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REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM-SOUTH (RADP-S)

February 2014 Monthly Report



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REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM-SOUTH (RADP-S)

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Cover photo: Mohammad Salim, owner of a cold storage container park in Kandahar City. Photo credit USAID/RADP-S.

ACRONYMS

ABADE	Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises
ABISC	Amhad Baryaliai Improved Seeds Company
ACE	Agricultural Credit Enhancement Program
ADA	Afghan Development Association
ADF	Agriculture Development Fund
AFE	Action for Enterprise
AGRED	Agriculture Research and Extension Development Program
AMMC	Afghan Management and Marketing Consultants
ANNGO	Afghanistan National Nursery Growers Organization
APPF	Afghan Police Protection Force
ALA	Afghanistan Land Authority
ATAR	Afghan Trade and Revenue Program
AVA	Afghan Veterinary Association
AWO	Afghan Women's Organization
CCN	Cooperating Country National
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
CHAMP	Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing Program
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
CMOC-S	Civil-Military Operations Center-South
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
CST	Country Security Team
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DoWA	Directorate of Women's Affairs
EA	Equal Access
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FAIDA Ag	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan's Agribusiness South component
GAD	Gender and Development
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

GLP	Good Livestock Practices
GMP	Good Management Practices
GUC	Grants Under Contract
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HALC	Hewad Afghanistan Agriculture and Livestock Company
HR	Human Resources
HVC	High Value Crops
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
KFFA	Kandahar Fresh Food Association
KFZ	Kandahar Food Zone
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
LOP	Life of Project
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Metric Ton
NADF	National Agricultural Development Framework
NPP	National Priority Program
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSP	Private Sector Provider
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South
SME	Subject Matter Expert
SOTF	Special Operations Task Force
SOW	Scope of Work
SPFU	Small Project Facility Uruzgan
SSISCO	Sadaqat-Sahil Improved Seed Company
TOT	Training-of-Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VSU	Vetting Support Unit
WESO	Women's Empowerment Social Association

Section I: Executive Summary

A. Program Description

The purpose of the Regional Agriculture Development Program-South (RADP-S) is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. To accomplish this goal, RADP-S focuses on improving the productivity and profitability of the wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chains, while addressing policy, legal and regulatory constraints affecting value chain development. This agricultural development program supports the consolidation of licit economies to fuel sustainable long term economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation.

The implementation approach of RADP-S dovetails with Afghan and U.S. government strategies in its focus on advancing food security, regenerating agribusiness, and increasing agriculture sector jobs and incomes. RADP-S aims to strengthen the capacity of producers, associations, traders, and agribusinesses to respond to market demands; facilitate lasting market linkages between value chain actors; and support an enabling environment that allows the private sector to thrive. The program places Afghan organizations at the forefront of implementation and addresses key crosscutting issues of women's empowerment, agribusiness value chain facilitation, and alternative development in all facets of the program. Embodying USAID's vision for sustainable Afghan-led development, RADP-S lays the foundation for greater and more socially inclusive growth in the agricultural economy.

B. February 2014 Program Highlights

February marked a period of significant progress for RADP-S Key Implementing Partners (KIPs). During the reporting period, Afghan Development Association (ADA), Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), and the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) all received fully-executed subcontracts, established provincial offices, and hired key staff and participated in two RADP-S-led orientations in administrative and technical program objectives and procedures. Communications and outreach KIP, Equal Access, also hired two Communications Managers who are now embedded in RADP-S Kabul and Kandahar offices to lead the design of innovative outreach campaigns which will amplify the reach of RADP-S technical activities.

In February, RADP-S hosted administrative and technical orientation workshops to provide the KIPs with crucial support as they mobilize key staff and draft their first year work plans. The administrative workshop took place in Kabul on February 25 and built KIP capacity in recruitment and hiring policies, procedures, and best practices. The technical orientation took place on February 27 in the classroom of the AMTEX Village Technical Training Facility in Kandahar and was attended by 73 program staff from ADA, CHA, DCA, Equal Access and RADP-S. The all-day event provided KIP provincial leadership with initial direction for contributing to program deliverables as well as an overview of the project's technical vision.

