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REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM-SOUTH (RADP-S)

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MONTHLY REPORT: JULY 2014



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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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Cover photo: The RADP-S high value crop team leader presents evidence of spider mites on cucumber crops to master trainers at the AMTEX demonstration farm. Preventing and eradicating spider mites was part of the pest and disease control module during the Training of Trainers of Workshop at the AMTEX Technical Training Center, July 15-24. Photo credit USAID/RADP-S.

ACRONYMS

AMMC	Afghan Management and Marketing Consultants
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	District Development Assembly
DOWA	Directorate of Women's Affairs
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EEU	Enabling Environment Unit
FFS	Farmer Field School
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HVC	High Value Crops
INL	Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
KFZ	Kandahar Food Zone
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWA	Ministry of the Women's Affairs
NSP	National Solidarity Program
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PPU	Productivity and Production Unit
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South
RTA	Radio & Television of Afghanistan
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCFU	Value Chain Facilitation Unit
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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. 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 the Afghan private sector 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.

July 2014 Program Highlights

Training of trainers (TOT) exercises kicked off in July, starting with the first TOT Workshop at the AMTEX Technical Training Center. Over the course of the nine-day workshop, members of the RADP-S Productivity and Production Unit (PPU) trained 52 project master trainers in improved farming techniques, which the master trainers will transfer to lead farmers and neighboring farmers across the RADP-S target districts. The post-harvest advisor also conducted seven trainings in nutrition, food and hygiene, and harvest and post-harvest handling to the post-harvest component team, value chain facilitation unit (VCFU), and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit. The post-harvest component team will transfer the skills gained from these trainings to the master trainers at the end of the harvest and post-harvest periods in July 2015r.

In the meantime, RADP-S collaborated with each district's Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL), District Development Assembly (DDA), and local *shuras* (councils of village elders) to identify 174 landowners and 163 lead farmers out of the 51,520 farmers in the 15 target districts. RADP-S will select 78 lead farmers and plots of land from the list in August for the establishment of demonstration farms. Each demonstration farm will serve as a venue for building the capacity of neighboring farmers in improved productivity, production, and post-harvest practices.

The RADP-S livestock component launched its six-month para-veterinary training course at the Charikar Training and Support Center in Parwan. Five technical trainers for RADP-S instructed 20 para-veterinary students and three RADP-S master trainers in subjects such as livestock anatomy and physiology, problem-based clinical diagnosis, and diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. Graduates of this course will establish 75 new veterinary field units (VFUs) across RADP-S target districts. RADP-S aims to train a total of 75 new para-veterinarians by December 2015.

During the period of July 17-31, RADP-S used social mapping and analyzed district clustering to begin establishing Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in 40 villages across the ten target districts in Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. Each FFS will serve as the venue for RADP-S to lead participatory technology development (PTD) sessions on enhancing productivity, animal welfare, and value addition practices. To support establishment of the FFSs, RADP-S conducted a five-day training workshop in the establishment of FFSs and PTD groups to fourteen livestock extension workers, four provincial coordinators, and two provincial field coordinators. RADP-S likewise signed

contracts with four veterinary field units (VFUs) in Uruzgan and used social mapping analysis to identify 27 villages for new VFU establishment. Each VFU will be responsible for providing quality veterinary services to the surrounding livestock owners and for reporting disease outbreaks to RADP-S.

In July the RADP-S enabling environment unit (EEU) completed its analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data gleaned from 460 surveys and 14 focus groups conducted in the four target provinces during the period of March-May. The analysis identifies the most popular constraints to the wheat, high value crop and livestock value chains, while filtering them for enabling environment relevance. In coordination with USAID and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL), the EEU also came to an agreement to embed a long term liaison position within the MAIL Department of Planning and Program Coordination. This will be a senior local national position that reports directly to the General Director, liaises with all RADP projects in Afghanistan, and provides subject matter expertise in the analysis and refinement of current legal and policy frameworks to support enabling environment objectives. Given the conclusion of the first round of data-gathering, the EEU will now proceed to create initial pilot constraints analysis documents for discussion and advancement within MAIL. These documents will create the starting point for the embedded advisor to research whether the present policy framework existing under MAIL may be improved by addressing the constraints identified by RADP-S.

