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**DISCLAIMER**

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.

## ACRONYMS

ABISC	Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company
ADA	Afghan Development Association
CBCMP II	Capacity Building and Change Management Program II
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DAP	Diammonium Phosphate
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DOWA	Department of Women's Affairs
EEU	Enabling Environment Unit
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HVC	High Value Crop
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KCFC	Khurasan Cub Fish Company
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PPR	Peste des petits ruminants
PSA	Public Short Announcement
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South
RFA	Request for Application
SRHHP	Small Ruminants Herd Health Package
TOT	Training of Trainer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCU	Value Chain Unit
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VTSC	Veterinary Training and Support Center
ZNAC	Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company

Cover Photo: RADP-S Gender Unit demonstrates the use of PICS bags for wheat storage to women in Arghandab, Kandahar.

## **SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Program Description**

The purpose of the Regional Agricultural 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.

### **May 2015 Program Highlights**

During the reporting period, wheat harvesting on demonstration farms enabled lead farmers and master trainers to showcase cost-effective technologies like wheat harvester machines and post-harvest handling techniques to reduce yield loss. In total, 4,861 farmers attended wheat training in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. High value crop trainings for 4,329 farmers focused on stone fruit post-harvest cooling and storage and field demonstrations on the application of nutrients to vineyard plants.

RADP-S signed grant agreements with one HVC input supplier and five livestock agribusinesses in May to support promotional trainings, develop staff capacity, and create a local customer base. The livestock agribusinesses range from broiler input suppliers to fish farmers and slaughterhouses. In addition, wheat input supply companies supported by RADP-S began training activities on certified wheat seeds, inputs, and irrigation technology.

RADP-S continues to work with traders, exporters, and fruit association owners in southern Afghanistan. Seventy-four traders and exporters attended a RADP-S training on Grape Post-Harvest and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) standards to increase awareness on reducing grape loss and international safety standards. The training taught traders how to identify grape maturity and proper cooling processes to extend shelf life. HACCP principles were then introduced to many traders for the first time and provided simple safety, sanitation, and quality controls that can be utilized in their own operations.

To coincide with the wheat harvesting season, the Gender Unit began Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bag trainings in Kandahar province. While women play an important role in wheat storage, most women are not aware of the uses and benefits of the PICS bag technology. PICS bags allow wheat and grains to be stored in a three-layered, hermetically sealed bag which keeps wheat dry and removes oxygen, killing any pests that may cause further damage to the wheat crop. In June, PICS Bag trainings will also take place in Uruzgan, Zabul, and Helmand provinces.

## SECTION II: WHEAT

### **Farmer Trainings in Wheat Topics**

During the reporting period, RADP-S master trainers conducted training on wheat harvest and post-harvest management for 4,861 farmers in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. Wheat loss is most often caused by poor harvest methods and post-harvest practices by farmers. Master trainers provided several methods for identifying wheat maturity. These methods include inspecting the wheat grain for moisture levels below 20 percent and testing the durability of the wheat stalks, as dry stalks that are easily cut by combine or sickle is a sign of maturity. Wheat harvester machine demonstrations showed farmers the time and cost-effectiveness of utilizing this affordable and market-accessible machine. Wheat topics also covered wheat cleaning and storage techniques to keep wheat dry and free of pests.



USAID/RADP-S  
**Demonstration of wheat harvester machine in Panjwei, Kandahar.**

### **Wheat Harvest on AMTEX and Demonstration Farms**

Wheat harvesting occurred on all demo farms in Kandahar and Helmand provinces in the month of May. Due to climate differences, wheat will be mature enough for harvest in June on Uruzgan district farms. In Zabul province, wheat was harvested on one demonstration farm in Jaldak district, with wheat harvesting to be completed by June on all Zabul farms. RADP-S will be monitoring wheat yields on demonstration farms to show the potential for increased yields as a result of RADP-S promoted inputs, irrigation methods, and integrated pest management (IPM) systems.

Wheat harvesting results on the AMTEX farm provide initial estimates on yield potential from the demo farms. Wheat cultivation occurred on three plots, utilizing three different methods of planting and input application. The first plot was cultivated utilizing the line planting system, with animal manure, urea and DAP. The second plot was planted in the line system but had less animal manure application than plot one, and urea and DAP application. The third plot replicated traditional growing techniques, utilizing the broadcasting method to plant wheat and no manure, only urea and DAP inputs. Plot one produced 1,307 kilograms of wheat per jerib, utilizing modern techniques of line growing and the correct application of available inputs. Plot two produced 1,153 kilograms of wheat per jerib and plot three produced 448 kilograms of wheat per jerib. The plot one methods were taught on the demonstration farms and represent the potential to more than double wheat production.

### **Wheat Input Supply Companies Begin Promotional Trainings**

#### *Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company*

The Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company (ABISC) held a seven day training of trainers (ToT) for its staff on certified wheat seed marketing and extension in Kandahar. ABISC also successfully conducted two days of classroom trainings and two hands-on demonstration trainings in Arghandab and Daman districts for about 200 farmers. ABISC introduced the company's products, explained the differences between local and improved wheat seed varieties, and trained farmers on wheat land and irrigation preparations as well as wheat drying and storage.

### *Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Wheat Seed Company*

In April, RADP-S provided a grant to the Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Wheat Seed Company. During



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**Sahrai Loy Improved Seeds Company training of trainers on certified wheat seeds in Kandahar.**

the reporting period, Sahrai Loy developed an activity work plan, training curriculum, and training materials. A ToT for two Sahrai Loy staff members on classroom and demonstration training techniques for wheat seed marketing was completed in May as well as a five day training for about 60 farmers in Dand district. Trainings focused on Sahrai Loy promoted inputs for wheat, differences in wheat varieties, and wheat IPM, and pre- and post-harvest management for wheat. Sahrai Loy will continue trainings in June to meet its target of 180 farmers trained. RADP-S also supported the design of promotional banners, brochure, and business cards for use during the trainings.

### ***Wheat Input Supply Companies Develop Training Materials***

#### **SISSCO**

RADP-S is monitoring the progress of the SISSCO wheat input supply company. As many farmers are unaware of the benefits of input resources and where to purchase them, RADP-S's support of input supply companies connect farmers directly to suppliers and allows practical demonstrations of their products. During the reporting period, RADP-S assisted SISSCO in developing a work plan, training curriculum, and promotional materials to advertise the company's products. RADP-S also finalized its baseline survey for SISSCO and trained the company on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools and requirements. SISSCO anticipates training farmers in Arghandab, Zheri, and Daman districts of Kandahar in the high yield potential of properly cultivated certified wheat seeds.

### *Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company*

The Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company aims to train 200 farmers from Panjwei district of Kandahar province in certified wheat seeds, pre-production land preparation, and the process of wheat germination. During the reporting period, pre-planning activities included the development of a work plan and curriculum and the preparation of M&E tools such as pre- and post-tests RADP-S also conducted a baseline survey in order to better measure potential increased sales from Sadar Zai's promotional trainings.