RADP-S also engaged frequently with USAID counterparts during the reporting period, including hosting the Ag Implementing Partner Coordination Meeting on February 13. This meeting provided a rare and crucial forum for seven technically related implementers to form a joint enterprise in the spirit of common cause and to identify points of synergy across and between each other, with emphasis on collaboration with RADP-S. It also served as a valuable occasion for the IPs to introduce themselves and present their scopes of work to the new USAID Office of Agriculture Director, Wayne Nilsestuen, and to hear his vision for agriculture programs in Afghanistan.

Section II: Progress toward Indicators

A. Components I, II, III: Wheat, High Value Crops, and Livestock Value Chains

AMTEX Technical Training Facility

RADP-S began development of the 4,275 square meter demonstration farm located on the AMTEX compound outside Kandahar City in February. This area was being graded and prepared for tillage and irrigation. The primary purpose of the facility will be to train the program staff of key implementing partners (KIPs) – the Afghan Development Association (ADA) and Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) – in technical skills such as drip irrigation, utilization of greenhouses, field cooling and cold storage, and post-harvest handling (i.e. grading, sorting, and packing). Wheat and target high value crops such as grapes, vegetables and orchard crops will also be cultivated and maintained on the site.

Human Resources Administration Training

On February 25, 2014 RADP-S hosted the first of a series of administrative start-up workshops for RADP-S Key Implementing Partners (KIPs). Twelve participants from the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), the Afghan Development Association (ADA), and Equal Access (EA) participated in the workshop which covered recruiting, biodata completion and verification, salary determination, and other related USAID recruitment policies and procedures. This training provided crucial support to the KIPs' staff mobilization efforts. The next in the series of administrative workshops will focus on finance and accounting, procurement, and time and materials subcontract management. Business conduct issues and the applicable USAID rules and regulations will be integrated into all workshops. RADP-S also will be providing a KIPs Subcontract Administration Manual for their future reference and guidance.

Key Implementing Partners Technical Orientation

AMTEX Technical Training Facility and Demonstration Farm



The desiccated soil of the AMTEX demonstration farm prior to tillage.



RADP-S tilled the demonstration farm in preparation for planting.



RADP-S will train key implementing partners in improved irrigation techniques at AMTEX.



RADP-S and KIP staff tour the training facility and demonstration farm during the KIP Technical Orientation on February 27.

The RADP-S Key Implementing Partner Technical Orientation took place at AMTEX Village in Kandahar on February 27. Seventy-three people total attended the event, including the provincial directors and key program staff of ADA, CHA, DCA, and Equal Access. The all-day orientation consisted of presentations covering communications and outreach, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), environmental compliance, enabling environment, market development and value chain facilitation. Presentations provided KIP provincial leadership with initial direction for contributing to program deliverables as well as an overview of the project's technical vision. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session. KIP participants then toured the AMTEX Technical Training Facility and Demonstration Farm which was in the initial stages of development.

During the second half of the day, participants broke into technical working groups to identify the challenges and opportunities facing activities under the components of wheat, high value crops, livestock, poultry, agribusiness, gender integration, value chain facilitation, M&E, communications, and administrative operations. This exercise provided the opportunity to drill into how each technical unit of RADP-S and the KIPs will need to engage with each other to achieve program targets. Representatives from each group then presented his group's findings to the rest of the participants, enabling everyone to identify points of collaboration across technical components.