Finally, the RADP-S communications and outreach team hosted two workshops in Kabul in preparation for the launch of its radio broadcast series in August. The first, the Media Training Workshop for Radio Producers and Community Reporters, benefited fifteen producers and reporters from the partner radio stations of each target province. Participants received training from RADP-S in skills such as hosting live call-in programs and using improved field recording devices. The second – the Communications Stakeholder Workshop - introduced program stakeholders from the provincial DAILs, radio stations and RADP-S provincial leadership to the RADP-S communications and outreach strategy. At the workshop, participants exchanged ideas for coordination and collaboration with RADP-S on program communications and outreach activities such as radio broadcasts and mobile theater performances. The DAIL representatives expressed their full support for RADP-S outreach activities and the director of the Helmand DAIL in particular volunteered to assign his district level extension colleagues to encourage farmers to listen to RADP-S broadcasts.

SECTION II: PRODUCTIVITY AND PRODUCTION UNIT

CLINs I & 2: Wheat & High Value Crops (HVCs)

Training of Trainers Workshop

Fifty-two RADP-S master trainers and 18 members of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team attended the first TOT Workshop at the AMTEX Technical Training Center on July 15-24. The workshop gave RADP-S master trainers the skills necessary to train 78 lead farmers responsible for demonstrating improved productivity practices to their communities across southern Afghanistan. With the RADP-S PPU providing the technical instruction, training included nine modules spanning crop establishment to plant nutrition to water management, and covered August, September, and October in the crop calendar. Most days, activities started in the classroom then moved to the demonstration farm for examples of practical application. The M&E team attended to gain a solid base of knowledge of the training curriculum in order to more effectively gauge the quality of training taking place on lead farms.

Identification of Lead Farmers

In July, RADP-S successfully conducted a survey for the selection of lead farmers and leasable farmland in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. Those chosen to be surveyed were identified through lists provided by the district DAILs, DDAs, and local *shura* members of each RADP-S target district, with consideration for the established selection criteria. A total of 104 lead farmers and landowners were interviewed in Kandahar, 161 in Helmand, 36 in Zabul, and 36 in Uruzgan. For each farmer or landowner, an evaluation form was filled out and submitted to the PPU for final selection and approval. Lead farmer evaluation forms contained general questions such as relations with neighbors and willingness to try new farming methods and technologies, as well as technical questions such as experience working with the target crops and participating in technical trainings. The landowner

evaluation forms included questions regarding accessibility and quality of the land such as crop history, types of available irrigation, and security of the location. In addition to evaluating the survey responses, RADP-S will use geospatial data and analysis methodologies supplied to the program by Alcis Holdings Ltd. in June to select the final 78 lead farmers and landowners. Factors such as information from the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), irrigation and water resource data from the Army Corp of Engineers, and locations of markets, processing facilities and farm service centers will be taken into account.



A plot of land in Dehrawood district in Uruzgan province which has been nominated for the establishment of a lead farm.

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The RADP-S HVC deputy team leader demonstrates to master trainers how to use an A-frame for the purpose of land-leveling at the TOT Workshop at the AMTEX demonstration farm.

Next month, RADP-S will share the final approved list of farmers and land with each district's local authorities and DDA. A contract and MOU will then be signed between RADP-S and each lead farmer and landowner. Once these documents are executed, RADP-S will begin developing the demonstration farms and rolling out training activities. These farms will serve as a venue for building the capacity of neighboring farmers in improved productivity, production, and post-harvest practices.

AMTEX Technical Training Facility

During the reporting period, RADP-S continued to develop the AMTEX Technical Training Facility. The facility consists of a training hall and a 4275 square meter demonstration farm on AMTEX Village grounds. The hall serves as a venue to build the capacity of the RADP-S consortium in technical and administrative skills such as work-planning, applying lead farmer selection criteria, and communications skills. The primary purpose of the demonstration farm is to build the capacity of master trainers in skills such as post-harvest handling, utilization of greenhouses, field cooling and cold storage, and drip, furrow and basin irrigation. Orchard, vineyard, and high value vegetables crops are currently being cultivated and maintained for capacity building and demonstration purposes. These activities will strengthen the master trainers' capacity to effectively transfer improved productivity skills to lead farmers in the target provinces.