## **SECTION III: HIGH VALUE CROPS**

### ***Farmer High Value Crop Trainings***

During the reporting period, a total of 4,329 beneficiary farmers attended high value crop (HVC) training on orchard harvest and post-harvest management, weed and integrated pest management (IPM) for greenhouse plants, and demonstration trainings on vineyard nutrition. Pomegranate post-harvest practices stressed the correct time and hand picking method for pomegranates to prevent the fruit from splitting. Apricot, plum, and peach classroom sessions taught mechanical and immersion cooling techniques, packing at point of harvest, and processing of stone fruit. All post-harvest lessons stressed the importance of sorting and grading, especially for almonds to determine bitter



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**Demonstrating the application of plant nutrients in Daman, Kandahar.**

and sweet varieties for sale in the market. Weed and IPM classroom sessions introduced a variety of environmentally sustainable control mechanisms for greenhouse crops. Vineyard field sessions demonstrated how the application of nitrogen, phosphorus, and calcium nutrients counteracts soil deficiencies.

### **Vegetable Planting on Demonstration and AMTEX Farms**

In May, eggplant, tomato, cucumbers, and bell peppers were sown in nurseries in Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul and alfalfa was planted for intercropping. In Helmand, alfalfa and mung beans have been planted for intercropping with vegetable planting to begin in the next reporting period. The AMTEX farm transferred watermelon, cucumbers, and sweet potatoes from nursery seedling trays to the planting site.

### **Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company Promotional Training for Grape Growers**

During the reporting period, RADP-S grantee Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company trained 60 farmers in Arghandab district of Kandahar province. The four day training session promoted the company's products for controlling powdery mildew in grapes, taught farmers how to identify early signs of the disease, and explained mechanical and spray options for reducing disease spread

### **Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company Receives Grant**

In May, RADP-S signed a grant with the Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company (ZNAC) which specializes in IPM for high value crops. ZNAC provides IPM solutions that are natural, biological, and mechanical. Promoting ZNAC products will educate farmers on the harmful effects of commonly used insecticides and move them towards more environmentally-friendly and cost-effective solutions. Working in Arghandab, Dand, and Daman districts of Kandahar province, ZNAC will train 40 farmers in the use of IPM products. An activity plan, training curriculum, and training materials were developed in May. RADP-S also supported the development of promotional materials and M&E tools. A ToT for ZNAC staff was conducted in preparation for June trainings.



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**Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company signs a grant with RADP-S.**

### **Grape Post-Harvest and HACCP Training**

The Value Chain Unit invited 74 fruit and vegetable traders, exporters, and association owners from Zabul, Uruzgan, Helmand, and Kandahar provinces to take part in a two day training on Grape Post-Harvest and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) standards. Grapes are an important high value crop in all four southern provinces, however, high post-harvest loss results in reduced income for farmers and a loss in profit for agribusinesses. Trainees learned how to identify grape maturity, proper harvesting, pre-cooling techniques to increase shelf-life, and grape storage methods. HACCP training taught participants to identify critical points to help control foodborne illnesses. Doing so requires a HACCP plan and monitoring system. These types of controls are necessary for companies to gain HACCP certification and meet international standards that would allow Afghan grapes to enter the international market.



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**Fruit and vegetable traders and association owners take part in Grape Post-Harvest and HACCP training.**

## SECTION IV: LIVESTOCK

### ***FEG Survey on Small Ruminants Herd Health Package***

Farmer extension group (FEG) trainings on small ruminants concluded in the month of April. During the reporting period, RADP-S key implementing partner Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), conducted a survey on its six month Small Ruminants Herd Health Package (SRHHP) training program. DCA extension workers interviewed 76 women and 76 men from FEGs in 13 districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. Initial responses indicate that sessions on vaccinations and the vaccination calendar, sheep and goat feeding, and deworming were perceived as most helpful to livestock owners when it comes to decreasing animal mortality. The survey results and recommendations will be completed in the next reporting period and will inform DCA's implementation of the Large Ruminant Herd Health Package to begin in June.

### ***Livestock Health Services***

A total of 21,563 animals were medicated and 12,586 animals were vaccinated against common diseases such as anthrax, enterotoxaemia, hemorrhagic septicemia, foot and mouth disease (FMD), rabies, sheep pox, and New Castle disease by the 23 contracted veterinary field units (VFUs). An additional 595 animals were provided other animal care services by the VFUs. DCA continues to provide financial and organizational oversight of the VFUs, especially the four VFUs newly contracted in the last reporting period.

### ***Refresher Trainings for Paravets and DCA staff***

In May, DCA conducted two five day refresher training courses for paravets from all four provinces and Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) officials. A total of 28 paravets and four DAIL officials received Clinical Skills Practicum Training on topics such as blood transfusion, clinical examination, fluid therapy, injection techniques, California Mastitis test, determination of animal age, use and interpretation of urine dipsticks, and animal weight determinations. These hands-on practical sessions ensure that paravets are able to diagnose and properly administer basic animal care.



USAID/RADP-S  
Paravets examine a cow during refresher trainings in Kandahar City.

DCA also conducted a five day refresher training for its 15 extension workers and three extension officers on the Large Ruminant Herd Health Package set to begin in June for all FEGs. The six month plan will cover cattle raising practices, parasite control, cattle reproduction, blood parasite diseases, proper feeding schedules, and other lessons for cattle raising specific to southern Afghanistan.

### ***Progress of Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center Paravets***

During the reporting period, DCA provided a two day refresher training for the 19 graduates of the first round of para-veterinary training at the Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center (VTSC). All graduates are working closely with DCA on receiving paravet kits, motorbikes, and solar refrigerators. The establishment of new VFUs is anticipated to take place in the next reporting period along with the commencement of service provision to local farmers. The current class of paravet students at VTSC will graduate in early July, with DCA and RADP-S coordinating to ensure expedited VFU start-ups.

### ***RADP-S Provides Grants to Livestock Companies***

During the reporting period, RADP-S signed grants with five companies operating in various livestock

value chains. All five companies are based in Kandahar City and will conduct a series of trainings and exposure visits for farmers.

#### *Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm*

The Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm is a broiler input supply company working in Dand, Daman, Panjwei, and Zheri districts. The Ahmad Shahi company will develop a poultry farmer training curriculum and target 52 chicken farmers. Farmers will take part in a 15 day training course and 26 trainees will be selected to visit poultry farms, incubator centers, chicken farming equipment suppliers, and chicken markets throughout Nangahar province.

#### *Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House*

The Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House aims to increase the capacity of its staff and contracted broiler farmers in chicken rearing and chicken packing for the marketplace. In order to ensure healthy chickens, a poultry consultant will provide training on topics such as poultry farm design, ventilation, lighting, chicken care and vaccinations, and feed. A second consultant will be brought in to provide training on chicken assembly and packaging for sale. Presentation and packaging materials play an important role in delivering an appealing product. Afghan Sadaqat intends to increase its packaging standards in order to help drive demand and increase company profits.

#### *Khurasan Cub Fish Company*

The Khurasan Cub Fish Company has identified farmers interested in fish rearing through artificial ponds and as a result will begin a series of educational and management trainings. The Khurasan Company has the capacity to ship juvenile fish to local and regional markets and plans to train farmers on growing fish for their needs. Operating in Dand, Daman, Arghandab, Zheri, and Panjwei districts of Kandahar province, the Khurasan Cub Fish Company (KCFC) will build the capacity of 160 farmers in fish farm management. The company will also promote its juvenile fish among farmers. Khurasan Cub Fish Company will train farmers on juvenile fish production, business management, and provide a ToT for company staff. A work plan, training curriculum, and training activities were developed in May, with activities to begin in June.