Afghan Development Association (ADA)

ADA's subcontract with RADP-S to implement in Kandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces was fully executed on February 25. During the reporting period ADA rented provincial offices in the Aino Mina neighborhood of Kandahar, Qalat Center of Zabul, and Tirin Kot City of Uruzgan. To enable smooth management and implementation of RADP-S activities, ADA formed a qualified team to coordinate activities between ADA field staff, Chemonics and government authorities from its head office in Kabul. ADA also hired 18 key technical and

KIP Technical Orientation, February 27, AMTEX Village



RADP-S Gender Integration Manager listens intently to the KIP orientation presentations.



RADP-S and KIP participants collaboratively brainstorm challenges and opportunities in technical working groups.



Representatives from each working group presented their group's conclusions.



Some KIP participants took advantage of the simultaneous translation delivered by RADP-S interpreters via headset.

operations staff for its three provincial offices, most of whom attended the RADP-S KIP Technical Orientation at AMTEX Village on February 27.

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

CHA's subcontract with RADP-S to implement in Helmand province was fully executed on February 25. During this reporting period, CHA established a provincial office in Lashkar Gah City and hired seven key staff who participated in the February 27 technical orientation at AMTEX Village. During the previous reporting period, CHA's technical team held introductory meetings Helmand's Director of DAIL as well as various national and international NGOs as coordinated by the Directorate of Economy.

Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)

DCA's subcontract was officially executed on February 18. From February 13-21, DCA undertook a scoping mission to Kandahar during which a suitable building was located and leased to serve as DCA's office and training center in Kandahar. This scoping mission served as a follow up to a previous mission which took place in Kandahar January 24-29. During this period, DCA did an initial scan of existing veterinary field units (VFU) in the four target provinces and held introductory meetings with stakeholders and partners such as DAIL, CHA, Mercy Corps, VFU Cooperative leaders and the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA). The main conclusions drawn from the mission were that the VFUs are in need of technical and logistical support, that AVA is not currently supporting VFUs in the target districts, and that some VFUs have left or are inactive necessitating replacement VFUs. DCA will commence a full assessment of the current situation on the ground in all four provinces once the provincial staff is in place. During the reporting period, DCA hired five local professional and five support staff.

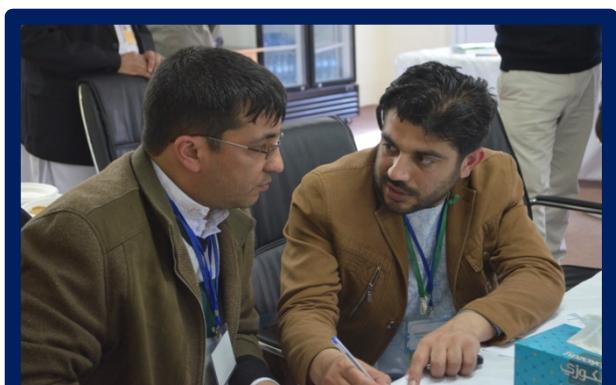


DCA meets with a veterinary field unit in Kandahar.

Equal Access

EA hired two Communication Managers to help manage project activities in Kabul and Kandahar. Ajmal Solamal began on February 12 and is based in RADP-S' Kabul office. He will manage EA's relationship with Chemonics, production of media content, and overall project implementation. Hikmatullah Roohani started on February 26 and is based in RADP-S' Kandahar office where he will oversee implementation of field activities in the target provinces.

EA Country Director Dr. Anwar Jamili and EA Senior M&E officer Dr. Habib Rahman met with local radio station Radio Merman in



Equal Access Country Director Dr. Anwar Jamili and Kandahar Communications Manager Hikmatullah Roohani meet with the RADP-S Communications Team at the KIP Technical Orientation on February 27.

Kandahar as a part of EA's efforts to select provincial radio partners to broadcast RADP-S programs. As part of the selection process, EA is analyzing local radio stations' capacity, in-house technology, and coverage. A team from EA will start a communication assessment of four target provinces in March.