In July, RADP-S began development of a post-harvest training facility adjacent to the AMTEX demonstration farm. First, RADP-S transported four refrigerated reefer containers and five power generation units to the AMTEX demonstration farm to establish a cold storage park as part of a post-harvest training facility. AMTEX commissioned two additional reefers and three power units to serve as spares. RADP-S additionally started developing a pack-house, completing excavation, compaction of the base

gravel, and construction of the first concrete foundation. The project will use the post-harvest training facility to train master trainers in sorting, grading, pre-cooling, post-harvest practices, and both immersion and forced air cooling methods for crops.



USAID/RADP-S

Two of the refrigerated reefers adjacent to the AMTEX demonstration farm where the PPU will train master trainers in cold storage practices.



USAID/RADP-S

RADP-S ST post-harvest advisor discusses improved handling of peaches to the RADP-S capacity-building director during a TOT exercise on stone fruits, July 14.

Throughout the reporting period, the short-term post-harvest advisor facilitated a series of five trainings to the post-harvest component team, M&E team, and VCFU in the harvest and post-harvest handling of wheat, stone fruits, high value vegetables, figs, and almonds. Training included subjects such as sorting, grading, improved storage, and solar drying. The post-harvest team attended in order to learn the skills they will transfer to the master trainers during the harvest and post-harvest periods in October and November. The VCFU participated to further develop its knowledge of the value chain as related to the phases of harvest and post-harvest. As with the TOT workshop, the M&E team attended to gain a solid knowledge base of the training materials in order to provide a more informed analysis of the quality of training taking place on the lead farm.

The post-harvest advisor also conducted trainings on nutrition and food safety and hygiene. These sessions included the gender integration manager as these topics are planned to be rolled into vocational training modules targeting women.

CLIN 3: Livestock

Farmer Field School Establishment

July 6-10, RADP-S conducted a five-day training workshop in establishment of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and participatory technology development (PTD) groups. Fourteen extension workers, four provincial coordinators, and two provincial field coordinators for RADP-S participated in the training which took place in the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) Kandahar Training Center. Each FFS will serve as the venue for RADP-S to lead PTD sessions on enhancing productivity, animal welfare, and value addition practices. Subsequently, during the period of July 17-31, RADP-S used social mapping and analyzed district clustering to begin establishing FFSs in 40 villages across the ten target districts in Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces.

Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) Establishment

Four VFUs in the Uruzgan province – two in Tirin Kot district and one each in Chora and Dehrawood districts - signed contracts with RADP-S in July. According to the contract, each VFU will be responsible for providing quality veterinary services to the surrounding livestock owners. In exchange, RADP-S will remunerate the VFU owner \$25 USD per monthly report, \$20 USD for maintaining treatment registers, and \$5 USD per disease outbreak status report, all of which are submitted on a monthly basis. RADP-S issued the four VFUs monthly report templates, treatment registers, and disease outbreak forms upon finalization of their agreements. RADP-S enters information from the monthly reports into a database and prepares monthly reports on VFU activities which are shared with the DAIL. The reports also help RADP-S assess the activity, performance and income of each paravet. The duration of the signed VFU agreements is for six months. After six months, each VFU will be re-evaluated on their performance and the contracts can be extended to a year.



USAID/RADP-S

RADP-S conducts a social mapping exercise in Chora district to identify locations to establish new VFUs.

Using social mapping and district clustering analysis, RADP-S additionally brought the number of villages identified for new VFU establishment to 27 across the target provinces. RADP-S aims to contract a total of 100 VFUs – 25 established and 75 new – by the end of 2015.

Charikar Training and Support Center

On June 30, RADP-S launched a six-month para-veterinary training course at the Charikar Training and Support Center in Parwan. In July, five technical trainers for RADP-S instructed 20 para-veterinary students and three RADP-S master trainers in the subjects of mathematics, livestock anatomy and physiology, problem-based clinical diagnosis, diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, cause of diseases, animal husbandry, extension work, English, and administration. The course runs for six hours per day (five hours per day during Ramadan) and five days per week. One-



USAID/RADP-S

A RADP-S technical trainer demonstrates where to identify the vital signs on a goat for the para-veterinary students at the Charikar Training and Support Center.

third of the lessons were delivered outside via demonstration while the remaining took place in a classroom. Graduates of this course will establish 75 new veterinary field units (VFUs) across the RADP-S target districts. RADP-S aims to train a total of 75 new para-veterinarians by December 2015.