#### *Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd*

Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd is a livestock feed company operating in Dand, Daman, Arghandab, Zheri, and Panjwei districts of Kandahar province. The objective of the Mostamand Etihad grant is to train livestock owners on the importance of animal feed and nutrition to produce higher quality meat and milk by-products. Two hundred and fifty cattle-owners will be selected for training. These trainings will also promote the use of VFUs in the target districts.

#### *Sayede Sadat Group*

RADP-S provided a grant to the Sayede Sadat Group, a broiler input supply company for small scale producers. The Sayede Sadat Group will provide training to 150 chicken farmers in Dand, Daman, Arghandab, Zheri, and Panjwei districts on broiler farm management, feed timing, poultry medicine, and disease treatment options. These trainings will increase the health of broilers and create a customer base for the company's chicken feed and medicine products.

## **SECTION V: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

### ***Review of the 100 Day Plan***

In coordination with the USAID Capacity Building and Change Management Program II (CBCMP II), the Enabling Environment Unit (EEU) provided recommendations on the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) 100 Day Plan for the new administration. Recommendations stressed the importance of a coordinated irrigation policy, national wheat policy, and policy addressing women's role in agriculture. The EEU's ongoing review of the Horticulture and Public Private Partnership policies were

also imparted as important initiatives for the new administration, both for driving momentum on these issues and prompting innovative solutions for increasing efficiency in the agriculture sector.

### ***Afghanistan National Livestock and Horticulture Policies Under Review***

During the reporting period, the EEU conducted meetings with the MAIL Livestock Directorate to review the Afghanistan National Livestock Development Policy Review submitted by the EEU to MAIL in April. Discussions about the inclusion of veterinary services in this policy, especially relevant to RADP-S activities and the support of VFUs are ongoing. In May the EEU finalized the Horticulture Policy Constraints Analysis review and submitted comments to MAIL. Key recommendations included gender promotion, standardized marketing procedures, and increasing linkages between producers and exporters. The Horticulture Policy structure was also streamlined to ensure that it met MAIL policy standards.

## **SECTION VI: CREATING MARKET LINKAGES**

### ***Survey of Poultry Businesses***

In May the Value Chain Unit (VCU) completed a survey of ten large poultry business based in Kabul City. The survey gathered information on the poultry businesses' size, operating capacity, and opportunities and challenges. These companies provide a variety of products and services such as poultry feed, day-old broilers chicks, poultry equipment, and medicines. The VCU will use this information to create connections with poultry famers from southern Afghanistan and identify types of interventions which would promote connections to poultry businesses and increase sales for both producers and businesses.

### ***Connecting with Omaid Bahar Juice Processing Factory***

During the reporting period, RADP-S in conjunction with the USAID Financial Access for Investing in the



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**RADP-S tours the Omaid Bahar Juice Processing Factory with the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.**

Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) project, facilitated a tour and meeting between the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and the Omaid Bahar Juice Processing Factory in Kabul City. The Omaid Bahar Juice Processing Factory is a state-of-the-art facility that is HACCP certified for its high safety standards. The meeting presented an opportunity to discuss the possibilities for juice processing, especially for pomegranates from southern Afghanistan. Juicing requires a high volume of fruit, and in the case of pomegranates, can be supplied via traders from project supported farmers in Kandahar and Helmand. RADP-S is exploring multiple avenues for collaboration with the Omaid Bahar Factory.

## **SECTION VII: CROSS-CUTTING THEMES**

### **Gender**

#### ***Progress of the DOWA Demonstration Farm***

During the reporting period, the Request for Application (RFA) was released for the financial management of the Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) demonstration farm. A pre-bid conference was held to answer any questions that applicants may have on the scope of work. The organization selected would manage the financial investments and gains of the farm, provide operational oversight, and ensure that demo farm activities are in-line with RADP-S's mission. A construction company for work on the demo

farm is currently undergoing USAID vetting. The construction company would be responsible for digging a borehole, setting up an irrigation system, installing a generator, and providing graveling for the farm.

### **Training on PICS Bags in Kandahar**



USAID/RADP-S

**Women trainees displaying their PICS bags in Arghandab, Kandahar.**

RADP-S began Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) Bags Training for women beneficiaries in Arghandab district following the ToT sessions for ADA and CHA staff conducted in April. The PICS Bag Training teaches women how to properly use PICS bags for the storage of cereals and grains. The three layered bag creates a dry environment that prevents spoilage and pest infiltration. Women play a large role in the post-harvest handling of wheat and this new technology allows them to ensure that wheat can be stored for longer periods of time. Reducing post-harvest loss is especially important for ensuring food security for women and children. Thirty-three women attended the training in Arghandab, and each woman received two bags at the end of the training. Responses were positive as many women did not know this technology existed and spoke about sharing this information with others.

### **Basic Nutrition Training**

RADP-S conducted basic nutrition trainings for 385 women in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabol provinces. Nutrition trainings concluded in May for women beneficiaries. RADP-S will analyze participation and impact of the trainings in order to inform future nutrition programming. Interviews conducted with women trainees have been overwhelmingly positive. In an interview with Qamar Jan, a beneficiary from Lashkar Gah, Helmand, she stated, “I support 13 members of my family and I have witnessed a change in my family’s life. We know when and what nutritious foods to eat. In my opinion, we should train the whole community on malnutrition and on fruits and vegetables with vitamins and minerals.”



USAID/RADP-S

**Qamar Jan cooks more vegetables for her family after RADP-S nutrition training.**

### **Communications and Outreach**

#### **Live Call-In Radio Broadcasts and Public Short Announcements**

During the reporting period, RADP-S’s radio program “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” was aired in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabol, and Uruzgan provinces. Due to vetting issues, the Kandahar radio program was not aired during the first week of May and a new radio station was identified. Killid Radio Station was selected to broadcast the “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” show in Kandahar and a one day training was provided to the radio’s staff on the format of the show with broadcasts beginning in mid-May. Topics covered during the month of May included: orchard harvest and post-harvest management, vineyard nutrition, wheat post-harvest management, and parturient paresis in cows. KIP wheat and HVC specialists, DCA livestock extension agents, as well as DAIL extension agents in all four provinces served as radio guests to answer listeners’ questions.

Public Short Announcements (PSAs) that aired during the reporting period covered wheat harvest and stone fruit maturity, livestock peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and tuberculosis disease, orchard and vegetable irrigation schedules, and orchard and winter vegetable IPM. These one-minute messages are coordinated to air during the growing season when most appropriate for practices such as irrigation, pruning, and vaccination time.

### **Mobile Theatre Performances and Listening Circles**

RADP-S began its second set of mobile theatre performances in May. Eleven performances took place in targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. About 630 attendees watched a performance on stone fruit harvest and post-harvest management. The story centers on a woman’s jam which is very delicious. Her jam is a result of ripe, properly harvested stone fruit and it is explained that one way to ensure the stone fruit lasts is to pick it in the cool morning hours and store it in a cool, moist environment.

In May, 45 listening circle sessions were conducted in all four provinces. Listening circle participants are divided into wheat, HVC, and livestock beneficiaries depending on the major crops they grow and animals they own. Listening Circle Facilitators lead the discussion on each topic along with a technical specialist from RADP-S’s key implementing partners. RADP-S trained a total of 946 participants, 332 in wheat harvest management, 324 in vineyard IPM and weed control, and 290 in livestock hemorrhagic septicemia in the 15 targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces.