EA's Country Director also met with Fatima Popal, Head of M-Paisa (Mobile Money), and Farzana Adil from Corporate Social Responsibility at Roshan Telecommunications Company in Kabul. Roshan has a Malomat Package which gives farmers access to reliable, up-to-date information on the prices of agriculture products instantaneously via IVR or SMS on their mobile phones. Equal Access plans to follow up with Roshan on how they can improve the system for RADP-S' use in target provinces.

B. Component IV: Enabling Environment

On February 17, short term Enabling Environment Advisor Matt Weber arrived in country. Subsequent to his arrival, he completed the design of the Enabling Environment Constraint Survey. The survey targets enterprises in RADP-S' selected value chains and sub-value chains – e.g. wheat, poultry, pomegranates, and veterinary services – for the purpose of identifying major enabling environment constraints. Within the reporting period, RADP-S' Enabling Environment Manager completed 23 surveys for the pilot.

The Enabling Environment Unit also met with USAID counterparts ABADE and ATAR in Kabul on February 20 to discuss opportunities for strategic collaboration with RADP-S. ABADE is currently in the midst of developing an agribusiness action plan and a women-in-business action plan for the Ministry of Commerce – both of which are particularly relevant to RADP-S. ABADE will share these action plans with RADP-S once finalized. ATAR shared aspects of the legal, regulatory, and policy environment related to wheat, livestock, and high value crop sectors in southern Afghanistan which will be impacted by ATAR's WTO accession activities in 2014. ATAR also offered to consult with RADP-S on an ongoing basis to gauge how certain laws and regulations will affect each RADP-S component. A regulation of particular interest to RADP-S was one concerning "amendments to the regulation drafting procedures" which, if approved, will provide a clear and transparent avenue for the private sector to participate in amending and lobbying for laws and regulations. Both ABADE and ATAR have plans to meet with RADP-S again in March.

C. Cross-cutting Themes

Gender

Throughout February, RADP-S Gender Integration Manager met with several entities in an effort to identify a women's group to carry out monitoring of the program's progress toward gender targets. These entities included the Afghan Women's Organization (AWO), the Women's Empowerment Social Association (WESO), the Afghan Innovation Consultants' Bureau (AICB), and the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP). RADP-S also hired a Gender Integration Specialist in February to support leadership of the Gender Unit.

Value Chain Facilitation

Action for Enterprise

On February 23, Action for Enterprise (AFE) Executive Director Frank Lusby and Senior Program Manager Scott Merrill arrived in Kabul to assist RADP-S to identify ways to incorporate a value chain facilitation approach into the program's work plan. The overall objective of the partnership is to identify methods to facilitate improved functioning of the markets in wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chains. On February 24, AFE met with RADP-S' COP and Senior Technical Director to discuss their thoughts on RADP-S' current draft work plan. Later that day, they met with USAID COR for RADP-S, Freeman Daniels, and USAID Senior Advisor for Markets and Trade, Todd Flower, to discuss their vision for incorporating a value chain approach into RADP-S. On February 26, the two AFE representatives traveled to Kandahar to participate in the KIP Technical Orientation and prepare for field visits which will inform their final recommendations for the RADP-S work plan.

Cold Storage Container Park

On February 19, RADP-S DCOP Gordon Bremer, Short Term Capacity Building Advisor Campbell Dunlop and an interpreter traveled to Shorandum Industrial Park in Kandahar to visit a cold storage container park which currently holds two reefers storing a total of 1572 boxes of pomegranates. This cold storage container park is the direct result of FAIDA's Agribusiness South component (FAIDA Ag). The reefers are owned by Mohammad Salim and rented to Kandahar Fresh Fruit Association (KFFA) and Rahat Nurani Processing Factory who are engaged in a 60/40 joint venture. Mr. Salim and the son of the President of KFFA, Haji Nasir Ahmad, greeted the members of RADP-S and provided them with a tour of the reefers.

