
		Qalae Barekzaee	February 10, 2016	Satisfactory
	Guzara	Qalae Zahidan	January 31, 2016	Satisfactory
		Ordo Bagh	February 10, 2016	Satisfactory
		Nagahan	February 10, 2016	Satisfactory
		Center	February 10, 2016	Satisfactory
	Karukh	Tahiryman	January 26, 2016	Satisfactory
		Qala Janjal	January 26, 2016	Satisfactory
		Tahyirian	February 21, 2016	Satisfactory
		Qala Janjal	February 21, 2016	Satisfactory
		Kor Pa	February 21, 2016	Satisfactory
	Koshk	Center	March 31, 2016	Satisfactory
		Haji Bozaq	March 31, 2016	Satisfactory

Supporting Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs)

FEG Sessions: DCA extension workers conducted 61 FEG extension sessions for male and female livestock farmers from five districts of Herat province (Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, Koshk) and three districts of Badghis province (Qala-l-Naw, Qadis, Ab Kamari). As at the end of the quarter, a total of 322 male and 206 female livestock farmers were actively participating in FEG sessions. 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. 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 61 sessions included peste des petites ruminants (PPR), contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Crimean–Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF), pasteurellosis, Hemorrhagic septicemia (HS) disease, enterotoxaemia disease, the role of women in animal husbandry, the value of cashmere, blood parasites, processing animal products, feeding, watering, taking care of newborn animals, winter feed, estrus cycle, milking, and housing.

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-l-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.



DCA conducts a Feed Block Making Demonstration in Waimat Village, Ab Kamari District; 24Jan16

New FEGs: During the quarter, a total of five male FEGs (comprising 112 members) and five female FEGs (comprising 118 members) were established as follows:

Table 11: New FEGs Established in Target Districts during the Quarter

Province	District	Village(s)	Male or Female FEG	# of Livestock Farmers	Date Established
Herat	Karukh	Pusth Yakhdna	Male	25	February 14, 2016
		Bagh Dasht	Male	20	February 18, 2016
		Sultan Khan	Female	20	February 25, 2016
		Darwish Qaseem	Female	20	March 24, 2016
	Koshk	Do Ab	Male	22	March 31, 2016
Badghis	Qadis	Khod Amada	Female	25	January 17, 2016
		Khod Amada	Male	25	January 17, 2016
		Chap Rod Ha	Female	28	January 20, 2016
	Ab Kamari	Zanger Olya	Female	25	January 18, 2016
		Zanger Sufra	Male	20	January 18, 2016

Supporting Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

SHG Training: From January 17-21, DCA conducted a five-day training course in the Sharif Abad village of Injil district in Herat province for 18 female SHG members. The same training was replicated in the Molayan village of Qadis District and the Qipchaq village of Ab Kamari District (Badghis Province) and in the Qala-i-Sharbat village of Karukh District (Herat Province) during the month of February for 67 female members from two SHGs and 30 male members from one SHG. The purpose of the training was to provide information and advice to the SHG members on initiating a small livestock business; by pooling their own resources and starting a business, participants will be empowered and able to increase their income.

Table 12: New SHGs Established in Target Districts during the Quarter

Province	District	Village(s)	Male or Female FEG	# of Livestock Farmers	Date Established
Herat	Injil	Robat Gorazan	Female	30	February 4, 2016
		Khash Rod	Female	28	January 6, 2016
	Guzara	Zahedan	Female	28	January 8, 2016
Badghis	Qadis	Khalifa Ayaz	Male	30	January 20, 2016
	Qala-I-Naw	Fristan Abgarmak	Female	30	January 19, 2016

Livestock Farmer Field Day

On March 17, 2016, RADP-West hosted a “Livestock Farmer Field Day” in coordination with the Herat DAIL. This field day took place in the Eshaq Sulaiman Village (Injil District) and was attended by 165 livestock stakeholders from Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, and Koshk Districts. During the field day, participants from across five districts in Herat province shared best practices and lessons learned on caring for newborn lambs, vaccinating and deworming livestock, safely preparing dairy products, and preventing common diseases in livestock. RADP-West, VFU Paravets, and livestock farmers themselves also led a number of demonstrations—including livestock deworming, preparing molasses feed blocks, and cashmere combing/harvesting—aimed at improving the health of livestock and the quality of livestock products, such as cashmere.



