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MONTHLY REPORT— DECEMBER 2012

**INCENTIVES DRIVING ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES FOR THE NORTH,
EAST AND WEST (IDEA-NEW)**

DECEMBER 1–31, 2012

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ACRONYMS

BLDU	Balkh Livestock Development Union
CCI	Community Constructed Infrastructure
CPF	Commercial Production Farm
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DOWA	Department of Women’s Affairs
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
ha	Hectare
IDEA-NEW	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives–North, East and West
kg	Kilogram
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MT	Metric Ton
PO	Purchase Order
PSP	Private Sector Partner
PVS	Participatory Varietal Selection
SPF	Small Production Farm
SSFGs	Self-Selecting Farmers Groups
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
2WT	Two-wheel Tractor

MONTHLY REPORT—DECEMBER 2012

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Afghanistan country strategy includes the promotion of long-term agricultural development and alternative livelihoods for farmers that results in a “a sustainable, thriving agricultural economy” and contributes to the U.S. Government's stabilization and counternarcotics policy goals. USAID's Office of Agriculture launched the Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West (IDEA-NEW) program in March 2009. Its mission is to support the stabilization and transition of Afghanistan by expanding the licit agricultural economy in the northern, eastern and western regions of the country.

To accomplish this goal, IDEA-NEW focuses on activities that promote income generation and job creation through increased commercial agricultural opportunities for Afghan farmers in poppy-prone areas. The program also strengthens farm to market linkages in economic development corridors in its three target regions and works to grow viable agribusinesses by facilitating connections between producers, traders and buyers through market information activities and sales promotion. The program works closely with provincial- and district-level government and local communities to build strong relationships among local stakeholders.

Three partners implement IDEA-NEW. Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) programs in the East and West; ACDI/VOCA operates in the North, and Mercy Corps works in the Northeast. IDEA-NEW currently implements programming in nineteen provinces across Regional Commands-North, East and West.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IDEA-NEW began its annual sales indicator survey for household income, production and sales data. The project's three implementing partners interviewed a total of 1,739 beneficiaries in the month of December. The raw data has been submitted to RSI Consulting for analysis. Other highlights from the past month included:

- Management of two potato root cellars was officially handed over to the district governors and community elders in Bilchiragh and Pashtun Kot districts of Faryab province.
- Seven female beneficiaries from IDEA-NEW's small flock chicken project earned 88,550 AFN (\$1,723) from selling 12,650 eggs.
- The women's home-based greenhouse project in Takhar province came to an end. Beneficiaries reported that their cucumber harvest resulted in a total combined income of AFN 22,500 (\$434).
- Work on the Sultanha canal in Badghis province was finished, which provides irrigation for 143.6 hectares (ha) of land belonging to 300 families in Qades district.
- 307 female high school students were selected from 15 schools in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman to participate in the upcoming Taraqi-Saba training, which began on December 22.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

VALUE CHAIN INTERVENTIONS

IDEA-NEW's programming focuses around eight value chains—grapes, orchard crops, vegetables, poultry, wheat, silk, honey and karakul (Astrakhan or Persian lamb). Monthly highlights in each of these areas are presented below.

Grape Value Chain

With the end of the grape harvest in November, IDEA-NEW's focus has shifted from harvesting to trellis post production for the upcoming season. IDEA-NEW signed purchase orders (PO) with four private businesses that manufacture concrete posts used in trellising. These private sector partners (PSP) will be linked with vineyard owners so that farmers can procure additional posts, as well as other concrete tools, such as RCC rings, RCC pipe culverts, RCC beams and plates, on their own as needed. The following table summarizes the current status of various post POs as of December 31, 2012:

<i>District</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Total posts produced</i>
Maymana	Faryab	Production under the first two POs has been completed and the third PO has begun	410
Feroz Nakhchir	Samangan	Production under the first two POs has been completed and the third PO is underway	300
Sangcharak	Sari Pul	The production under the third PO has been completed	680
Mazar-e-Sharif	Balkh	Production under the first PO has begun	50
Shibirghan	Jawzjan	Production under the first PO has been completed	530
Total			1,970

The trellising of vineyards continued in Faryab and Sari Pul with four new vineyards converted in Maymana and Shirin Tagab districts. An additional 13 vineyards were also surveyed in four provinces—six in Faryab, three in Samangan, three Sari Pul and one in Balkh. A total of 1,759 trellis posts were transported to these locations at the end of December; installation and wiring will begin in the near future. IDEA-NEW staff provided two days of training that focused on trellising, layout and installation to an agriculture retailer in Balkh. He will now serve as the primary contact person for vineyard owners throughout the province who wish to convert their vineyards.

The Bagram Fruit Processing Center in Parwan province completed the dry processing of 75 metric tons of fair-trade raisins that will be delivered to UK-based Fullwell Mill in February. Fullwell Mill has expressed interest in purchasing almonds from Afghanistan and IDEA-NEW staff is currently discussing this export opportunity with almond farmers and cooperatives in Kunduz province.



Workers at Bagram Fruit Processing Center dry process raisins.