USAID/RADP-S

**Listening circle on livestock in Arghandab, Kandahar.**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

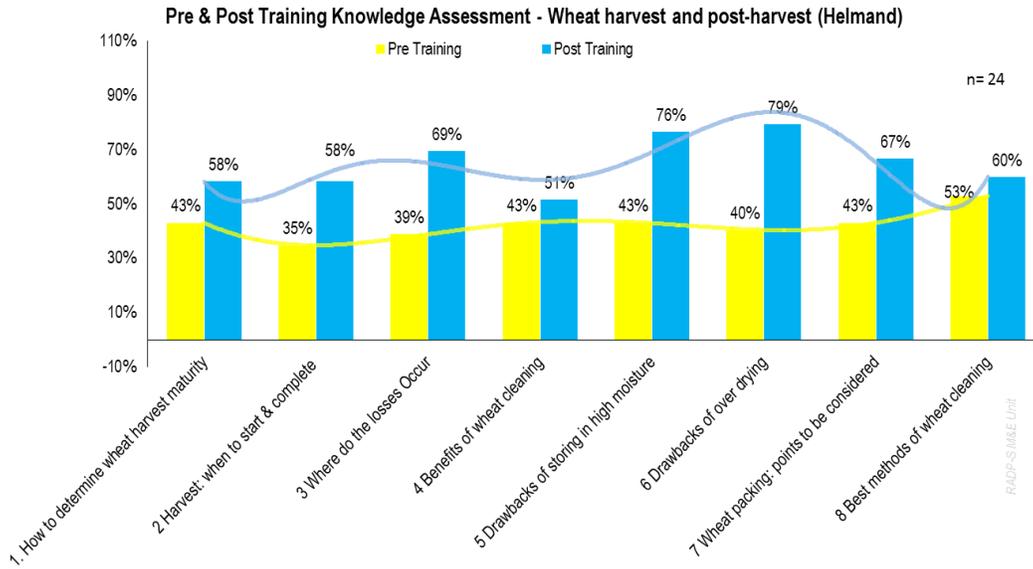
In May, the M&E team monitored 61 farmer trainings in all target districts of Kandahar province, Tirin Kot district of Uruzgan province, Qalat district of Zabul province, and Lashkar Gah district of Helmand province. Security restrictions prevented monitoring in three districts in Helmand, two districts in Zabul, and two districts in Uruzgan. Nutrition and PICS Bag trainings in Kandahar were also monitored and the M&E team provided baseline survey support for agribusiness grantees.

### **Increased Knowledge Gains from Trainings**

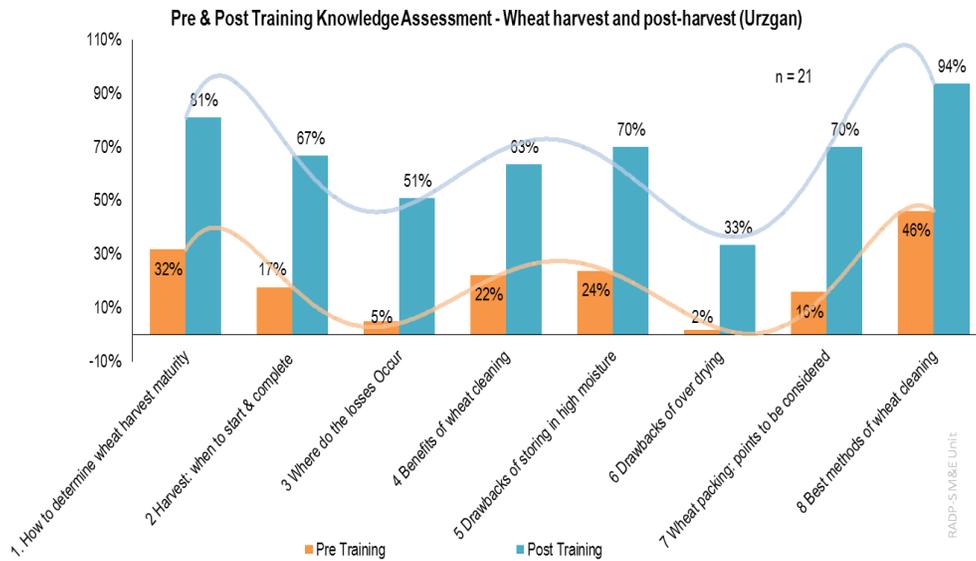
During the month of May, the M&E team worked on creating a more streamlined methodology for administering pre- and post-tests to determine knowledge gains. M&E team members randomly selected trainees for pre-tests and followed up with each trainee to administer post-tests in Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul. Below are the results of the survey:

<b>Results Summary (Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces)</b>	
<b>Knowledge Level</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Average Pre-Training	<b>37%</b>
Average Post-Training	<b>69%</b>
Average Increase (percentage points)	<b>32%</b>
Percentage of knowledge not captured	<b>31%</b>

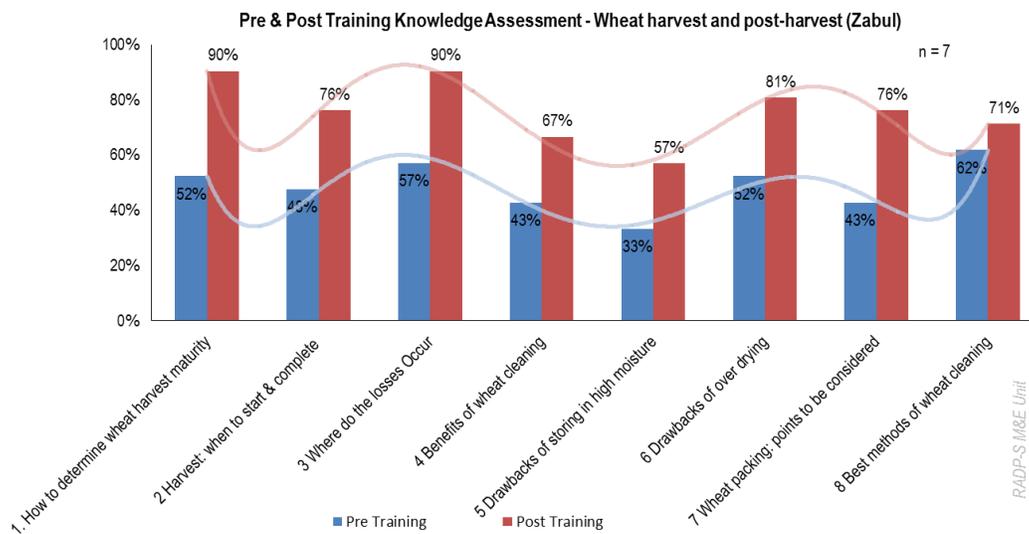
Sampling of farmers from the three provinces saw an average increase of 32 percent in trainee knowledge after each training, bringing the trainee’s cumulative knowledge of a training topic to about 69 percent. These knowledge gains showcase the effectiveness of RADP-S’s training curriculum and methodology. The results are further broken down by province in the below graphs:



Helmand trainings overall saw a 23 percentage point increase from pre-test averages of 42 percent to post-test averages of 65 percent. The largest training gains occurred for the session on the “Drawbacks of over-drying wheat,” which saw a 39 percent increase in trainee knowledge. The increases in knowledge for post-harvest handling techniques indicate the lack of knowledge in that area and thus demonstrate the importance of ongoing trainings in these topics in order to prevent wheat loss.



