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# **VEGA Afghanistan: Community Development Agriculture Program in Paktia, Paktika, Khost and Southeast Ghazni (CDA-P2K)**

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*Quarterly Report  
November 2007 – December 2007*

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**LEADER WITH ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT (LWA)  
EEM-A-00-04-00002-00**

**Associate Cooperative Agreement  
306-07-023**

**Prepared for the United States Agency for  
International Development (USAID)**

*Implementing Organizations:*



**The Grand Council of Kuchis**

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## **1. Executive Summary**

The VEGA Alliance concluded a Leader with Associate Agreement (LWA) EEM-A-00-04-00002-00 (Associate Cooperative Agreement 306-07-023) with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) one November 16, 2007 for the Community Development Agriculture project in Paktia, Paktika, Khost and Southeastern Ghazni (CDA-P2K). Over the next six weeks, Sub-Agreements were concluded with the Prime Implementing Partner ACDI/VOCA and Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA), Grand Council of Kuchis and Winrock International and staff were mobilized.

The project seeks to establish a close working relationship with the Afghanistan Provincial government, targeted District Development Authorities (DDAs), Community Development Councils (CDCs), agricultural and business associations, private enterprises, local tribal leadership, community groups and the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). From Kabul, the project team visited PRT command staff at PRT-Gardez, PRT-Khost and PRT-Sharana, as well as staff at Task Force Fury in Khost. The team also initiated contact with the Agricultural Team from the Texas National Guard in anticipation of operations at PRT-Ghazni beginning in March 2008. The P2K team conducted briefings with USAID, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Task Force Fury and each PRT. The visit to PRT-Ghazni was delayed for several weeks due to weather, security events and scheduling.

In Paktika Province, the team met with District Directors of Public Works, Agriculture and Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Governor of Khost to identify high priority needs and opportunities. Important coordination and information gathering meetings were also held with various stakeholders on the local, regional and national level, including women's groups, youth groups, disabled citizens groups and various business owners.

While several office locations in Gardez were being inspected and considered, PRT-Gardez offered to provide temporary housing, offices and support services for the project team. Following review with the USAID CTO, this offer was accepted and the team plans to move to the PRT in early February 2008.

## **2. Program Overview**

Background on the project is presented below. This is followed by a discussion of the CDA-P2K implementation strategy.

### **2.1 CDA-P2K Background**

The Southeast Region of Afghanistan includes the Provinces of Paktia, Paktika, Khost and southeast Ghazni. This area is characterized as small farmers, little commercial production and dominated by trade with Pakistan. Although there has been a presence by the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), the region has not received the same development attention and funding as other areas in Afghanistan as served by the Alternative Development Program, Afghanistan Small and Medium Enterprise Development (ASMED) and Afghanistan Sustained Agriculture Program (ASAP) and others.

The goal of CDA-P2K is to ‘*Generate increased income, employment and sales of agricultural products for communities in the region.*’ To contribute to the achievement of this goal the CDA-P2K program will undertake activities to accomplish the following five specific objectives:

- Objective 1:** Identify and exploit markets that can be profitably served by the agricultural enterprises in the P2K region.
- Objective 2:** Increased production and improved quality of horticultural, livestock and agro-forestry products through improved genetics, management practices and use of inputs.
- Objective 3:** Mobilize the services and supply industries to create opportunities for P2K rural enterprises to improve storage, handling and processing of agricultural products.
- Objective 4:** Rehabilitate community irrigation and market infrastructure to support improved production, handling and marketing of horticultural, livestock and agro-forestry products.
- Objective 5:** Establish associations and other agricultural support institutions to provide services and support to agribusiness in P2K.

By attaining these objectives it is anticipated that improved inputs and techniques will result in improved health of livestock, improved quality of production, expanded markets and increases in net income of those parties targeted by the project.

## **2.2 Implementation Strategy: Private Sector Involvement with Community and Provincial Input**

CDA-P2K will develop initiatives with individual community and tribal stakeholders, associations and enterprises. The team will then provide ongoing support through training, technical assistance, improved inputs and agricultural techniques, post harvest treatment and access to markets. The overriding focus of the CDA-P2K program is involvement of the private sector, and there is a cross-cutting emphasis on support for women, youth and the disadvantaged. Each activity will be reviewed to determine potential involvement and impact on these groups. CDA-P2K will also develop targeted programs for each of these groups as appropriate.

To build a genuine sense of ownership of the project by all participants, target groups will be involved in the planning process from the beginning. The CDCs will be the initial focus for these contacts in targeted districts. The CDA-P2K team understands the difference between *need* and *opportunity*. Rather than focusing upon a “wish list” of equipment purchases, the project team will review supply chains to determine the greatest potential benefit to communities and will develop activities appropriately. Interventions could include new seed varieties, improved orchard management, nursery operations to accelerate seedling growth and survivability, methods to reduce post harvest loss, and value added processing.