Orchard Crop Value Chain

In December, IDEA-NEW held the first of three dormant oil spray field days in Faryab. A total of 223 orchard growers from Bilchiragh, Pashtun Kot, Qaysar, Khwaja Sabz Posh, Dawlatabad and Shirin Tagab districts attended the field day. Program staff explained the benefits of dormant oil and showed how to



Farmers attended dormant oil training in Pashtun Kot (Faryab)

with local Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) personnel, selected instructors in all four target provinces and trained them in proper dormant oil application. Trainers will then spray 3,650 orchards and teach farmers how to apply it to their trees in the future.² In the Eastern region, 300 farms asked that their orchards be sprayed with dormant oil. IDEA-NEW linked these farmers with nearby agriculture depots capable of fulfilling their requests. Farmers covered 100% of the costs of the spraying services.

Also in the Northeast, IDEA-NEW's technical team instructed 200 farmers in Kishem, Baharak, Argo, and Jurm districts in Badakhshan on how to prune saplings, apply fertilizers, and care for saplings during winter. These trainings were conducted at DAIL's request. Production data gathered in Kunduz in December showed that yields from fruit trees pruned by certified master pruners in Qala-e-Zal, Imam Sahib, Aliabad, and Kunduz center district were 30–40% higher than in the previous harvest season, when the orchards were not professionally pruned. These results will hopefully encourage more farmers to use certified pruners. IDEA-NEW will continue provide accreditation and ongoing skills training to pruners and link them with orchard owners.

There is currently tremendous loss during the handling and storage of produce by both traders and orchard owners during the off season. As such, IDEA-NEW has introduced an inexpensive underground storage unit to assist farmers in storing excess goods until the crops' off season, when they could be sold at higher prices. Storage units capable of holding up to 20 metric tons (MT) have been built at demonstration orchards in Badakhshan, Baghlan and Takhar provinces. Demonstration plot owners are trained in reaching and maintaining proper conditions (approximately seven degrees Celsius and 85% relative humidity) and then store excess crops from their orchards as well as neighboring farms. Storage units in

¹ It helps prevent aphids and other secondary insects; thereby, increasing fruit tree yields, particularly apple, apricot, almond, pear and peach trees.

² IDEA-NEW will subsidize 20–40% of the spraying services with the farmer covering the remaining cost.

all three provinces are currently being used. IDEA-NEW staff will conduct site visits in the coming months to ensure the units are being properly managed.

Vegetable Value Chain

Yield data collected in December of farmers who participated in IDEA-NEW's spring and summer vegetable cultivation projects showed that 118 cucumber farmers in Kunduz harvested 177,000 kg of cucumbers, which sold for 2,655,000 AFN (\$51,693). Farmers' net income for the season was 1,947,000 AFN (\$37,908). Onion growers had similar success, producing 556,800 kg and earning a net income of 4,872,000 AFN (\$94,859). One hundred and fifty four Kunduz-based farmers in Khanabad, Aliabad, Imam Sahib, Qala-e-Zal and Central districts produced 1,755,600 kg of cauliflower that sold for 12,289,200 AFN (\$239,276). This resulted in an average net income of 39,800 AFN (\$774) per farmer. Moreover, yield data collected from four cauliflower demo plots showed that farmers harvested 65,000 kg



A farmer in Takhar province shows the temperature and humidity readings for a newly constructed storage facility that he uses to store his excess apples.



A farmer shows off his harvest from a cauliflower demonstration plot in Baghlan

of produce—twice what was produced on comparably-sized, neighboring farms using traditional cultivation methods.

Follow-up support was given to beneficiaries of IDEA-NEW's home-based greenhouse project, which provides women supplies and assistance in constructing greenhouse where they can grow off-season crops and sell them at local markets. Regular trainings are offered to ensure women are familiar with best practices regarding planting, maintenance, harvesting and post-harvesting storage to ensure their efforts result in high quality products that will sell well at local markets. In December, 10 Baghlan beneficiaries received consultations from IDEA-NEW's agriculture team on pest and disease control,

weeding, irrigation systems and fertilizer application. Ten greenhouse farmers recorded harvesting a 100 kg of cucumbers while five of them produced 130 kg of spinach. The sale of these two crops brought in a combined income of 6,250 AFN (\$120) for female farmers in Puli Khumri and Baghlan Jaded districts. Construction of all greenhouses in Takhar province was completed in December and farmers planted lettuce, spinach, radish, coriander and cress. A total of 57 people (beneficiaries and their neighbors) were trained in land preparation and seed cultivation. In Kunduz, IDEA-NEW provided technical training to all 30 female beneficiaries, 12 of whom reported having harvested 14,756 cucumbers from their greenhouses. Sales of these crops resulted in an average income of 12,297 AFN (\$239) per farmer. Monitoring visits were also made to Faizabad and Baharak districts in Badakhshan. Out of 85 greenhouses spread across all four northeastern provinces, 84 were reported to be in good condition. The exception was in Chata village (Faizabad) where the greenhouse was destroyed by a heavy storm; repairs are planned for February.