In Uruzgan province, pre-tests averaged 20 percent and increased by 46 percentage points on average to 66 percent at post-test. The largest increase in knowledge gains occurred in topics related to wheat packing and determining wheat maturity. These large gains indicate a particularly low level of base knowledge of wheat harvesting in Uruzgan province and RADP-S’s ability to provide trainees with new techniques for improving wheat cultivation.



In Zabul province, pre-test knowledge of wheat training topics averaged 25 percent and rose to 76 percent after trainings, demonstrating an average increase in knowledge of 49 percent. The largest knowledge gains occurred in determining wheat maturity with a 38 percent increase from pre- to post-test.

## SECTION VIII: PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

### Other USAID funded projects

#### **Kabul**

In coordination with the Afghan Trade and Revenue Project, RADP-S participated in the “Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia Opportunities and Challenges” Conference. The conference introduced Afghan traders to opportunities for export to South Asia and identified solutions to trade challenges in the region. RADP-S presented on its current activities and strategies to support southern agribusinesses in participating in regional trade.

### Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

#### **Kandahar**

The ADA Provincial Director met with the Kandahar DAIL Director in May to provide updates on RADP-S training activities. DAIL extension agents attended RADP-S trainings in greater numbers during the month of May, and ADA continued to promote the participation of DAIL extension agent. DCA’s Regional Extension Specialist was also invited to attend an activities coordination meeting with the Kandahar DAIL Director, various DAIL department directors, NGOs, and UN agencies operating in the Kandahar.

#### **Helmand**

CHA met with the DDAIL Director and District development Assembly (DDA) of Nawa district to provide updates on RADP-S demo farms in Nawa district. The DDAIL and DDA Director encouraged the RADP-S program and committed their cooperation in project activities. CHA also met with the Acting DAIL Director who has recently begun his post in Helmand. CHA introduced the RADP-S program, objectives, and current activities which were supported by the new Director.

DCA met with the Helmand DAIL Director to provide a briefing on RADP-S activities and encourage continued DAIL attendance at DCA refresher trainings.

### **Uruzgan**

ADA held their monthly meeting with the DAIL Director of Uruzgan to review RADP-S activities and training targets for the month. DCA was separately invited to meet with the DAIL Director and Head of the Animal Health Department to provide updates on the FEGs and supported VFUs. DCA encouraged DAIL officials to attend the ongoing refresher trainings in Kandahar City.

### **Zabul**

The ADA Zabul Wheat and HVC Specialists met with the DAIL Head of Agriculture Services, Research Manager, and Livestock Managers during the reporting period. ADA shared the trainings that took place during the month as well as the status of the Zabul demo farms. ADA and DAIL staff are organizing a field visit to Qalat demo farms in the next reporting period.

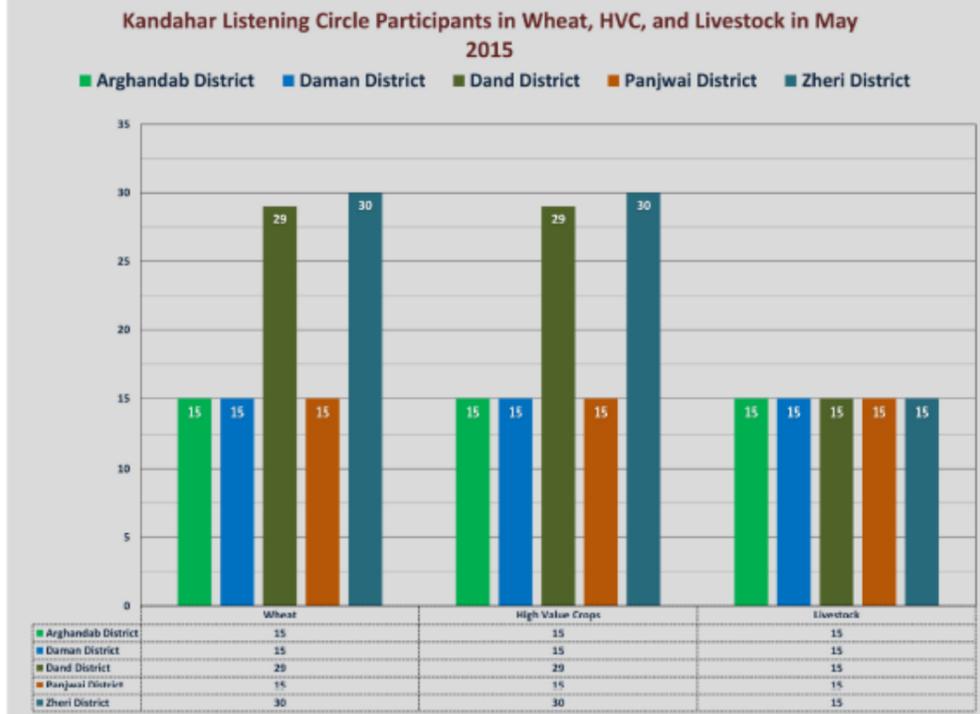
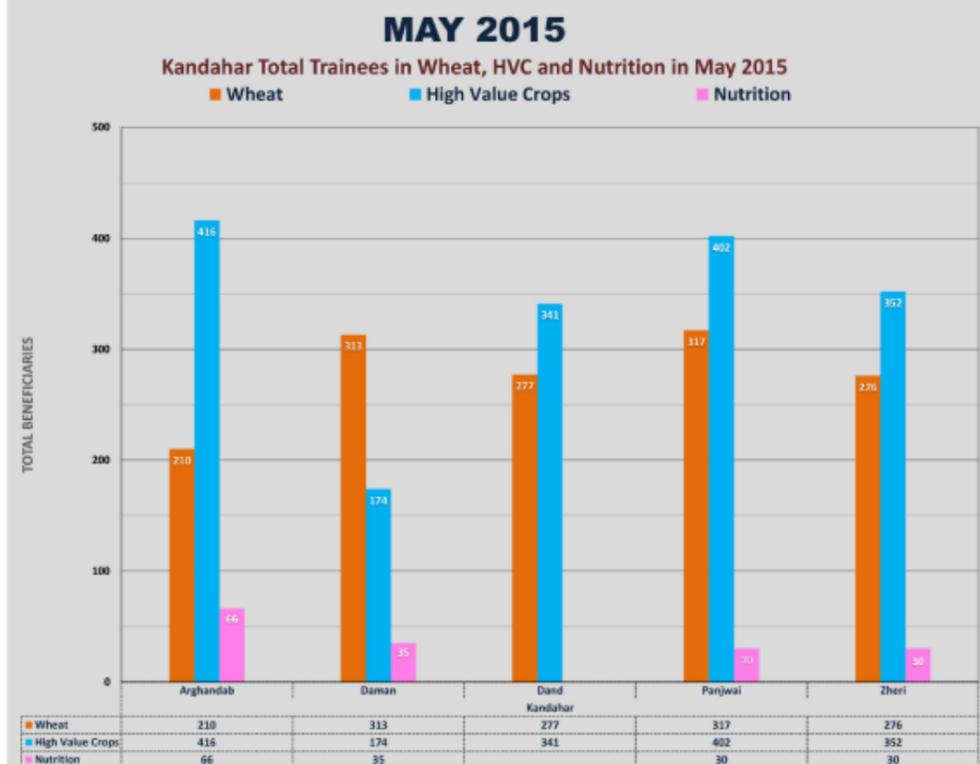
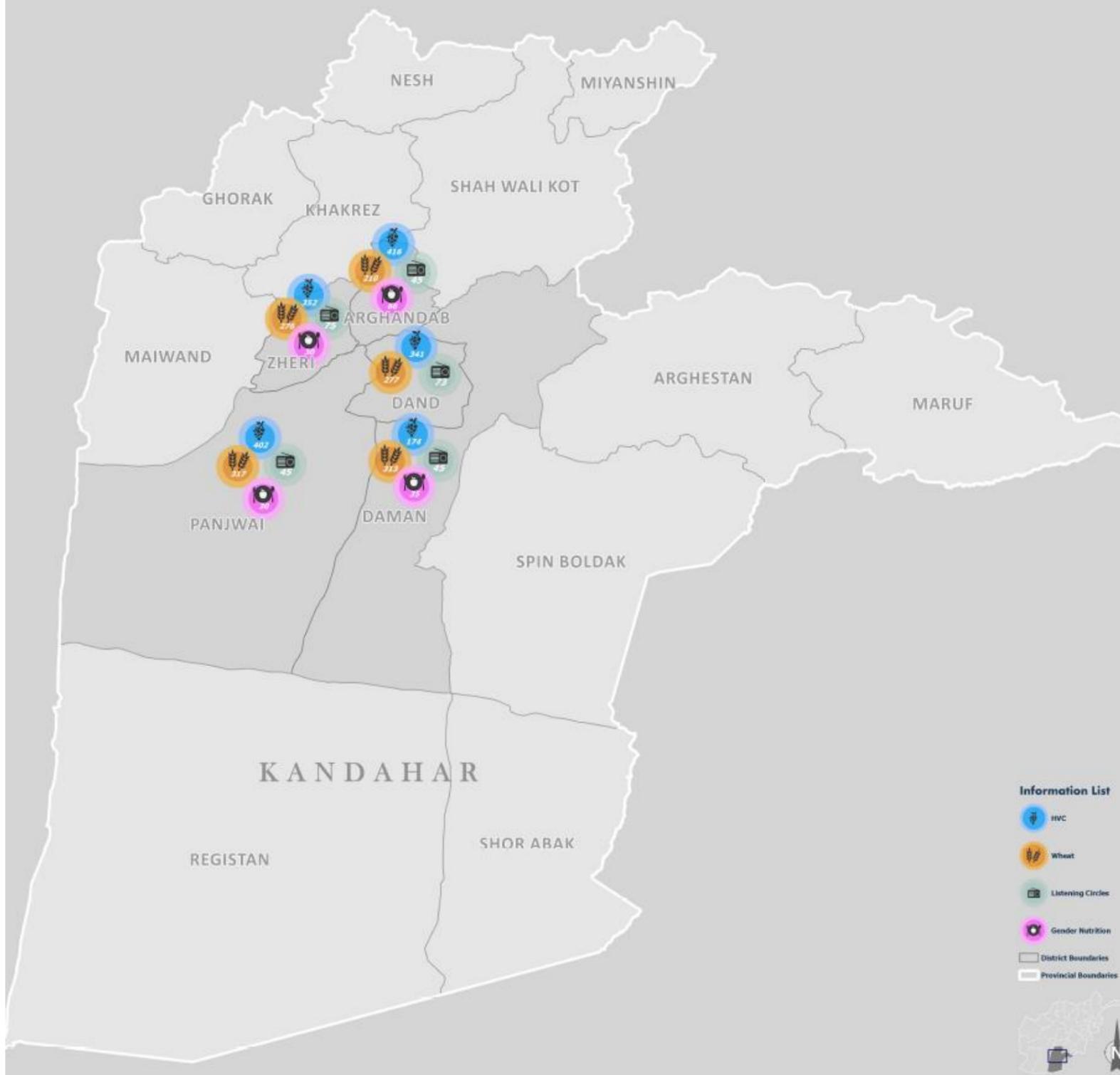
## **SECTION IX: IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES**