Pre and post-harvest losses in pomegranates amount to approximately \$56 million per year in Afghanistan due largely to a lack of proper storage facilities that would enable farmers to sell out of season. Consequently, between the out of season months of October 2013 and February 2014, the prices of pomegranates increased threefold. The cold storage container

Cold Storage Container Park, Kandahar, February 19



Mohammad Salim gives RADP-S a tour of his cold storage reefers containing 1572 boxes of pomegranates.



RADP-S DCOP Gordon Bremer examined the state of the pomegranates which have been stored out of season October-February.



RADP-S suggested improved packing and storage methods to reduce post-harvest losses due to rot and mold.

park at Shorandum represents the first time pomegranates have been stored for sale out of season in Kandahar using reefer containers, making KFFA-Rahat the sole enterprise selling pomegranates in Kandahar City in February 2014. During the four months these pomegranates have been stored, KFFA-Rahat has received genuine offers from both domestic and regional buyers, such as markets in Kabul and Pakistan. As recently as the final week of February, they sold 300 boxes (containing eight pomegranates each) to a shopkeeper in Kandahar City and another 300 boxes of second grade fruit (containing ten to twelve pomegranates each) to a broker in Kabul.

However, RADP-S discovered upon their visit that various improvements still need to be implemented in order to maximize the length of freshness and thus the profits of the pomegranate stock. To date, 130 boxes of pomegranates are rotten or deemed unsuitable for consumption. Because the fruits were stored without plastic cling wrap and instead in paper shavings inside cardboard boxes, the cardboard attracted moisture to the pomegranates and both the fruit and boxes developed mold and mildew. The bottom rows of boxes were also in the process of being crushed under the weight of the stock on top.

RADP-S' current market strategy for pomegranates is to sell 85% of the fresh stock to regional, domestic and juice markets. This will reserve 15% to be cleaned, sorted, wrapped, packed and stored in reefer containers or permanent cold storage for sale in the domestic market December – February. In order to do so, RADP-S will have to rigorously address the value chain constraint of poor post-harvest practices which cause significant yet preventable losses in agricultural profits each year.

On February 20, KFFA met with RADP-S at AMTEX Village to discuss simple, cost-effective methods that KFFA could employ to increase their profits next year. RADP-S discussed the need to clean and wrap the fruits in cling wrap before storing them in plastic crates which won't attract moisture and will stack easily to prevent any of the stock from being squashed. KFFA was very receptive to the advice and showed interest in additional training for packing and storage. They also agreed to share information about imminent sales of the remaining pomegranates to assist RADP-S with its market assessment of pomegranates in the off-season.

D. Monitoring and Evaluation

Over the course of February, RADP-S Senior Technical Director Tom Fattori and the M&E Director led working sessions with Afghan Management Marketing Consultants senior leadership to design the baseline survey questionnaire, advise AMMC on survey management, and establish AMMC's relationship with the RADP-S M&E team. During these working sessions, RADP-S and AMMC reached an agreement on the structure of the household survey and defined the seven subject matter expert (SME) and trader surveys to be implemented. The household survey contains questions on food insecurity, dietary nutrition and all contractual indicators, especially those requiring a baseline. The SME surveys contain questions related to sustainability from a value chain facilitation point of view.

RADP-S' Senior Technical Director and M&E Director also met with DCA senior staff at their Kabul office to coordinate development of the VFU survey with the livestock section of the AMMC household survey. RADP-S reviewed samples of DCA's pre-existing VFU surveys for content and appropriateness then recommended that DCA incorporate several RADP-S SME indicators.

RADP-S' Senior Technical Director also finalized an excel tool which simulates KIP beneficiary and household income targets by province, district, cluster, and value chain. During the reporting period,

he used the tool to run four scenarios to determine practical and realistic target numbers for RADP-S which will soon be discussed and determined in collaboration with USAID. This tool will later be distributed to the KIPs to assist with the generation of their provincial work plans.