In total, 32 Self-Selecting Farmers Groups (SSFGs) have been formed in Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and Kunduz. IDEA-NEW's agriculture team conducted regular monitoring of SSFGs in Kunduz to ensure that produce—fruit, including apricot, plums and persimmons and vegetables, such as tomato, okra, eggplant, etc.—was being properly handled to obtain better market prices and that tools were being adequately maintained during winter.³ December production data from an SSFG in Taluqan district (Takhar) showed that the group harvested 100 kg of tomatoes and earned a total income of 3,000 AFN (\$58) in sales.

Harvesting and marketing of different fall and winter crops continued at various commercial and production farms throughout IDEA-NEW's eastern and central target provinces. The sixth and seventh rounds of staggering planting at 16 commercial production farms (CPFs) in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar provinces were also completed.

IDEA-NEW conducted 20 field days during which 348 CPF and small production farms (SPF) owners 14 eastern districts received training on modern farming techniques and then linked to input suppliers who updated them on new products. Six CPF owners purchased unsubsidized tomato, okra, zucchini, pepper and eggplant seeds and plastic sheeting to protect growing crops from cold weather from input dealers.

Poultry Value Chain

IDEA-NEW continued implementing its small flock chicken farms in Badakhshan, where technical staff visited female farmers and connected them with their local Veterinary Field Unit (VFU). In Kunduz, hens from seven small flocks produced a total of 12,650 eggs in December, the sale of which earned farmers 88,550 AFN (\$1,723). This activity was completed in Takhar province, where it worked with eight female beneficiaries who collected an average of 33 eggs a day in December.

IDEA-NEW's women's home-based egg production project in Takhar also finished in December with a final training for all 78 female participants in Taloqan district. Beneficiaries, from five villages—Masjedy, Abodawood, Zargary, Gangalibick and Ayshan Qushlaq—were trained on pullet rearing best practices during winter. In Kunduz province, women-run smallholder poultry farms produced 40,740 eggs, which earned a total of AFN 285,180 (\$5,552) in sales in December. That comes out to an average of 2,500 AFN (\$48) per beneficiary.



Smallholder poultry farmers record production data in Badakhshan

Five broiler farms in Behsud (Nangarhar), Khas Kunar (Kunar), Qarghaee (Laghman) and Shinwari (Parwan) provinces added a total of 15,000 day old broiler chicks. Seven broiler farm owners sold 14,300 broiler chicks at local markets for an average profit of 39,433 AFN (\$767) per farmer. In addition, a total of 6,894 table eggs were produced by 30 women-owned layer farms in Shinwari, Khas Kunar, Behsud, Momandara and Rodat districts (Nangarhar) and

³ SSFGs are crop-based interest groups (each with 10–15 members) that aim to facilitate better access to markets by allowing farmers more leverage with buyers and negotiate better prices with input suppliers. IDEA-NEW assisted farmers with mobilizing into groups, offered technical support about how best to approach buyers and input suppliers, and provided harvest baskets (up to 100 baskets/group) to help them reduce post-harvest losses as they transported their produce to markets and/or packing centers.

Noorgal district (Kunar). The sale of these eggs in local markets generated a total of 31,023 AFN (\$600) for the farmers.

Technical staff also interviewed 1,321 beneficiaries from IDEA-NEW's orchard, vegetables and poultry value chains.⁴

Wheat Value Chain

The IDEA-NEW agriculture team held 18 wheat planting field days for a total of 635 farmers at its demonstration plots in Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, Samangan and Sari Pul provinces.⁵ Attendees learned about improved seed varieties, fertilizers, seed treatment, and the use of two-wheel tractors for plowing and sowing and also received 7 kgs of free wheat seed for planting on their own land. Each field day took place in close coordination with local DAILs. The Andkhoy District Governor (Faryab) and representatives from Samangan province's DAIL and Department of Economy attended field days in their respective areas for monitoring purposes.



Farmers attend a planting field days in Balkh province

At Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) sites in Andkhoy, Khan Char Bagh and Qurghan districts (Faryab), DAIL extension agents conducted 3 planting field days for 104 farmers that focused on bed preparation, irrigation, seed selection, seed treatment, fertilizer, and weed control. PVS training sites provide DAIL workers an excellent opportunity to display their ability to run field activities and respond to the needs of local farmers and show the sustainability of IDEA-NEW's capacity building approach.

Project staff also decided to establish three additional one hectare demonstration plots in Balkh, Samangan and Faryab provinces to showcase zero-tillage methods, in which seed is sown directly into the soil without plowing. This approach helps farmers in arid regions maximize soil moisture while planting annual crops. Agricultural staff already selected land in Andkhoy district and conducted a land preparation and planting field day that was attended by 35 farmers of rain-fed lands. Farmers learned about direct seed drilling, certified seeds and seed treatments and were invited to attend a follow up field day later in the season that would focus on weed control, harvesting and yield comparison between zero-tillage and traditional planting methods.

Silk Value Chain

There were no major interventions in the silk value chain in December.

Honey Value Chain

IDEA-NEW's Livestock Business Development team continued its site visits to beekeepers in Takhar province where they advised beneficiaries on how to properly manage their bees during the winter season. These visits marked the end of two projects in Takhar that provided subsidized inputs and regular technical assistance to 65 beekeepers—40 in Kalafgan district and 25 in Farkhar. Also in December,

⁴ DAI personnel conducted 521 interviews and ACIDI/VOCA and Mercy Corps each interviewed 400 individuals.