A local female extension worker (LFEW) describes her role providing extension services in the village to another livestock farmer; 17Mar16



A livestock farmer shows other farmers how to prepare molasses feed blocks; 17Mar16

Milk Collection Center Assessments: On March 29, 30, and 31, 2016, RADP-West conducted assessment visits at nine milk collection centers (MCCs) utilized by the Herat Dairy Union and the Herat Dairy and Ice Cream Company. These nine MCCs collect milk from approximately 1,200 farmers in the center of Injil, Karukh, and Guzara Districts and transport the milk to the market, the Herat Dairy Union, or the Herat Dairy and Ice Cream Company. RADP-West assessed that some of the MCCs do not have adequate and hygienic facilities—for some, the center consists of a room with muddy walls and damaged concrete flooring. There is no water tap, refrigeration/chilling tank, electricity, or basic laboratory testing equipment. The MCCs currently collect milk from cows, but also have the capacity to collect from sheep and goats if there is sufficient market demand. RADP-West concluded that if these MCCs are equipped with standard rooms with a water tap, refrigerator/chiller, solar panel electricity, 10 and 50-liter drums for milk transfer, and basic laboratory equipment, the current milk spoilage percentage of 25% could be significantly reduced. RADP-West will work with the Herat Dairy Union and Herat Dairy and Ice Cream Company to improve the hygiene of MCCs; a grant application is underway for the provision of equipment.

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 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 quarter, Cashmere Demonstration and Market Linkage events were held in Qala-I-Naw District (February 22), Ab Kamari District (February 23), Muqur District (February 24), and Qadis District (February 25) in Badghis Province, and in Injil District (March 1), Guzara District (March 8), Karukh District (March 15), Pashtun Zarghun District (March 23), and Koshk District (March 29) in Herat Province. These events were led by the Badghis and Herat DAILs and included 20-25 livestock herders each, in addition to representatives from the Sodais Saud Cashmere Processing Company, RADP-West, and DCA. The main purpose of these events was to ensure that livestock owners received input directly from the cashmere processors on volume and quality requirements, in addition to the market prices for raw (greasy) cashmere. 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, and cashmere buyer requirements; the event also laid the foundation for future organized activities between sellers and buyers.



Cashmere Combing Demonstration at the Cashmere Demonstration and Market Linkage Event held in Koshk District; 29Mar16

At the end of each event, the Sodais Saud Cashmere Processing Company signed agreements with livestock beneficiaries, committing to purchase 21.38 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 13: Contract Agreements Signed between Livestock Beneficiaries and Sodais Saud 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
Injil	Injil District Conference Hall	March 1, 2016	20	4	1,530
Guzara	Guzara District Extension Office	March 8, 2016	25	4	500
Karukh	Karukh District Conference Hall	March 15, 2016	25	9	768
Pashtun Zarghun	Guzara District Extension Office ¹⁶	March 23, 2016	25	9	832
Koshk	Dorokhshan Private Seed Enterprise Office ¹⁷	March 29, 2016	25	6	2,230
Total			200	58	21,380

¹⁶ Due to security concerns expressed by the Sodais Saud Company Representative, this event was held at the Guzara District Extension Office.

¹⁷ This event was held at the Dorokshan Private Seed Enterprise Office (located in the center of Koshk District) at the request of the District Governor.

Meat Value Chain Conferences in Herat and Farah: As a follow-on to the slaughterhouse (abattoir) assessments conducted during the month of February, RADP-West, in coordination with the Herat and Farah DAILs and with the support of DCA, conducted two Meat Value Chain Conferences and Hygiene Trainings during the quarter. These events took place in Herat on March 9, 2016 and in Farah on March 31, 2016. The purpose of these events was not only to raise awareness of poor slaughterhouse conditions and improve hygienic practices in Herat and Farah, but also to provide an opportunity for government representatives to interact directly with butchers and other meat value chain actors to identify solutions and a way forward. In Herat, representatives from DAIL, the Herat Civil Society Network, the Herat Public Health Department, and the Herat National Environmental Protection Agency participated in the event, in addition to ten Herat Slaughterhouse employees and 11 butchers. In Farah, representatives from DAIL, the Municipality Department, the Environmental Health Department, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and Farah Veterinarians participated in the event, in addition to 18 butchers. During the conferences, DCA also conducted hygiene training for the participants, in which they learned about zoonotic diseases, damage caused by endo-parasites and ecto-parasites, and the qualities of hygienic slaughterhouses and butcher shops. At the conclusion of the event, demonstration toolkits were provided to each of the butchers and slaughterhouse employees and included simple first aid kits, protective glasses, and hygiene tools to include masks, rubber boots, soap, surgical gloves, bandages, an apron, protective clothing, and a robe.