Section III: Collaboration with Partners and Stakeholders

Ag Implementing Partner Coordination Meeting

On February 13, RADP-S hosted the Ag Implementing Partner Coordination Meeting at the Baron Hotel in Kabul. Seven other USAID projects with activities in southern Afghanistan were in attendance: the Agriculture Research and Extension Development Program (AGRED), the Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing Program (CHAMP), Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE), Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA), the Afghan Trade and Revenue Program (ATAR), the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), and Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ). USAID Alternative COR Tom Love and the new Office of Agriculture Director, Wayne Nilsestuen, attended the meeting virtually.

The meeting provided a rare and crucial forum for implementing counterparts with a common cause and complementary goals to identify priority areas for collaboration. It also served as a valuable occasion for the IPs to be virtually introduced to Director Nilsestuen and to learn about his vision



KFZ Provincial Office Director Javed Ahmad and Sr. Stabilization Advisor Bea Covington emphasize the importance of collaboration with other Ag program implementors in order to achieve KFZ's goal to reduce poppy cultivation in Kandahar province.

and priorities for agricultural programs in Afghanistan, such as to “harness the power of markets to create incentives to reward innovation.” In turn, each IP was given the opportunity to introduce themselves and present their scopes of work to Director Nilsestuen.

During the course of the four-hour meeting, participants learned about each IP's goals in southern Afghanistan and jointly identified opportunities to synergize across and between each other with particular emphasis on collaboration with RADP-S. They additionally capitalized off of this opportunity to converge across offices and recognize the valuable

links and potential for greater combined efforts between Economic Growth and Agriculture Office programs. For example, ATAR recommends legal and regulatory reforms regarding plant protection, animal health, food safety, Global Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point

(HACCP); and RADP-S will link with ATAR to hold public-private advocacy workshops to improve the enabling environment while connecting commercial agriculture to regional markets. Participants also recognized the ability to build on each other's successes to enable continuity between their respective endeavors as some IPs, such as CHAMP, prepare to close out while others, such as RADP-S, have just begun.

Through productive exchanges during the presentations and over lunch, participants developed the basis for positive working relationships and acknowledged the importance of this joint enterprise. The meeting opened the door for follow-on meetings where IPs will drill down on specific opportunities for collaboration.

Lime Sulfur Collaboration Training Workshop

RADP-S' Capacity Building Director, Value Chain Team Leader - High Value Crops, Post-Harvest Manager and Post-Harvest Specialist attended the Lime Sulfur Collaboration Training Workshop held at the Kandahar DAIL office February 19-20. The workshop was jointly organized by the Roots of Peace AGRED program and Kandahar DAIL extension department with financial support from USAID Afghanistan. Training topics included the effect of powdery mildew disease which, according to the Kandahar DAIL Director, is responsible for destroying 80% of Kandahar's grape yields last year, as well as techniques for preventing and controlling the disease. On February 20, participants were trained in the preparation of a lime sulfur compound for use in treating powdery mildew disease. The workshop was attended by USAID Project Management Specialist Mohammad Wali Naseri, professors and students from the Kandahar University Agriculture Faculty, district heads of DAIL, representatives from the Department of Women's Affairs, and provincial staff from the USDA-funded Capacity-Building and Change Management Program.

RADP-S found the training very beneficial and seeks to complement and expand upon the scope of the workshop through its own program activities. For example, attendees of this workshop were limited to representatives from the university, government, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). RADP-S believes that private input supply companies should participate in these activities. Accordingly, RADP-S is currently finalizing a pamphlet covering the diseases affecting grapes based on lessons learned from FAIDA Ag to be distributed amongst private sector input suppliers and local farmers, thus expanding training beyond the government, NGOs and university community. These pamphlets will later be translated into illustrated instructions in order to reach farmers and suppliers who are illiterate. The workshop also served as a forum for RADP-S and AGRED to exchange lessons learned. For example, RADP-S attendees who previously (while on FAIDA Ag) sent samples of diseased grapes to a MAIL laboratory shared their finding that powdery mildew was not the sole cause of the massive loss in grape production last year. Attending DAIL extension head, Eng. Atiqullah Khan, expressed his appreciation for RADP-S and FAIDA Ag's work efforts and pledged his full cooperation and support to RADP-S program activities, especially the pending pamphlets.