⁵ There are five demonstration plots each in Balkh and Faryab provinces, three each in Jawzjan and Samangan and two in Sari Pul.

IDEA-NEW obtained letters of agreement from the Takhar District Governor and the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) to launch a new project. This project targets 94 members of four beekeeping cooperatives in Kalafghan, Farkhar, and Taluqan districts, all of which have already signed memoranda of understanding with IDEA-NEW.⁶ Activities will include trainings and distribution of packaging inputs on a 50% cost-sharing basis. This project will run until April 2013.

In Badakhshan province, IDEA-NEW collected production data from three beekeeping cooperatives in Baharak district, which showed that the cooperatives produced a total of 32,529 kilograms (kg) of honey in 2012.⁷ The cooperatives are reported to be selling the honey mainly at local markets. IDEA-NEW is currently working on linking them to buyers in other national markets.

After being approached by IDEA-NEW in November, Finest Supermarket in Kabul has agreed to sell honey from beekeeping cooperatives in Badakhshan. Project personnel are currently in the process of selecting some of its beneficiaries and will help establish a partnership agreement between the cooperatives and Finest.

Karakul Value Chain

IDEA-NEW-assigned paravets continued providing regular veterinary care to pure-bred karakul (Astrakhan fur or Persian lamb) farms maintained by DAIL in Dihdadi and Shibirghan districts of Balkh province. They reported that Karakul flocks were in good health.

In addition, 11 Veterinary Field Units—10 in Faryab and one in Jawzjan—were visited by IDEA-NEW staff during training sessions conducted by paravets. Trainings focused on ruminant health and production. One hundred and ninety one training sessions took place in December—71 in Balkh, 18 in Jawzjan, 30 in Samangan and 72 in Faryab. Paravets also vaccinated 113,946 animals and treated 67,952 animals for various ailments at VFUs in all four Northern provinces.



An IDEA-NEW trained paravet administers medication at a VFU in Bilchiragh, Faryab

NON-VALUE CHAIN PROJECTS

Non-value chain projects are activities that began in previous years and either need to be completed as it would be detrimental if work were discontinued or are projects that fit with a value chain that IDEA-NEW is no longer focusing major efforts on moving forward. Timber provides a relatively high income for farmers compared to other crops thanks to the high market demand; however, the existing varieties of wood—particularly poplar—are slow-growing and pest infested. This, coupled with farmers' lack of knowledge, has limited timber as a viable option for many farmers. In order to encourage farmers to grow timber beyond their household needs, IDEA-NEW launched a project in Spring 2012 that aimed at

⁶ The cooperatives are Assal Bahar Cooperative and Kalafghan Beekeeping Cooperative in Kalafghan; Arghawan Cooperative in Farkhar and Shahad Khalis Cooperative in Taluqan.

⁷ The breakdown was as follows—Baharistan Cooperative: 17,329 kg; Raihan Cooperative: 14,000 kg; and Wahdat Baharistan Cooperative: 1,200 kg.

introducing farmers in the Northeast region to hybrid tree varieties that grow straighter and faster (maturing in just three years) and are more pest-resistant than local varieties. Over 400 farmers participated in poplar cultivation training that covered best practices in cultivation and harvesting and helped beneficiaries design their plots and then planted either a half-*jerib* (20 meters x 100 meters) of open space or a quarter-*jerib* of closed space of poplars on good quality, well irrigated land. Beneficiaries covered 100% of the cost of their saplings and fertilizer. IDEA-NEW's agriculture team monitored poplar plots in Takhar throughout December to ensure that farmers were abiding by the best practices taught in training sessions and provided technical support as needed. In Badakhshan, the team visited 25 farmers in Faizabad district who requested assistance on timber cultivation. Those 2012 timber beneficiaries who planted nurseries will begin selling cuttings in January 2013.

IDEA-NEW's two and a half year sub-grant with the Balkh Livestock Development Union (BLDU) ended in December 2012. This agreement supported the establishment of milk collection and processing centers in all five northern target provinces that allowed local dairy farmers to sell their excess milk, which was then processed by hand-operated equipment into cheese, butter and yoghurt and sold. Monitoring and supervision visits by IDEA-NEW personnel showed that, in December, 15,348 liters of milk was purchased from 251 members at an average of 17.13 AFN (\$0.33) per liter. The following table summarizes the past month's activity at each center:

<i>Center Name</i>	<i>District, Province</i>	<i># of Members who Brought Milk to Center</i>	<i>Milk Collected (liters)⁸</i>	<i>Price Paid per Liter (AFN)</i>	<i>Total Paid to Members (AFN)</i>	<i>Total Income (AFN)</i>	<i>Total Expenses (AFN)</i>
Joye Zendan	Aybak, Samangan	24	1,085	14	27,300	32,544	30,020
Baba Ewaz	Sholgara, Balkh	29	1,240	16	39,480	31,000	25,040
Koshkak	Balkh, Balkh	38	2,790	15	54,600	56,510	48,850
Yank Ariq	Aqcha, Jawzjan	25	1,243	15	25,950	21,046	19,645
Scinsus	Fayzabad, Jawzjan	29	1,860	16	25,200	40,380	36,150
Jamshidi	Pashtun Kot, Faryab	38	2,325	22	85,800	87,040	78,515
Emam Sahib	Sari Pul, Sari Pul	30	1,860	19	32,760	60,190	54,445
Yaka Bagh	Shibirghan, Jawzjan	38	2,945	20	66,400	102,788	88,748
Totals		251	15,348	N/A	357,490	431,498	381,413