The course was preceded by tests which will help measure the knowledge transfer and, by extension, impact of the training at the course's conclusion. Moreover, the RADP-S livestock value chain team leader conducted periodic interviews with individual trainees to survey the teaching methods to which they were most receptive. The instructors integrated this feedback into their training style each day to improve the effectiveness of the course.

SECTION III/CLIN 4: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

In July the RADP-S enabling environment unit (EEU) completed its analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data gleaned from 460 surveys and 14 focus groups conducted during the period of March-May in the four target provinces. The analysis identifies the most common constraints to the wheat, high value crop, and livestock value chains, while filtering them for enabling environment relevance and vetting the survey data with focus group input, follow-up questionnaires, and desk research. According to the survey and focus group data, the principle constraints to development of the wheat value chain is availability of improved and foundation seed issues, water management (with the exception of Helmand), and storage. The principle constraints to the high value crop value chain is lack of cold storage, lack of technical knowledge and equipment to meet international market standards, low quality agro-chemicals, and counterfeit or adulterated seeds. Finally, the main constraints to the livestock value chain are animal diseases, low quality or counterfeit vaccines and medicines, lack of veterinary clinics and labs to diagnose diseases, and no cold storage to preserve vaccines and animal products (i.e. meat, eggs and milk). Another constraint that is significant but was not frequently mentioned was lack of access to credit. The EEU suspects the underreporting on this constraint may be due to a low awareness of formal financing, the perception of non-Islamic compliance, and the presence of informal lending networks.

In coordination with USAID and MAIL, the EEU also came to an agreement to embed a long term liaison position within the MAIL Department of Planning and Program Coordination. This will be a senior local national position that reports directly to the General Director, liaises with all RADP projects in Afghanistan, and provides subject matter expertise in the analysis and refinement of current legal and policy frameworks to support enabling environment objectives. Future constraints prioritization will benefit from consultation with MAIL and DAIL offices as well as national and regional agricultural associations. The completed analysis will likely be revised to add knowledge and policy context acquired through deeper engagement at the MAIL and DAIL levels.

Given the conclusion of the first round of data-gathering, the EEU will now proceed to create initial pilot constraints analysis documents for discussion and advancement within MAIL. These documents will create the starting point for an embedded advisor within MAIL to research whether the present policy framework existing under MAIL may be improved by addressing the constraints identified by RADP-S.

SECTION IV: VALUE CHAIN FACILITATION

Throughout July, the RADP-S value chain facilitation unit (VCFU) conducted a series of interviews with a total of 20 wheat and 25 livestock input supply value chain actors in Kandahar. The purpose of these interviews was to develop abbreviated analyses of the wheat and livestock input supply chains. Each abbreviated analysis will accomplish the following: a) create a map that presents the relevant market actors and their relationships with one another; b) describe value chain governance structures and methods of inter-firm cooperation; c) identify constraints in the areas of market access, input supply, technology/product development, management and organization, policy, finance, and infrastructure; and d) assess the potential and requirements of the end markets and key buyers of the selected value chain. Once the abbreviated analyses are completed, RADP-S will share its findings with



USAID/RADP-S

Poultry layers at Rahat Ltd in Kandahar where the VCFU facilitated a livestock input supply value chain constraints interview.

livestock input supply and wheat companies to confirm the identified constraints and discuss possible market-based solutions.

SECTION V: GENDER

RADP-S continued discussions with the DOWAs of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces regarding the establishment of demonstration farms on each DOWA premises. Each farm will replicate the 78 project lead farms throughout the districts to which women will have limited to no access due to cultural gender barriers. In addition to building women's capacity in improved farming practices, RADP-S will provide vocational training in income-generating activities such as jam and jelly making and solar drying of fruits and vegetables. In July, all four DOWAs confirmed that they are ready for RADP-S to begin developing the demonstration farms on their land. RADP-S will draft an MOU with the Ministry of the Women's Affairs (MOWA) and DOWA before initiating project activities.