Though training numbers have risen due to the end of the poppy cultivation season, lower training numbers and participation in outreach activities occurred as farmers attended to wheat harvesting on their own farms. Serious security incidences impacting travel in Dehrawood district of Uruzgan province prompted the cancellation of several farmer and nutrition trainings during the reporting period. The increasingly hot weather in the South has also discouraged farmers from attending demonstration trainings outdoors and classroom sessions which, depending on the location, may also be held outdoors. RADP-S is exploring options for classroom space more conducive to training in the upcoming summer months.

# ANNEX I: KANDAHAR PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES

## MAY 2015 - KANDAHAR

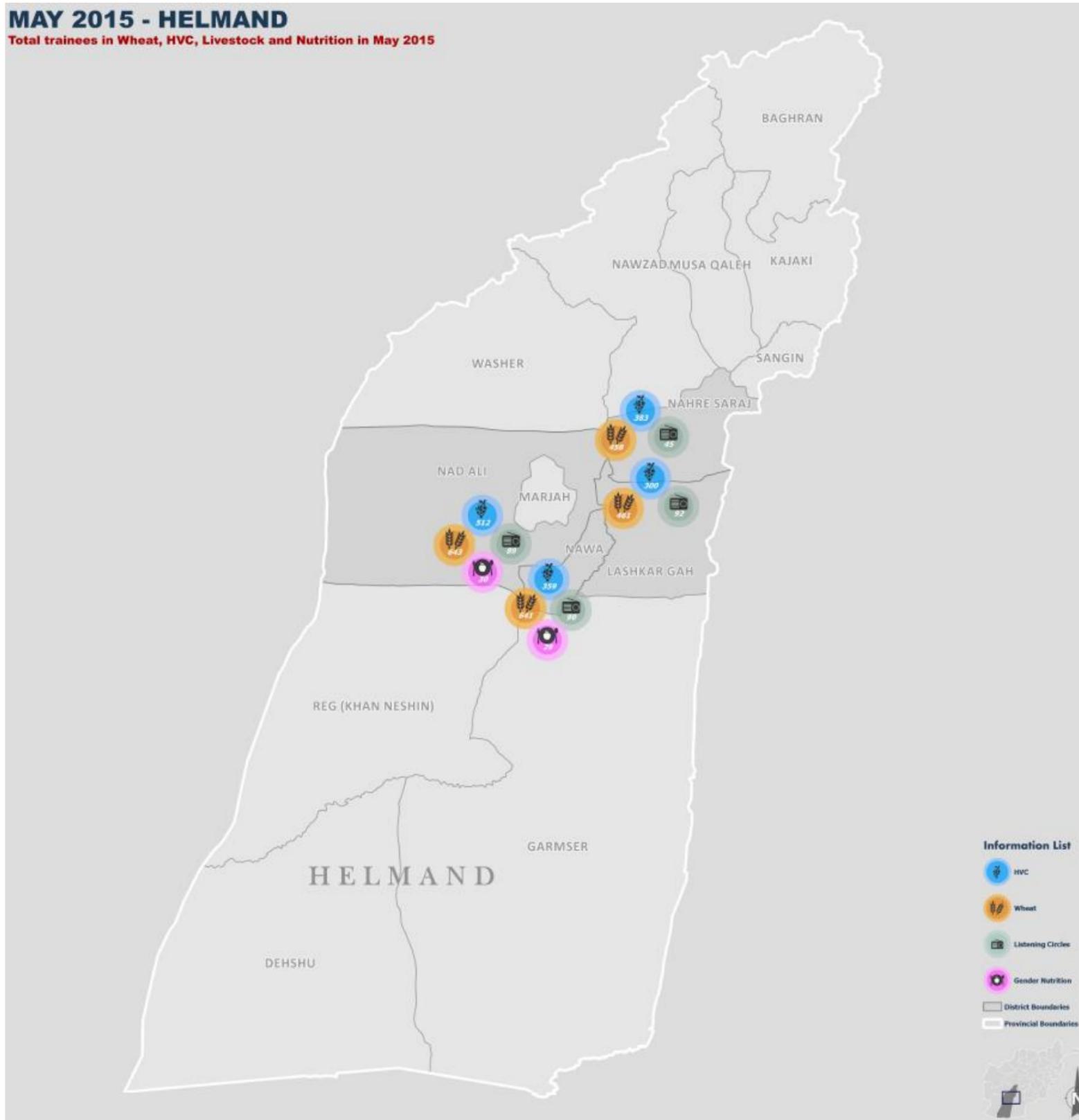
Total trainees in Wheat, HVC, Livestock and Nutrition in May 2015