Before IDEA-NEW provided in-kind grants to support the revival of textile production in Nangarhar, factory owners were using manual machines to produce goods. Since then, the Karim and Alkozay facilities have increased the number of shawls and scarves. For instance, in December, these two factories pressed 1,930 shawls and finished (pressing and dying) 1,600 meters of cloth for local textile weavers. They are also producing a wider variety of shawls (different designs), men's and women's clothing, such as three piece suits.

IDEA-NEW also supports several associations to expand their sales to national and international markets. In December, the Nangarhar Talc Association 8,640 MT of talc to Pakistan, generating 72,000 AFN

⁸ The following centers produced 400 gr. yogurt cups out of the milk they collected from members: Joye Zendan (2,712 yogurt cups), Jamshidi (4,970), Emam Sahib (4,630) and Yaka Bagh (7,342). The Baba Ewaz (155 kg), Koshkak (125 kg) and Scinsus (162 kg) produced cheese. The Koshkak center also produced 1,790 liters of bulk milk while the Yank Ariq center produced 1,238.

(\$1,401) for members.⁹ It also gained three new members who contributed a total of 7,800 AFN (\$151) in membership fees. The Kunar Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaler Association sold 508 MT of produce at local markets—240 MT tomatoes, 60 MT potatoes, 48 MT onions, 15 MT turnips, 15 MT carrots and 130 MT apples—and generated 11,483,500 AFN (\$220,794) in sales. The Laghman Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaler Association sold 300 MT tomatoes, 13 MT garlic, 400 MT potatoes, 200 MT onions, 100 MT turnips and 130 MTs carrots for a profit of 14,939,810 AFN (\$287,249).

IDEA-NEW's Karkila Aw Maldari (agriculture and livestock) radio show, which is managed by the Eastern region's communications team, aired 19 live radio shows in December—nine via Sharq Radio, one of the most popular local radio stations in Nangarhar province and 10 on Kawoon Ghag station in Laghman. Thirty one Nangarhar listeners and 38 from Laghman called in to their respective radio station to ask the experts questions regarding orchards, vegetables and livestock.

INPUTS AND SERVICES



Laser land leveling machine at work in Balkh district of Balkh province

To help farmers reduce water wastage, IDEA-NEW works with four northern agricultural associations to offer land leveling services on a commercial basis. In December, these associations—Sabz Baba Yadgar and Samerqandyan in Balkh, Sanawi Almar in Faryab and Asiabad in Sari Pul—leveled four ha of land for local farmers with laser land levelers.¹⁰

Also in December, 14 new farmers from Balkh, Jawzjan and Faryab purchased subsidized two wheel tractors (2WTs).¹¹ Each beneficiary completed five days of operation, maintenance and safety training before receiving their equipment and was with linked with an IDEA-

NEW supported mechanic who could provide future maintenance support. An additional 21 2WT owners in Jawzjan and Samangan received follow-up training on how to operate the machines. Four groups of farmers were trained over 10 days.

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE

IDEA-NEW finished five community constructed infrastructure (CCI) during the reporting period—four in the Western region and one in the North. The latter was the completion of its root cellar project in Faryab province. This activity supported the building of two new root cellars, one each in Kata Qala and Nishar villages, located in Pashtun Kot and Bilchiragh districts, respectively. The cellars' construction coincides with IDEA-NEW's ongoing potato cultivation project in that it enables 60 farmers to each store enough seed potatoes for one jerib of land (up to 15 tons of potatoes). This helps preserve the improved variety of potatoes distributed by IDEA-NEW in 2012 and replaces the traditional storage methods

⁹ The association collects their data from the Nangarhar Directorate of Mines and Industry every month and records it in Excel.

¹⁰ To date, these cooperatives have leveled 74 ha of land.

¹¹ Farmers are responsible for 65% of the tractor's cost.

(burying them in soil or keeping them in a darkened room, both of which led to high losses. This project began in August 2012 and was officially handed over to the local communities on December 12, 2012 in closing ceremonies that were attended by both district governors as well as the heads of Community Development Councils, local DAIL representatives, elders and community members.

In Badghis province, IDEA-NEW completed the repair of the Takak karez and Mohammad Ali Khan irrigation canal structures improvement projects, both based in Qades district on December 15 and 31st, respectively. Together these CCI activities will irrigate 229.5 ha of land and benefit 720 families. The Mashwani irrigation canal project in Abkamari district will irrigate 151 ha of land and support the agriculture efforts of 510 neighboring families.