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 during the quarter:

- **VFU Services:** The 15 existing VFUs supported by RADP-West treated 45,794 sheep and goats and vaccinated 49,519 sheep and goats in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces.
- **Extension Sessions by VFU Paravets:** VFUs conducted a total of 44 FEG sessions for male livestock farmers in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces; an average of 10 male farmers attended each session. These FEG sessions covered the topics of sheep pox, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), brucellosis, CCPP, the importance of vaccinating livestock, enterotoxaemia, PPR, Newcastle disease, endo-parasites, dystocia, feeding, and taking care of newborn animals.
- **Extension Sessions by LFEWs:** During the quarter, the 33 LFEWs trained by RADP-West conducted 99 FEG sessions for female livestock farmers in targeted districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces; an average of 20 female farmers attended each session. These FEG sessions covered the topics of zoonotic disease, feeding, housing, cashmere, taking care of newborns, milking, watering, the difference between medicines and vaccines and poultry husbandry.
- **Deworming Campaign:** VFU Paravets trained by DCA conducted 18 Deworming Campaigns during the quarter, treating a total of 24,371 sheep and goats. These campaigns aim to address internal parasites present within the herds, which is a key concern of regional slaughterhouses, cashmere processors, and dairy processors. By addressing this concern through deworming campaigns, the yields and quality of meat, wool, and dairy products will improve.



A VFU Paravet treats livestock during a Deworming Campaign in Khash Rod Village, Injil District; 29Feb16

Table 14: Deworming Campaigns in Herat and Badghis Provinces

Province	District	Village	Date of Campaign
Herat	Injil	Saleh Abad	February 24, 2016
		Khash Rod	February 29, 2016
	Guzara	Mir Dawood	January 7, 2016
		Mahale Dasht	February 9, 2016
		Gol Vafa	March 9, 2016
	Karukh	Tahiryān	February 1, 2016
	Koshk	Maydane Tayara	January 25, 2016
	Pashtun Zarghun	Shah Abad	February 16, 2016
		Dashte Bam	February 23, 2016
Badghis	Qadis	Zay Saleh	February 2, 2016
		Omar Beka	February 7, 2016
		Arbab Sarwar	February 22, 2016
	Qala-I-Naw	Baghban X 2 ¹⁸	February 3, 2016
		Morad By Paeen	February 8, 2016
		Qala Qaiz	February 23, 2016
		Dara Mushak	February 24, 2016
	Ab Kamari	Waimat	February 16, 2016

Major Activities Planned for Livestock Value Chain Programming Next Quarter

- Continue capacity development support for existing VFU Paravets, DAIL extension workers, Paravet trainees, LFEWs, FEG members, and SHG members to improve the productivity and health of livestock herds within target districts of the western region.
- Select and train 17 new LFEWs in Herat and Badghis Provinces.
- In collaboration with the Herat and Badghis DAIL offices, commence village selection for the establishment of two fodder banks (one in each province).
- Conduct deworming campaigns within target districts of Herat and Badghis Provinces to reach an estimated 20,000 sheep and goats.
- Conduct a graduation ceremony for the eight current VFU Paravet trainees on April 26, 2016 and select eight new VFU Paravet trainees for the upcoming six-month VFU Paravet Training Course.
- Collaborate with the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department to link DCA livestock beneficiaries with representatives from regional dairy companies.
- Collaborate with the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department to conduct training for the Milk Collection Centers (MCCs) milk suppliers (farmers) in hygiene, milking, and milk handling.
- Collaborate with the RADP-West Enabling Environment Department in building the capacity of the dairy companies with grants and providing technical advice for improving the MCC's conditions.
- Develop new training extension materials for SHG and MCC beneficiaries in coordination with Equal Access.

¹⁸ Two Deworming Campaigns were conducted on February 2, 2016 in Baghban (one male, one female).

3.4 Enabling Environment Programming

Cooperative By-Law/Business Plan Development Workshops:

During the quarter, RADP-West supported DAIL-led workshops in Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces to review the new cooperative by-laws and work with cooperatives to develop updated business plans. These workshops were held January 11-12 in Herat Province, January 25-27 in Badghis Province, and February 8-10 in Farah Province for a total of 78 agribusinesses/cooperatives management and board members. During each of the workshops, cooperative members 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.