SECTION VI: COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Live Call-In Radio Broadcasts

RADP-S is on track to broadcast its first live call-in radio program. In collaboration with the PPU, the communications and outreach team jumpstarted preparations for a program addressing wheat water management, which will be broadcast in all four provinces the third week of August. Another program addressing animal health will be broadcast the following week. At the conclusion of the communications assessment in June, RADP-S selected the following radio stations to broadcast the RADP-S agricultural radio series: Hewad in Kandahar, Sabawoon in Helmand, Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) in Zabul, and Paywastoon in Uruzgan. Each weekly broadcast will last 60 minutes and feature an expert panel discussion, live call-in questions to the panel, voices from the field, and a mini drama.

RADP-S Media Training Workshop

RADP-S hosted the Media Training Workshop for Radio Producers and Community Reporters in Kabul on July 21-23. Fifteen producers and reporters from the radio stations Hewad, Sabawoon, RTA, and Paywastoon participated in the workshop. The director of PLAR productions (a theater group) also attended since the radio broadcasts will be featuring mini dramas. Over the three-day period, RADP-S introduced the participants to the overarching goals of the program and explained how radio broadcasts will play a role in supporting those goals. The workshop enabled participants to contribute their ideas on how to improve the RADP-S broadcasting plan under development. The workshop also provided training in skills such as recording "vox pops" (a brief sound bite from the field which reflects popular opinion on a particular topic), creating a caller database, using improved field recording materials, hosting live call-in programs, and agricultural sound effects and jingles.



USAID/RADP-S

Community reporters practice recording vox pops with a local farmer during the Media Training Workshop hosted by the RADP-S communications and outreach team.

Communications Stakeholders Workshop

On July 24, RADP-S hosted a Communications Stakeholders Workshop to introduce program stakeholders from the provincial DAILs, radio stations and RADP-S provincial leadership to the RADP-S communications and outreach strategy. At the workshop, participants exchanged ideas for coordination and collaboration with RADP-S on program communications and outreach activities such as radio broadcasts and mobile theater performances. Included among the seventeen participants were the directors of the Kandahar, Helmand and Zabul DAILs, the extension manager of the Uruzgan DAIL, provincial directors from the RADP-S field consortium, and managers from Hewad, Sabawoon, Paywastoon, and RTA radio stations. The DAIL representatives expressed their full support for RADP-S outreach activities. The director of Helmand DAIL in particular volunteered to assign his district level extension colleagues to encourage farmers to listen to RADP-S broadcasts, and to collect listeners' feedback from the field.



USAID/RADP-S

DAIL directors, radio producers, and other RADP-S stakeholders attend the Communications Stakeholders Workshop, Kabul, July 24.

SECTION VII: MONITORING & EVALUATION

RADP-S' baseline subcontractor, Afghan Management and Marketing Consultants (AMMC), continues to work on the baseline report. Although they submitted the draft baseline report, accompanying raw data, and the secondary data report to the project in July, AMMC will not complete the executive summary of the baseline report until the last week of August. The secondary data report will be submitted during the same week. RADP-S submitted the secondary data report to USAID for review in July. The document required significant improvement and USAID requested further revision. The document is currently with RADP-S' home office for improvement and the project expects to resubmit to USAID in August.

In the meantime, AMMC submitted the primary data report for Uruzgan province and the methodology section of the baseline report to the M&E team. The primary data report will also require significant revision. The shortcomings included such things as inconsistencies in the level of precision in reporting numbers, incomplete disclosure of the base for calculations, incomplete labeling of tables and graphs, and inadequate reporting of non-responses. The M&E team provided AMMC with substantial feedback and will work with them in August to revise the methodology section and incorporate this feedback into the other provincial chapters.

Given the previous delays and quality concerns for the survey, RADP-S expects additional delays for the final product. RADP-S communicated these issues to USAID in July and will continue to monitor AMMC's progress closely and mentor them. AMMC produced one report for Uruzgan province for which extensive feedback was provided in areas noted above. They were then instructed to tabulate the summary figures and prepare an executive summary prior to concluding the detailed province by province reports. The executive summary will be submitted the last week of August.