Closing ceremony of the root cellar project, Bilchiragh, Faryab



View of Mashwani irrigation canal before construction began on September 21, 2011



View of Mashwani irrigation canal after construction was finished on December 31, 2012

The construction of the Badghis wholesale market began in July 2010 and was completed on December 16, 2012. Previously, wholesalers operated in an undeveloped area of downtown Qala-e-Naw district. Fruit and vegetables were exposed to damage from sunlight and changing weather conditions. During rains and snowing seasons, the previous location was flooded with water and would be impassible due to excessive mud. In addition to environmental threats, there was no space for farmers to store, stack or sort their products. IDEA-NEW facilitated the building of 74 covered stalls, a fully furnished office for the wholesalers association, and a large open space in the middle of the market for loading and unloading of trucks. Other facilities include toilet facilities and a water supply system composed of a well, water pump, elevated water reservoir and improved surface water drainage outside the market building. The new market, which covers 6,050 square meters of land and can now remain open 365 days a year, will serve as a provincial hub for the sale of a variety of fruits, vegetables, and staple crops grown throughout Badghis.

In addition, IDEA-NEW staff from the North and Northeast regions conducted interviews with, respectively, 278 and 140 CCI beneficiaries as part of the program's 2012 Annual Survey. Raw data was sent to an external firm for analysis, the results of which will be included in the next monthly report.

Please refer to Annex III (attached separately) for a summary of all CCI projects.

CROSCUTTING THEMES

Gender

IDEA-NEW's gender work focuses on increasing women's participation in different stages of its value chains. It accomplishes this by supporting women-led and -owned agricultural production and businesses across its target regions. In the North, IDEA-NEW provides cattle management training to 500 female household dairy farmers so they can increase the amount of milk they produce and sell their excess to their local BLDU milk collection and processing centers. In December, IDEA-NEW completed its training of 100 female farmers in Joye Zendan village in Aybak district (Samangan) and Jamshidi village in Pashtun Kot district (Faryab) and distributed milking hygiene and cowshed improvement kits. Technical staff also conducted individual follow-up visits to all trainees to ensure they were applying their new skills and knowledge. Thirty one cattle shed improvements (new lighting windows, ventilators



The Director of Woman Affairs for Samangan province hands beneficiaries in Aybak their

and mud plastering to prevent ecto-parasites)—11 in Joye Zendan, 10 in Jamshidi and 10 in Yaka Bagh (Jawzjan)—were also completed, bringing the total cowsheds renovated during this activity to 470. December marked the end of this project. A final report will be prepared in January 2013.

As part of its poultry value chain activities in the Northeast region, IDEA-NEW has established community-based savings groups that allow 10–20 women to pool their extra income. Each group requires its members to contribute a minimum of 50 AFN (\$1) per month. A chairwoman, secretary and treasurer are elected to collect and manage dues and the group unanimously decides on what to do with their resources. During the reporting

period, 14 savings groups (243 members) in Badakshan province saved 22,300 AFN (\$436), bringing the groups' total savings to 474,300 AFN (\$9,278). Four groups reported that they have invested some of their savings in shopkeeping and animal husbandry. In Baghlan province, a total of 120 women are participating in savings groups with monthly contributions ranging from 50 AFN to over 800 AFN (\$1-16). These community savings groups serve as an interim activity for IDEA-NEW as the project moves towards facilitating the formation of marketing groups where women can work together to sell their eggs and buy inputs in bulk to take advantage of economies of scale.

In the East, IDEA-NEW continued to support women-run layer farms in Shinwari, Khas Kunar, Behsud, Momandara and Rodat districts of Nangarhar province and Noorgal district in Kunar. Eleven farms produced 5,100 table eggs and generated 28,050 AFN (\$546) for the poultry farmers through sales at local markets. Three Women's Resource Center retail shops generated an average net profit of 11,799 AFN (\$229) in Qarghayee district of Laghman province via sales in local villages.

The latest round of Taraqi Saba business training for female high school students began on December 22, 2012 in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces with 307 participants from 15 schools.¹²

Lastly, 27 female kitchen garden farmers received training on land preparation, proper application of fertilizer, direct seeding, field layout, population density, top dressing, harvesting and post-harvest handling in preparation for the next vegetable harvest.

IDEA-NEW and GIRoA Coordination

IDEA-NEW meets regularly with local-, district- and provincial-level government leadership representatives in each of its areas of operation to ensure that all stakeholders are abreast of IDEA-NEW's plans and can contribute their input to activity development, implementation and, if necessary, problem solving. A full list of meetings attended by IDEA-NEW during the reporting period is available upon request; however, the primary highlights are listed below.

- Staff in all three regions attended relevant sectorial meetings with DAIL representatives and submitted monthly progress reports on ongoing IDEA-NEW activities. These meetings took place between December 10th and 29th.
- December 5, 2012: IDEA-NEW's Regional Manager and Capacity Building Specialist met with the Balkh DAIL Director to discuss the program's silkworm rearing project's plan to use hybrid eggs from the India Silk Board and the possibility of using the DAIL's Sericulture Center to train 10 community coordinators in February and March 2013.
- Dec 6, 2012: IDEA-NEW's Gender Strategy Manager met with the local directors of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), DAIL and other GIRoA officials to introduce IDEA-NEW gender activities in the Central region and to coordinate on future activities.
- December 12, 2012: IDEA-NEW's M&E Officer for Badakhshan province met with the Aga Khan Development Network to discuss the activities of the cashmere factory and women's spinning groups.
- December 20, 2012: Takhar's IDEA-NEW's Community Mobilization Unit Manager for Takhar province met with the Farkhar District Governor to discuss business development opportunities for beekeepers



Members of IDEA-NEW's gender team meet with the DoWA Director and other officials in Panjsher.