The Badghis DAIL Director engages with participants during the Business Plan Development Training in Qala-I-Naw District, Badghis Province

Agribusiness/Cooperative Assessments: The Enabling Environment Department continued to assess the capabilities and sustainability of agribusinesses in target districts during the quarter. Between January 5-10, the Enabling Environment Department conducted assessments of nine agribusinesses in Badghis (Qala-I-Naw - 5; Qadis - 1; Ab Kamari - 2; Muqur – 1). These included a range of cooperatives involved in livestock, dairy production, wheat/flour and vegetable production, and animal skins processing. RADP-West identified potential areas for intervention and support based on each agribusiness’s needs, to include improving processing capabilities and market linkages, providing assistance in obtaining MAIL licensing, improving wheat and vegetable production, and expanding management capacity. RADP-West continued to communicate with the agribusinesses during the remainder of the quarter and is collaborating with the Badghis DAIL to provide coaching and mentoring to these businesses.

Submission of Business Plans to MAIL/DAIL: On March 15, 2016, RADP-West conducted a refresher training course for eight members from four agriculture and livestock cooperatives operating in Herat Province. The training took place at the Herat DAIL’s Cooperative Department Office, during which RADP-West and DAIL’s Cooperative Manager and Credit Officer provided feedback to each of the cooperatives. Deadlines for corrections and resubmissions were established as follows:

Table 15: Cooperative Business Plan Submission Status

Province	District	Name of Cooperative	Cooperative Focus	Status as of 31 March
Herat	Karukh	Ulfat	Livestock	Submitted to MAIL
	Koshk	Khaja Malal	Cereal Crops (wheat and barley)	Submitted to DAIL
	Injil	Insaf	Cereal Crops (wheat, barley and millet)	Submitted to DAIL
	Guzara	Zeyarat Ja	Orchard, Grapes, Raisins	Submitted to DAIL

Access to Finance Awareness Conference: On March 16, 2016, RADP-West held a full-day Access to Finance Awareness Conference at the Herat DAIL Plant Protection Department Conference Hall. The conference was organized with the support of DAIL, the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF), Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA), DCA, the AMA, and four microfinance institutions (the Mutahid Development Finance Institution, Foundation for International Community Assistance – FINCA, FMFB, and OXUS Afghanistan). The event was organized to address a key constraint for farmers and agribusinesses—the lack of awareness on available financing options. Fourteen male and 10 female participants attended the event, comprising a



The ADF Credit Officer explains ADF's products and services during the Access to Finance Awareness Conference in Herat; 16Mar16

a mix of farmers, lead farmers, agribusiness representatives, cooperative and association members, and seed enterprise representatives. The event was organized as follows: 1) Financing Options for Businesses; 2) Islamic Financing; 3) ADF & Microfinance Institution Products, Services, and Requirements; 4) Introduction to FAIDA; 5) Discussion Roundtables. The following challenges were identified by participants during the event: 1) Lack of financial institution representation in rural areas; 2) High interest rates and administrative charges; 3) Lack of awareness on credit and its benefits; 4) Religious-cultural issues with taking conventional loans with interest; 5) Use of deed titles as a requirement for collateral. RADP-West is following up on these issues, and has encouraged Microfinance Institutions to establish a presence in rural areas.

Major Activities Planned For Enabling Environment Programming Next Quarter

- Continue to work with and mentor identified cooperatives in Herat, Badghis and Farah Provinces, to ensure that business plan development is underway, licensing is approved by MAIL, and program beneficiary produce continues to be collected and sold to regional agribusinesses.
- Receive and review three to four constraint analysis reports per month from Sayara Strategies, for onward submission to RADP-South by April 30, May 31, and June 30.
- Continue distribution of sales record-keeping books for Wheat, HVC, and Livestock farmer beneficiaries and agribusinesses to assist in maintaining a record of the USD value of sales obtained as a result of RADP-West support.
- Conduct a feasibility study and select 10 vegetable packhouse locations in coordination with the Herat, Farah, and Badghis DAILs.
- Provide support to agribusinesses from Herat, Badghis, and Farah Provinces during the upcoming Herat Industrial Exhibition May 17-20, 2016.
- Hold a 'Meat Value Chain Regulatory Environment' conference in Badghis Province.
- Conduct Access to Finance Awareness training for farmers in coordination with MFIs in three districts of Herat Province.
- Announce an RFP for the hiring of a subcontractor to establish the Market Information Center at Herat University.
- Increase the volume of regional milk purchased from existing livestock beneficiaries through better coordination with local MCCC.
- Conduct a regional Business-to-Business (B2B) Matchmaking Workshop in Herat Province in coordination with the Herat DAIL and the Herat Provincial Governor.