## ANNEX II: HELMAND PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES

### MAY 2015 - HELMAND

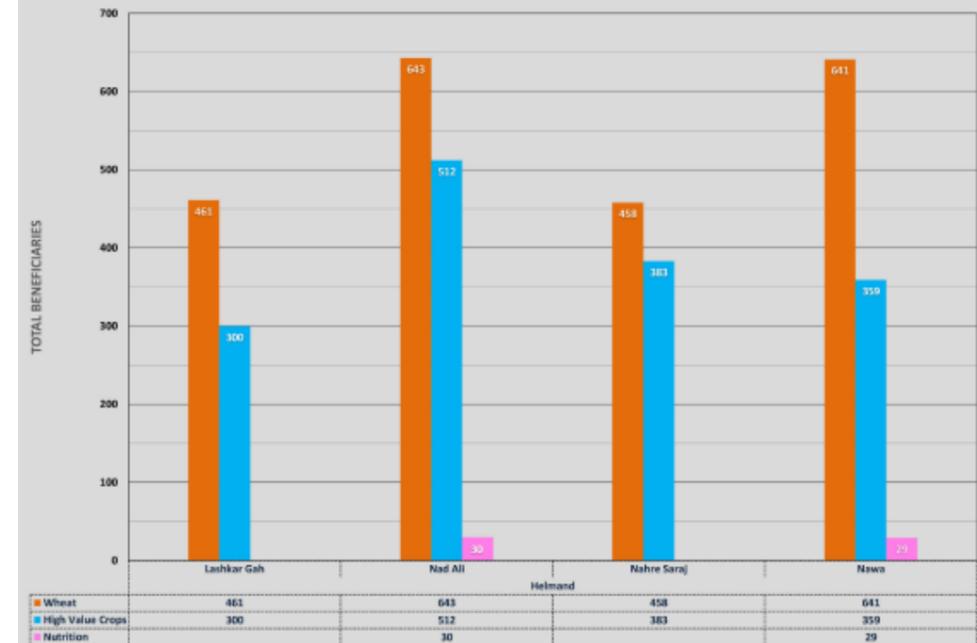
Total trainees in Wheat, HVC, Livestock and Nutrition in May 2015



### MAY 2015

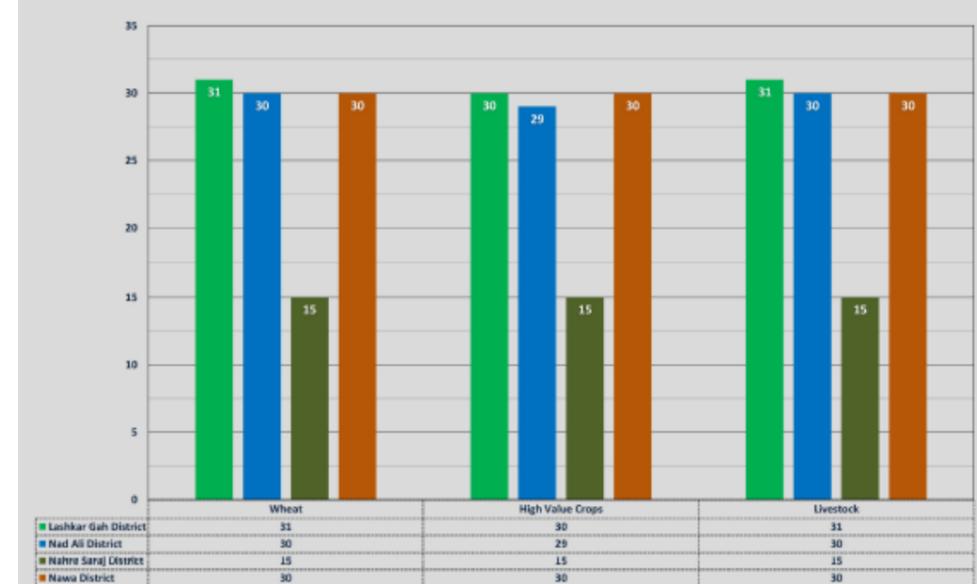
Helmand Total Trainees in Wheat, HVC and Nutrition in May 2015