¹² *Taraqi Saba* aims to provide high school aged young women with the skills and knowledge necessary to operate successful, sustainable businesses by teaching them basic business principles, such as finance, marketing, and management. The curriculum is designed to be practical in nature, combining both theory and practice. The course culminates with the development of a business plan; an exercise intended to equip the students with a practical plan to start a business upon graduation. The curriculum is designed to be practical in nature, combining both theory and practice. The course culminates with the development of a business plan; an exercise intended to equip the students with a practical plan to start a business upon graduation.

- December 24, 2012: the Faryab DAIL Director, in a meeting with IDEA-NEW’s surveying team, expressed his appreciation for the root cellar activity in Faryab province requested that it replicated in Gurziwan district.
- Dec 31, 2012: IDEA-NEW technical staff hosted a Vegetable Extension Workshop at the Parwan DAIL that was attended by the MAIL advisor to DAIL, the local DAIL Director as well as numerous local extension agents.

Sustainability and Capacity Building

As IDEA-NEW enters its fourth year, its staff members are increasingly focusing on plans to ensure that farmers’ primary needs—inputs, sound technical advice and market access—continue to be met after its programming ends. With these three elements in mind, IDEA-NEW continues to develop relationships with strong PSPs across all of its regions to improve their ability to facilitate access to high quality inputs and technical training to local farmers. Towards this end, IDEA-NEW conducted a business and marketing training for 14 agriculture retailers in Badakhshan to help increase their ability to meet



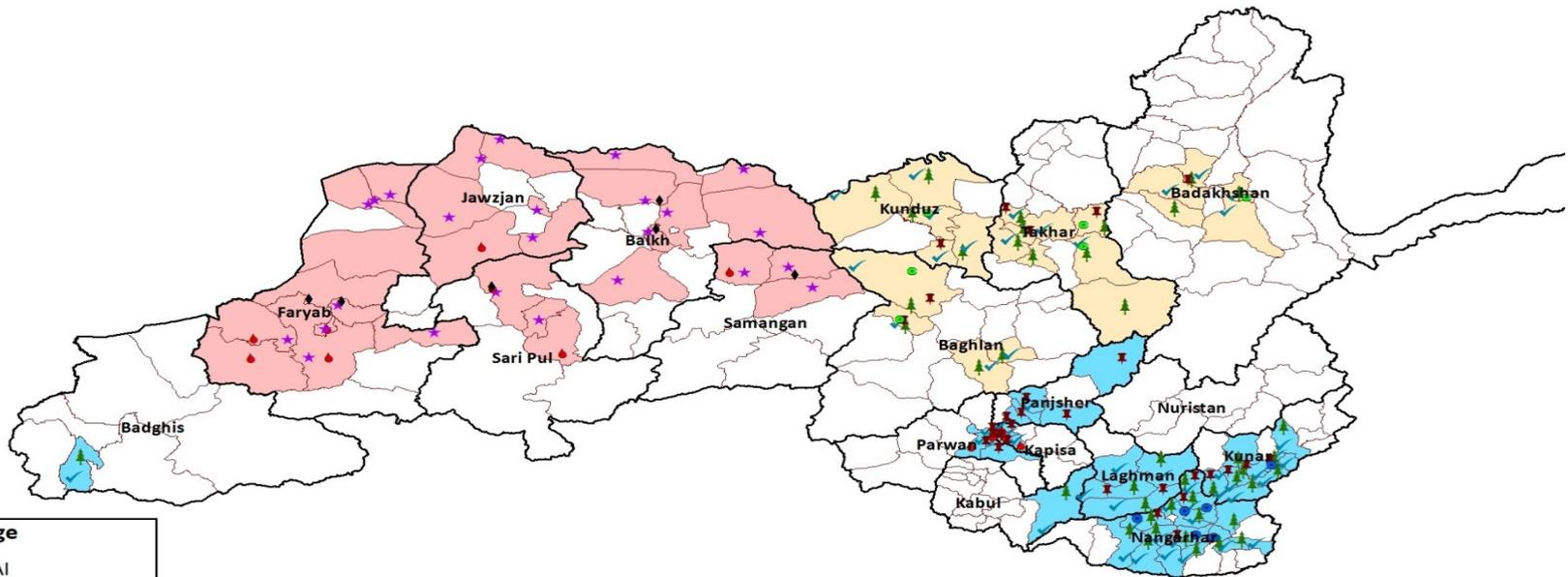
Laghman Fruit & Vegetable Wholesaler Association members attend training

producers’ needs. In the East, 67 members from the Laghman Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaler Association received three days of bookkeeping training and 13 trainees from the Alkozay textile weaving company began a three month long training course on textile design.