3.5 Cross-Cutting Themes

3.5.1 Gender and Nutrition

Wheat Training for Female Beneficiaries in Badghis: RADP-West, through its subcontractor AREA, conducted training on wheat post-harvest techniques, best practices for storage, causes of damage and wheat losses, and food security and nutrition awareness for 63 female beneficiaries in four villages of Badghis Province (one each in Qadis, Ab Kamari, Qala-I-Naw, and Muqur districts).

Table 16: Wheat Post-Harvest Training for Female Farmer Beneficiaries

Province	District	Village	Date	# of Participant Farmers
Badghis	Qadis	Khalifa Ayaz	March 21, 2016	24
	Muqur	Chashma-i-Dozakh	March 22, 2016	11
	Ab Kamari	Pahlawan	March 23, 2016	13
	Qala-I-Naw	Gharghaitu	March 23, 2016	15
TOTAL				63

Vegetable Seed Distribution: During the month of March, RADP-West, through its subcontractor AREA, distributed vegetable seeds, including squash, okra, cucumber, tomato, eggplant, onion, parsley, coriander, green bean, basil, radish, and dill to 63 female farmers in three villages of Injil (two) and Guzara (one) Districts (21 female farmers in each village). During the distribution, RADP-West also provided information to the beneficiaries on land preparation and proper seed cultivation techniques.

Vegetable Cultivation Training: RADP-West conducted Vegetable Cultivation Training for 21 female farmers in the Sara Naw Village of Injil District, 21 female farmers from the Rubati Sulayman Village of Guzara District, and 21 female farmers in the Qaizan Sangar Village of Injil District on February 22, 2016. Topics included seedbed preparation, the correct use of fertilizer, compost-making, cultivation methods, and seedling production. RADP-West, through its subcontractor AREA, also conducted vegetable training for 122 female beneficiaries in Qadis, Qala-I-Naw, Ab Kamari and Muqur Districts in Badghis Province. The training covered a range of pre- and post-harvest vegetable topics, including land preparation, soil enrichment, compost preparation, seed bed preparation, water management and irrigation, weed control, integrated pest management (IPM), staking and trellising, vegetable seedling transplanting techniques, vegetable nursery management, and improved harvest and post-harvest techniques, including cleaning, drying, sorting, and packing.

Table 17: Vegetable Training for Female Beneficiaries in Herat and Badghis Provinces

Province	District	Village	Date	# of Participant Farmers
Herat	Injil	Sara Naw	February 16, 2016	21
	Guzara	Qaizan Sangar	February 22, 2016	21
		Rabati Sulayman	February 17, 2016	21
Badghis	Qadis	Arbab Sarwar	March 23, 2016	18
		Haji Qurbanha	March 26, 2016	20
	Qala-I-Naw	Gharghaitu	March 26, 2016	21
		Baghban	March 27, 2016	21
	Ab Kamari	Deh-i-Zangi	March 27, 2016	21
	Muqur	Ferastan Abbasi	March 28, 2016	21
TOTAL				185

Food Safety Training: On February 18, 2016, RADP-West conducted a full-day training for 20 female board members from the Rabati Pirzada Women Food Processing Center located in Rabati Pirzada Village in Injil District (Herat Province). On March 1 and 2, 2016, RADP-West replicated the same training for 20 female board members from the Kababyan Women's Food Processing Center located in Kababyan Village in Injil District and 20 from the Ziarat-e-Jay Women Food Processing Center in Ziarat-e-Jay Village in Guzara District (Herat Province). These processing centers were established in 2010 and are licensed by the Ministry of Justice and Chamber of Commerce. In the past, these processing centers 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 these businesses in developing business plans. Once complete, these processing centers plan to submit grant applications for further support.



RADP-West Personnel describe nutrition requirements during Food Safety Training for members of the Ziarat-e-Jay Women's Food Processing Center in Guzara District; 02Mar16

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 the proper use of distributed hygiene toolkits, which included a coat, hat, gloves, and a mask.