Wheat High Value Crops Nutrition



Helmand Listening Circle Participants in Wheat, HVC, and Livestock in May 2015

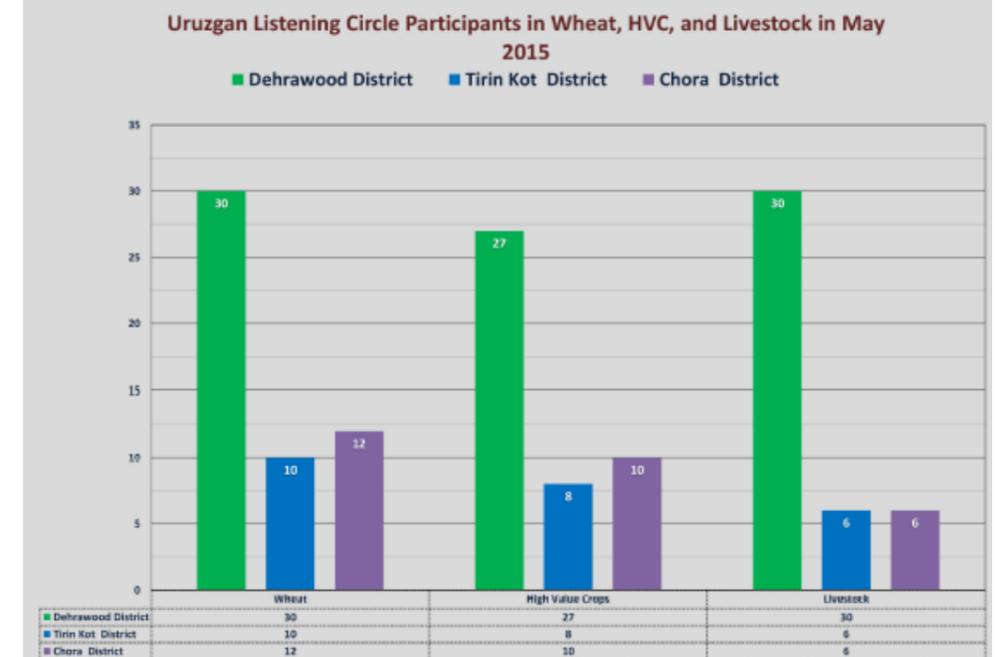
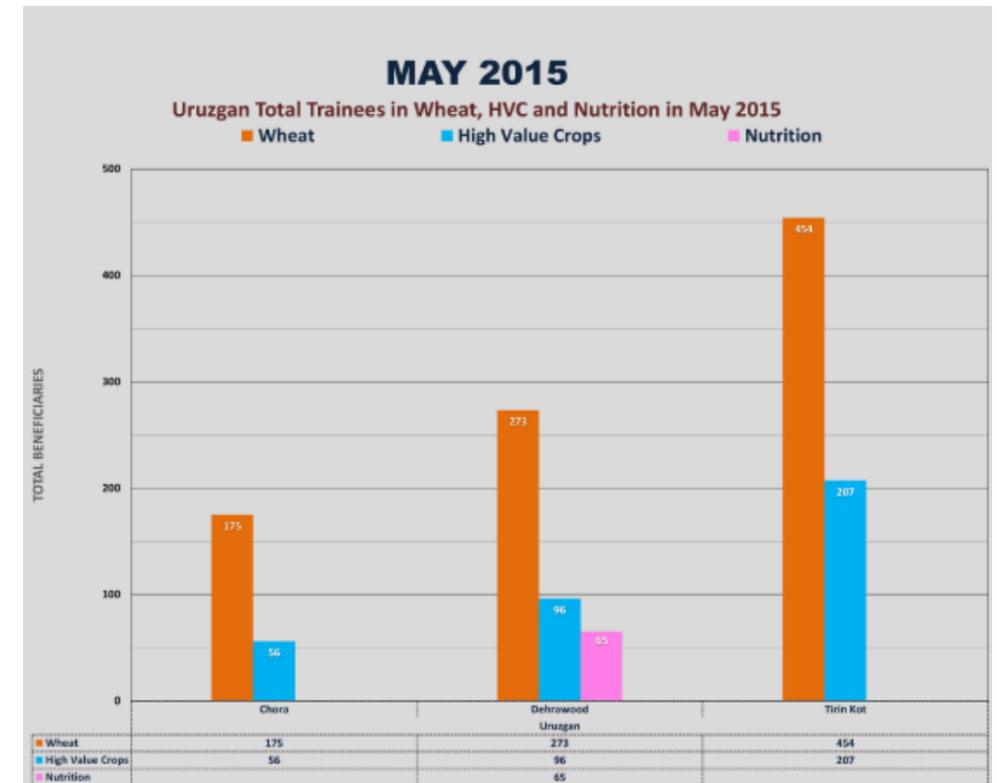
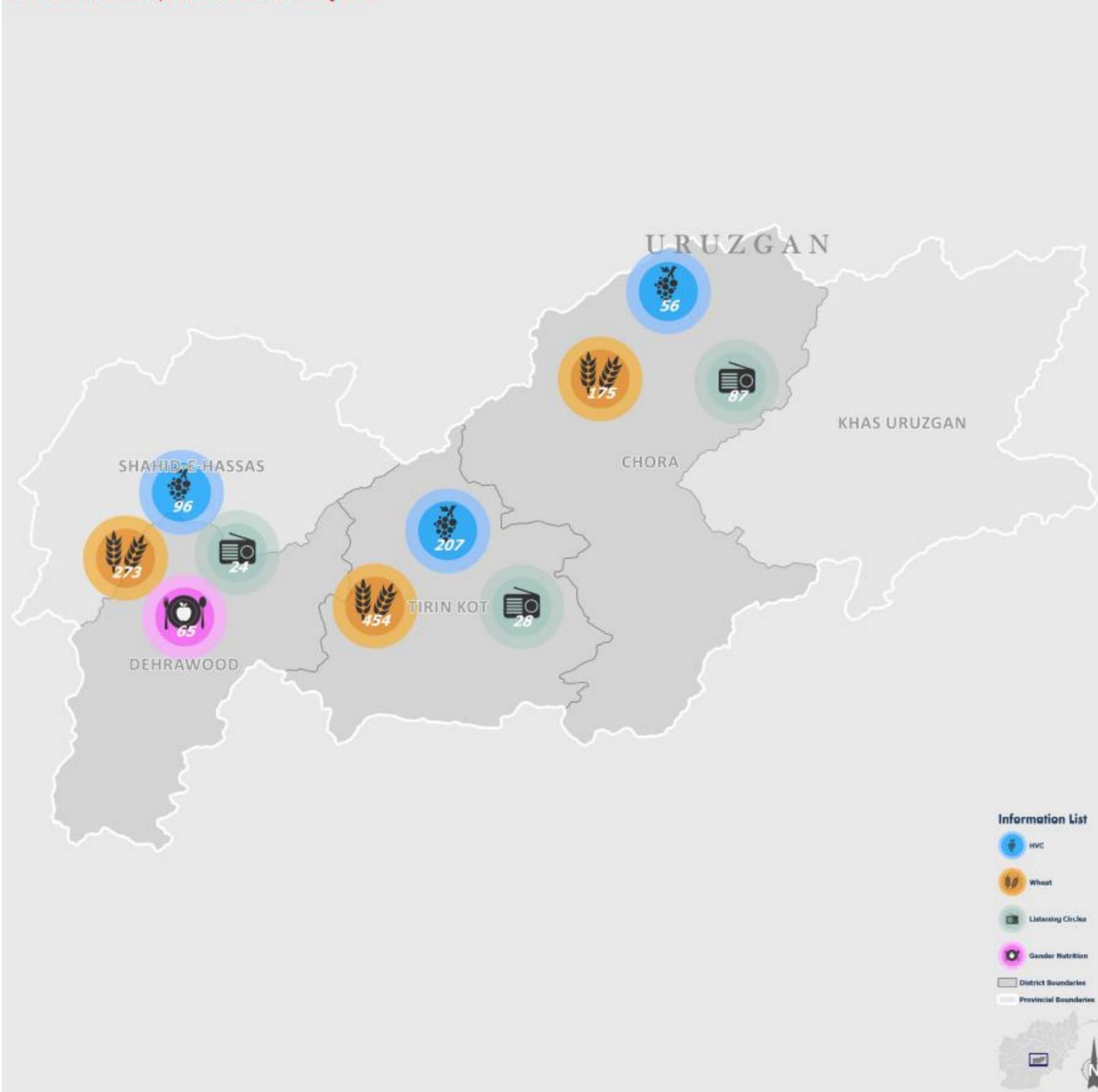
Lashkar Gah District Nad Ali District Nahre Saraj District Nawa District



# ANNEX III: URUZGAN PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES

## MAY 2015 - URUZGAN

Total trainees in Wheat, HVC and Livestock in May 2015



# ANNEX IV: ZABUL PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES