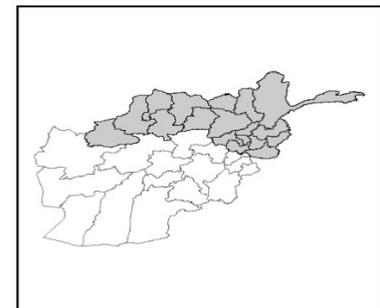
IDEA-NEW attempts to build off its previous successes wherever possible and often develops follow on projects to support previous programming. For example, in 2012, IDEA-NEW established 24 demonstration plots in Pashtun Kot and Bilchiragh districts of Faryab province to encourage local farmers to plant a variety of quality potato seeds. The program

trained a total of 366 farmers in new cultivation methods. Because of the high level of positive feedback from both participants and DAIL representatives, technical staff began planning to expand this activity to 10 other villages in Bilchiragh and Pashtun Kot. These plans began in December with the surveying of 30 one jerib sites that will be used as demonstration sites. Farmers in these villages will be able to make use of the two newly-constructed root cellars in both districts, which were completed in December.

ANNEX I: MAP OF IDEA-NEW VALUE CHAINS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012



Coverage	
■	DAI
■	MC
■	ACDI/VOCA
Value Chains	
✓	Fresh Vegetables
◆	Grapes
●	Honey
🌳	Orchard Crop
✕	Poultry
◆	Silk
●	Textiles
★	Wheat & Oilseeds



ANNEX II: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

Please see the attached Excel document.

ANNEX III: CCI PROJECT DATA BY REGION

Please see the attached Excel document.

ANNEX IV: FARMER TRAINING SUMMARY

<i>Province</i>	<i>Districts</i>	<i>CPF</i>	<i>Kitchen Garden</i>	<i>Total # of Farmers trained</i>
		<i>Vegetables</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Nangarhar	Behsood	-	6	6
Nangarhar	Kama	-	3	3
Nangarhar	Khogyani	28	-	28
Nangarhar	Kot	20	-	20
Nangarhar	Khas Kunar	17	7	24
Nangarhar	Pachir Wa Agam	17	-	17
Nangarhar	Rodat	52	6	58
Nangarhar	Surkhrod	61	5	66
Sub-total		195	27	222
Kunar	Chawkay	15	-	15
Sub-total		15	-	15
Laghman	Qarghaee	52	-	52
Sub-total		52	-	52
Parwan	Charikar	14	-	14
Parwan	Said Khil	16	-	16
Sub-total		30	-	30
Kapisa	Hisa e Awal Kohistan	17	-	17
Kapisa	Hisa e Dwom Kohistan	12	-	12
Sub-total		29	-	29
Total		321	27	348

ANNEX V: SALES DATA

Monthly Sales Dale, December 1-31, 2012

<i>Products</i>	<i>Local Market</i>		<i>High Value Market</i>		<i>Export Market</i>		<i>Total weight & Value</i>	
	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$
Vegetables	95,000	24,000	2,627	1,549	1,220,000	343,877	1,317,627	369,426
Fruits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herbs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheese	513	1,839	-	-	-	-	513	1,839
Masroor Foods	-	38,547	-	-	-	-	-	38,547
Textile	-	18,670	-	-	-	-	-	18,670
Snacks/chips	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chicks Hatched	-	12,509	-	-	-	-	-	12,509
Packaging Cartons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Table Eggs	-	529	-	-	-	-	-	529
Vermicelli	35,000	20,357	-	-	-	-	35,000	20,357
Soap	27,000	17,830	-	-	-	-	27,000	17,830
Total	157,513	134,281	2,627	1,549	1,220,000	343,877	1,380,140	479,707

Sales Data from July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012

<i>Products</i>	<i>Local Market</i>		<i>High Value Market</i>		<i>Export Market</i>		<i>Total Weight & Value</i>	
	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$	Kg	\$
Vegetables	6,257,150	1,345,940	317,518	404,436	17,715,000	4,649,764	24,289,668	6,300,140
Fruits	187,386	55,108	6,530	16,461	22,500	22,583	216,416	94,152
Herbs	709	200	-	-	-	-	709	200
Cheese	19,834	66,083	-	-	-	-	19,834	66,083
Masroor Foods	-	335,022	-	56,352	-	-	-	391,374
Textile	-	303,234	-	-	-	-	-	303,234
Snacks	-	127,772	-	4,392	-	-	-	132,164
Chicks Hatched	-	342,045	-	-	-	-	-	342,045
Cartons Rice	-	95,240	-	-	-	-	-	95,240
Table Eggs	-	131,016	-	-	-	-	-	131,016
Vermicelli	697,500	405,765	-	-	-	-	697,500	405,765
Soap	328,000	230,871	-	-	-	-	328,000	230,871
Total	7,490,579	3,438,295	324,048	481,641	17,737,500	4,672,347	25,552,127	8,492,283

ANNEX VI: NON-CCI PROJECT LIST

Please see the attached Excel document.

ANNEX VII: MONTHLY GRANTS REPORT

Please see the attached Excel document.