Participants discuss challenges in accessing agricultural technologies during working group sessions in Farah Province; 30Mar16

Strengthening Women's Engagement in Agriculture Technology Workshop: During the quarter, RADP-West conducted two full-day provincial-level workshops aimed at strengthening women's participation in agriculture technology activities, to include improved technologies for food processing. The first workshop was held on March 17, 2016 at the Herat DAIL Conference Hall. A total of 25 female participants, including 20 businesswomen and farmers, four DAIL representatives, and one Directorate of Women Affairs (DoWA) representative participated in the workshop, during which the Herat DAIL Director and Herat DoWA Director encouraged the participants to apply new agricultural technologies with the goal of increasing agriculture productivity. The second workshop was

held on March 30, 2016 at the Farah DAIL Conference Hall. A total of 24 female participants, including 22 businesswomen, one Farah DAIL representative, and one DoWA representative participated in the workshop, during which the Farah DAIL Director and a representative from DoWA urged participants to take a more active role in applying new agricultural technologies.

Major Gender and Nutrition Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Continue to identify and select female beneficiaries in Herat, Farah, and Badghis Provinces, in collaboration with the respective provincial DAIL offices, and in line with the Year Two Work Plan.

- Continue Vegetable Cultivation Training and Nutrition Training; 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.
- Collaborate with the RADP-West Grants Department to process the women's greenhouses concept note/grant application.
- Organize a regional, follow-on conference for 'Strengthening Women's Engagement in Agriculture Technology' in Herat Province.

3.5.2 Grants¹⁹

Concept Notes Evaluated: RADP-West continued to review and evaluate incoming concept notes during the quarter, evaluating ten concept notes between January 3 and January 5, 2016 and another ten concept notes between February 1 and 10, 2016. The technical evaluation committees found that eight were technically acceptable and invited these applicants to submit full applications for consideration; RADP-West provided comments to each company to assist them in improving their applications. For those applicants who were not rolled to the full application process, RADP-West provided reasons for the rejection, and encouraged them to re-apply with new concepts that more closely align with RADP-West's objectives under the Year Two Work Plan.

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:

- **Welfare and Support Afghan Women Disable Organization (WSAWDO):** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with WSAWDO to discuss the applicant's 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 RADP-West's HVC DTCs. As at the end of the quarter, RADP-West was in the process of finalizing the application, conducting the pre-award risk assessment and scheduling a site visit. When this grant is approved, the organization and its members will be linked to ICARDA to benefit from capacity building on agricultural technology and management practices promoted under RADP-West interventions.
- **Pioneer Support and Services:** 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 RADP-West's HVC DTCs. As at the end of the quarter, RADP-West was in the process of finalizing the application, conducting the pre-award risk assessment and scheduling a site visit.
- **Morvarid Food Industries (MFI):** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with MFI during the quarter, and requested CO approval for an in-kind grant. RADP-West received CO consent on March 14, 2016 and signed an agreement with MFI on March 30, 2016. More details on this grant are provided in Annex 6.2.
- **Najiaa Food and Agriculture Development:** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with Najiaa Food and Agriculture Development (women association) and requested that the applicant 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

¹⁹ Per direction received from the USAID COR on March 8, 2016, RADP-West will no longer submit separate grants/subcontract updates to USAID. Instead, these updates will be consolidated in the regular RADP-West monthly and quarterly reports.

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 Saud Ltd.:** RADP-West conducted a negotiation meeting with Sodais Saud 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. This company is expected to buy raw cashmere from DCA supported beneficiaries from Herat and Badghis provinces.

Concept Note Workshops: On January 28 and February 25, 2016, RADP-West conducted Concept Note Workshops for three interested applicants. During the workshop, RADP-West explained the APS 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. The end date for application submissions was 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.

Major Grants Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Continue to conduct technical evaluations for concept notes and full applications received in response to the RADP-West APS.
- Continue to conduct Concept Note Workshops during the quarter as needed and requested by interested applicants.
- Conduct negotiations meetings with selected companies to request revisions to concept notes and/or add technical comments for full applications.
- Hold budget negotiations and conduct a pre-award risk assessment for RFA No. RADP-W-RFA-EE-01.
- Draft negotiation memoranda, grant agreements, and environmental review forms (ERFs) for approved applications.
- Conducting pre-award assessment for applications that have been approved by technical teams.
- Conduct pre-award assessments for the follow-on Seed Enterprise grants; draft request for CO approval.

4. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

4.1 USAID and non-USAID Funded Projects

Submission of Constraints/Constraints Analysis to RADP-South: In collaboration with RADP-North, RADP-South and USAID, RADP-West prepared and submitted the following seven constraints to MAIL (via RADP-South):²⁰

- 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
- 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

Market Information Center: On March 1, 2016, RADP-West met with the management of the Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project (AAEP) II and the Dean of the Agriculture Faculty at Herat University to discuss cooperation on the establishment of a Market Information Center at Herat University. It was also proposed that fourth year female students could work with RADP-West's Gender Team as part of an organized internship. The Dean expressed his interest and support in establishing the Center at the University. RADP-West prepared a draft RFP for a feasibility study—to assess the practicality, need, use and sustainability of a Market Information Center to gather and disseminate key market information on crop pricing, productivity projections, expected earning power of new technologies, and delivery efficiency.

International Conference on Food Quality and Safety in India: At the request of USAID, RADP-West introduced two regional agribusinesses—the Morvarid Food Industries Company and the Tanin Herat Food Processing Company—for participation in the International Conference on Food Quality and Safety, which was held in India March 14-16, 2016 and hosted by USAID Afghanistan.²¹ The objectives of this conference were as follows: 1) Review and discuss findings of “Rapid Assessment of Mycotoxins in Afghanistan’s Food Value Chains”; 2) Discuss implications of this assessment as it pertains to regional trade, exports, food security and human health; and 3) Devise a basic Action Plan for policy reforms, private sector engagement and donor coordination.

Meeting with Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC): On March 24, 2016, RADP-West met with the IADC's Program Coordinator based in Herat to discuss working together to provide support to the Herat Dairy Union. RADP-West and the IADC discussed their respective program objectives for improving the dairy and livestock value chains in the western region, and agreed to set-up a follow-on meeting to discuss processing machinery support and the standardization of MCCs in Herat Province.

²⁰ Constraints #1-#10 were prepared by RADP-West's Enabling Environment Department. Future constraints will be prepared by the subcontractor Sayara Strategies.

²¹ RADP-West did not provide financial support for these two agribusinesses to attend the conference in India; their participation was coordinated by USAID.

4.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Spring Agriculture Fair 2016: MAIL held its semi-annual Agriculture Fair from March 20-23, 2016 at the Badam Bagh Fairground in Kabul. These Agriculture Fairs provide an opportunity for agribusinesses and farmers throughout Afghanistan to meet with a range of market actors—other agribusinesses, importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers, and input suppliers—to discuss the business environment, showcase their products, and strike deals within regional and national marketplaces. RADP-West facilitated the attendance of six western region agribusinesses, including 1) Tanin Food Industries; 2) Herat Dairy Union; 3) Herat Dairy and Ice Cream Company; 4) Morvarid Food Industries; 5) Guzara District Grape and Raisin Association; and 6) Injil District Grape and Raisin Association.

During the four-day event, the Minister of MAIL, the Minister of Energy and Water, the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, representatives from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO), and 200 other participants visited the RADP-West supported businesses. RADP-West also facilitated a number of B2B meetings during the Agriculture Fair and strengthened relationships with RADP-North, RADP-South, and the Afghanistan National Horticulture Development Organization (ANHDO), a MAIL-run program.



RADP-West facilitates a meeting between Bustan-e-Sabz and the Injil and Guzara Grape and Raisin Grower Associations during the Agriculture Fair in Kabul

Key Outcomes:

- The MAIL Minister agreed to assist the Herat Dairy and Ice Cream Company with obtaining approval for the import of chemicals needed to operate its machinery; these chemicals are currently restricted by the Afghan government.
- The MAIL Minister responded to concerns about the lack of import taxes on Iranian goods by sharing that the government is considering an increased tariff on imported goods.
- Bustan-e-Sabz, a private company that exports dry and fresh fruit products to countries such as Russia and India, collected samples of raisins from both the Guzara and Injil Grape and Raisin Associations for analysis and market testing.
- Bahir, a dry and fresh fruit packaging company, met with both the Guzara and Injil Grape and Raisin Associations to discuss a business deal for providing packaging.
- Golnawaz, a pickle processing company located in the Herat Industrial Park, expressed interest in purchasing inputs from RADP-West supported farmers.
- Discussions were held with the ANHDO, which has the capability to test food products for aflatoxin, a type of toxic fungal mycotoxin produced by certain molds. Testing for aflatoxin content is crucial to meet export requirements. Badghis and Herat exporters will use ANHDO lab to test their dry fruits and nuts for aflatoxin prior to exports to enhance quality of exports.