Capacity Building Director Altaf Rahimi and Outreach Specialist Hazratullah Irfan learn how to produce lime sulfur.

USAID Implementing Partners' Meeting

On February 27, RADP-S Director of Finance Kevin Stupay, Compliance Officer Ata Seddiqi and the Operations Director attended the USAID Implementing Partners Meeting held at the US Embassy. The main topic of the meeting was the security situation and upcoming elections. US Ambassador James B. Cunningham and USAID Mission Director William Hammink delivered speeches regarding regional security, updates on the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) and US Embassy priorities. Follow up presentations and discussions covered topics such as monitoring, gender, youth programs, tax and registration issues.

Fostering Strategic Collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

During the reporting period, progress was made towards establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between RADP-S and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). On February 25, representatives from MAIL, USAID and RADP-S met at MAIL's office to discuss the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between RADP-S and MAIL. The meeting was attended by USAID COR for RADP-S Freeman Daniels, USAID Project Management Specialist Khalid Hashimi, MAIL Director of Policy and Planning Javid Qaem, MAIL Policy and Planning Deputy Director Majidi, and MAIL Policy and Planning Advisor Assadullah Sulaiman. Representatives from RADP-S included COP Rick Pierce and the RADP-S Director of Operations. During the meeting, participants discussed the conversion of the MOU into a general MOU between MAIL and all RADP programs, enabling each RADP to be added to the MOU upon award. It was concluded that the RADP-S COP would revise the MOU based on this meeting's comments then send it to USAID and MAIL for signature. Meeting participants also agreed to establish a Collaboration Committee and to organize a RADP-S project launch at MAIL subsequent to the execution of the MOU.

Section IV: Management and Administrative Activities

A. Recruitment

Expatriate and TCN

Director of Finance Kevin Stupay and Communications Specialist Rachel Rothgery started long term assignments in February, and Short Term Enabling Environment Advisor Matt Weber arrived for his second assignment. M&E Advisor Brian Zuidema was also approved by USAID and will begin his long term assignment mid-March.

Cooperating Country Nationals (CCN)