The project's approach to working with AMMC has two objectives: The first is to help AMMC produce a quality product. The second is to improve AMMC's overall capacity. After AMMC concludes this contract, the company should be more capable of delivering the survey research needs of others.

The RADP-S M&E team also participated in the TOT workshop at AMTEX from July 15-24. Responsible for administering pre-tests, post-tests, and course evaluations to the training

participants, the M&E team also trained the master trainers how to conduct these tests and evaluations themselves with the district lead farmers. Master trainers will provide the M&E team with soft and hard copies of all tests and evaluations for review, analysis, and record-keeping.

SECTION VIII: PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Uruzgan

From July 6-8, RADP-S held introductory meeting with the leadership and various stakeholders of each target districts in Uruzgan: Tirin Kot, Chora, and Dehrawood. Each meeting ranged from 18-26 participants from the District Development Assembly (DDA), DAIL, village *shuras*, as well as farmers and religious leaders. These meetings served as a venue for RADP-S to introduce the project's overall goals and planned technical activities in Uruzgan in order to establish a relationship of cooperation. Participants welcomed and expressed support for RADP-S and offered their collaboration on implementation. In Dehrawood, the district governor highlighted the need for training in improved orchard production practices. RADP-S subsequently worked with the district leadership to draft lists of potential lead farmers for the establishment of 13 demonstration farms.

Zabul

July 13-14, RADP-S held introduction meetings with the district leadership and stakeholders of the target districts in Zabul: Qalat, Shah Joy, and Jaldak. An average of 14 representatives from the DAILs, DDA, village *shuras*, National Solidarity Program (under the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development), and district government participated in each meeting. Overall, response to the program's goals and upcoming activities was positive and RADP-S and the stakeholders established a cooperative rapport. However, the district governor of Shah Joy expressed that the provision of seeds, fertilizers, vaccines and other fundamental farming resources were more necessary to his district than training. Additionally, the Jaldak district governor requested that RADP-S move its district office closer to the government center for security purposes.

Other USAID Projects

Only July 14, RADP-S and USAID Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ) held their regular monthly coordination meeting to explore areas of technical and programmatic partnership. In addition to discussions regarding collaboration in water management and greenhouse initiatives, which started in June, the two parties identified opportunities for collaboration in value chain facilitation and gender activities.

In the area of value chain facilitation, KFZ will provide RADP-S with a list of the dry fruit and vegetable companies it has trained. The RADP-S VCFU will benefit from this list by identifying potential lead firms to connect with local producers, thus strengthening market linkages. The VCFU and KFZ also plan to examine the current RADP-S grant system to determine how KFZ firms might be convinced to cost-share on grants in order to prevent future market distortions. For example, a lead firm could agree to train a predetermined number of neighbor farmers as part of the cost-share for the purchase of a greenhouse and each year increase the percentage of ownership over the greenhouse.

Regarding gender activities, KFZ has agreed to collaborate in the establishment of the demonstration farm at the Aino Mino DOWA Training Center. Specifically, KFZ will finance the borehole necessary for irrigation of the farm. Upon the farm's completion, KFZ plans to share the space with RADP-S for capacity-building activities.

Finally, RADP-S and KFZ also discussed an agreement where RADP-S would take over the M&E of KFZ beneficiaries upon close of KFZ's contract. RADP-S and KFZ will continue to hold monthly coordination meetings. The next session is scheduled for August 5.

SECTION IX: IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

The KIPs have faced significant delays in the procurement of computers and furniture. Vetting approval for these procurements was still outstanding during the reporting period, preventing the KIPs from properly setting up their provincial and district offices and negatively affecting implementation.

In addition, the assassination of AMTEX Village's landowner, Hashmat Karzai, on July 29 prompted a two-day closure of the Kandahar office while security assessed whether there were any potential threat to the compound. All expatriate staff temporarily relocated to Kabul and the program initiated contingency planning in the event that AMTEX be judged insecure. After a fact-finding mission, it was decided that AMTEX is not under imminent threat and the office reopened on August 4.

ANNEX A: RADP-S ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