Table 18: Recorded Sales during the Spring Agriculture Fair

Agribusiness	Commodities	Day 1 Sales (AFN)	Day 2 Sales (AFN)	Day 3 Sales (AFN)	Day 4 Sales (AFN)	Total
Injil and Guzara District Grape and Raisin Associations	10 different varieties of raisins	4,240	3,950	8,875	1,490	18,555
Herat Dairy Union	Milk, Cheese, Butter, Ghee, Quark, Cream, Yogurt	20,922	16,226	14,282	4,238	55,668
Herat Dairy Company	Yogurt, Ice Cream, Dough	187,980	593,610	326,295	297,650	1,405,535
Tanin Food Industries	Sausages, Pickles, Jam	-	20,100	22,600	11,200	53,900
TOTAL						1,533,658 ²²

Municipal Abattoir (Slaughterhouse) Assessments in preparation for meat value chain conference:

- 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 was 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.

Meeting with DAIL Director and Commercial Grape Growers: On March 15, 2016, RADP-West coordinated a meeting between the Herat DAIL Director and five commercial grape growers. The DAIL Director introduced these five grape growers to RADP-West and requested support, stating that these five lead growers have the ability and capacity to produce a large amount of commercial fruit (grapes and raisins), which could lead to increased exports of these products. Specifically, the Herat DAIL requested that RADP-West establish a fruit processing center with the required machinery and tools, provide improved water irrigation systems through solar panel systems, conduct training in new techniques and technologies, and facilitate increased access to international markets. RADP-West shared that the project is in discussions with the ATAR project to export raisins to Turkmenistan; if these five grape growers are also interested, RADP-West will send a sample of

²² The standard exchange rate used by RADP-West during the month of March was 1 USD = 68.91 AFN. 1,533,658 AFN equates to 22,255.96 USD.

their products to Turkmenistan. In coordination with DAIL, RADP-West will send a team to conduct need assessments for each of the five commercial grape gardens to identify specific areas for RADP-West intervention and support.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

5.1 Personnel

As of March 31, 2016, RADP-West/Chemonics has a total of 77 long-term local national employees (46 long-term professional staff and 31 long-term support staff), and six long-term expatriate employees. Local national positions filled during the quarter included: (two) Facilities Assistants, (one) Maintenance Technician, (one) Assistant Cook, (one) Facilities Coordinator and (one) Provincial Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Gender Coordinator.

In response to programmatic needs, a new M&E Director joined the project in Herat on March 23, 2016.

Table 19: RADP-West Staffing Numbers as of March 31, 2016

Contractor/Subcontractors	US Staff		TCN Staff		CCN Staff		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Chemonics	2	1	1	2	67	10	83
SIL	7	2	4	0	11	3	27
APPF					61	0	61
DCA					16	4	20
AREA					27	2	29
Equal Access	2	2			9	1	14
TOTAL	11	5	5	2	191	20	234

5.2 Adaption of the Activity

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

5.3 Modifications and Amendments

Prime contract Modification #4, intended to realign the program budget to reflect up-to-date expenditures and renewed budget forecasting, was requested on November 23, 2015. In February, discussions expanded to include the level of forecast cost anticipated for security, and alternative scenarios to the current security structure. On March 1, 2016, Chemonics presented alternative security scenarios. USAID anticipates responding to these proposed options in the next quarter, after which the budget realignment under Modification #4 will continue.

6. ANNEXES

6.1 Key Activities Accomplished During the Quarter

See attached Excel file.

6.2 M&E Narrative Report

See attached Word document.

6.3 Indicator Performance Table

See attached Excel file.

6.4 Updated Program Fact Sheet

See attached Word document.

6.5 Beneficiary Tracker

See attached Excel file.

6.6 FY 2015 Gender Activity Expenditures

See attached Word document.

6.7 Wheat and High Value Crops Training Flyers

See attached Zip file.

6.8 Grants Tracking Sheet/Update

See below (pg. 39).

6.8 Grants Tracking Sheet/Update

S/N	Sector/ CLIN	Grantee	Grant Amount (USD)	Purpose and Main Activities	Start Date	End Date	Geographic Coverage		Grantee Contact Info and Address	Remarks
							Province	Districts		
I	4	Morvarid Food Industries (MFI)	24,111.88	MFI will contract with RADP-West beneficiary farmers to procure inputs and increase quality Afghan products available for both domestic and export market. Quality packaging will improve the ability to generate sales in both the international and export markets.	March 30, 2016	October 29, 2016	Herat and Badghis	Injil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghun, Karukh, Qadis, Ab Kamari, Qala-I-Naw	Headquarters, Nilofar 4, Phase I, Industrial Park, Herat, Afghanistan Mobile: 093(0)792995450 Email: managingdirector@ morvaridfood.com	