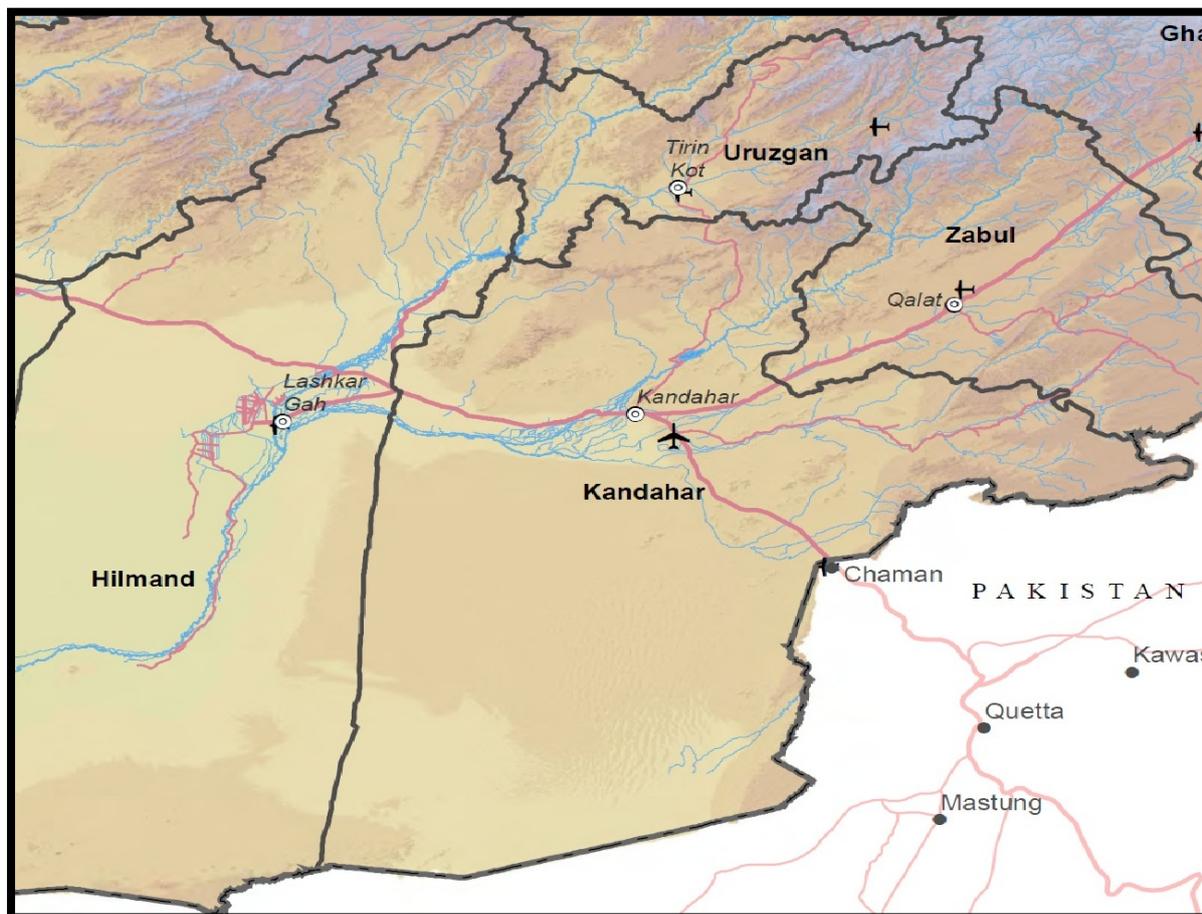
Nine local professional staff members were hired in February, bringing the total number of CCN staff hired to 46. During the period of February 1-28, the following positions were approved and hired:

RADP-S CCN February Hires			
#	Position	Name	Office
1	Gender Integration Specialist	Gulali Sherzai	Kandahar
2	Deputy Team Leader -Livestock	Enayatullah Hamdard	Kandahar
3	Grants Specialist	Bashir Ahmad	Kandahar
4	Grants Assistant	Ali Ahmad Sadaat	Kandahar
5	Data Entry Assistant	Sadia Azizi	Kandahar
6	Market Development Specialist	Fahim Nazary	Kandahar
7	Market Development Manager	Hikmatullah	Kandahar
8	Environmental Compliance Specialist	Malangjan Zaperzai	Kandahar
9	M&E Data Management Specialist	Zmarai Rafiq	Kandahar

Section IV: Implementation Challenges

The lack of an MOU with the MAIL is a significant limitation to program implementation. An endorsement of RADP-S by the MAIL to Provincial and District authorities is needed to enable the KIPs to receive cooperation from local authorities. RADP-S will take all necessary steps with USAID to try to obtain an MOU with the MAIL as soon as possible.

ANNEX A: Targeted Provinces and Districts



RADP-S Year One District Targets			
Kandahar	Helmand	Zabul	Uruzgan
Kandahar	Lashkar Gah	Qalat	Tirin Kowt
Panjwayi	Marja	Shah Joi	Chora
Arghandab	Nad Ali	Mizan	Shahidi Hassas
Daman	Naway-i-Barakzayi	Jaldak	
Spin Boldak	Nari Seraj	Daychopan	
Zherai			

ANNEX B: Blueprint of AMTEX Technical Training Facility and Demonstration Farm