### **Seed Capital**

The design of each individual intervention will take into account local conditions, and support will be conditional on a genuine commitment to the project by the target groups. With a focus on

sustainability, funding will support efforts by stakeholders to ensure that activities continue well after the project's completion. Funding will be regarded as *seed capital* that will be used to jump-start development in the community preferably with existing business operators, rather than as a *give-away* for its own sake. Priority will be given to opportunities and proposals that include arrangements for cost recovery and replication. The benefits from all investments must be capable of being sustained by participants using their own resources.

### **Focused Approach for CDA-P2K Sub-projects**

Implementation will focus on:

- Selected districts in the target provinces and selected clusters of villages within those districts
- A limited number of projects with a relatively large number of participants rather than a large number of very small diverse projects
- Projects that may be implemented simultaneously in a target village cluster, integrated or stand alone, all contributing to achieving the project purpose (specific project objective)
- Utilize the CDC as the initial point of contact at community level for the CDA-P2K activities. Where the CDC is not active other reference points will be identified. At the district level the DDA will be the point of contact.
- Projects that are identified and prioritized as part of a planning process and taking due account of the Provincial Development Plans.
- Projects implemented through contract agreements with implementing partners

To successfully implement the CDA-P2K project a number of steps must be taken, including:

1. Project activity identification
2. Partner selection
3. Development of methodology for implementing actions

CDA-P2K will call for proposals and award contracts to private sector partners where appropriate, for example in situations where development of infrastructure has already taken place, the area shows considerable agricultural potential, and communities are willing to invest in improving production of commodities with identified market demand. The project team will then work with these partners, including NGOs and private enterprises, to implement an agricultural improvement program that will include procurement of improved inputs, farmer training, post harvest handling, and other appropriate activities.

### **Quarterly Results**

#### **3.1 Objective 1 – Identify and exploit market opportunities**

The team reviewed documents and literature regarding existing production from the Southeast Region, and held discussions with private business owners, tribal leaders and government representatives. These initial discussions focused on potential opportunities in rice production, wool wash facilities, seedling production operations, grain and apple, potato and onion storage and assistance in marketing from an apple growers' association. The CDA-P2K team also began

to establish relationships with other USAID project implementers, the UN, international and national NGOs, associations, wholesalers, retailers, traders and individual entrepreneurs.

Indicator	Unit of Measurement	Year
		2007
Change in Number of ag-related firms w/ improved mgmt processes	Number	0
Change in household income of assisted farms/ enterprises	Percentage	0
# of individuals receiving USG-supported training	Number	0

### **3.2 Objective 2 – Increase production and improved quality of horticultural, livestock and agro-forestry products**

CDA-P2K will propose various methods for achieving increased production and improved quality of horticultural, livestock and agro-forestry products. To identify methods currently in use as well as opportunities for new interventions, the team met with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), USAID, other USAID activity implementers, donor projects, NGOs, and private businesses. Discussions covered trellising of grapes, training and service programs for large scale orchard pruning, hybrid poplar growth, animal health programs, mobile health units, agricultural extension services and improved seed varieties. As the project progresses, and where possible, the team will develop linkages between farmer groups and buyers to serve as an incentive for improving the agricultural techniques.

Indicator	Unit of Measurement	Year
		2007
Change in Number of ag-related firms benefiting from CDA-P2K	Number	0

### **3.3 Objective 3 – Mobilize the services and supply industries to create opportunities for P2K rural enterprises to improve storage, handling and processing of agricultural products**

The team held discussions with CNFA-Afghanistan regarding the organization’s experience installing a comprehensive Farm Store in Jalalabad. Subsequent site visits and discussions were then conducted with private wholesalers (Kurbankill and Aram stores) in Kabul with distribution in the Region and the USAID-funded ASAP, which has implemented the Ag-Depot concept with Noor Brothers throughout the country.

The team reviewed desktop plans for apple, potato and onion storage facilities in Gardez, and held initial discussions regarding storage and processing facilities in other parts of the country with production capacity not currently used in the Southeast Region. In addition, the team initiated discussions with processors that could purchase inputs from the region, including flour mills in Jalalabad, Kabul and Heart, poultry feed mills in Jalalabad and an almond shelling and roasting facility in Kabul. As opportunities are identified, market linkages will be developed.

		Year
Indicator	Unit of Measurement	2007
Change in Number of add'l ha under improved tech. or mgmt.	Number	0
Change in value of new investments by enterprises	Percentage	0

### 3.4 Objective 4 – Rehabilitate irrigation and market infrastructure

Farm Stores are viewed as a central component of the P2K program. CNFA provided feedback on appropriate inputs, suppliers and targeted districts. At this time, these districts include:

<u>Ghazni</u>	<u>Khost</u>	<u>Paktika</u>	<u>Paktia</u>
Andar	Khost	Saran	Gardez
Ghazni	Mandoz Y	Urgun	Sayid Karam
Jaguri	Terezayi	Zargun Safir	Zurmat

The team is holding on-going discussions regarding fruit drying and storage facilities, focusing on needs and opportunities. The commercial model proposed by P2K will assist in establishment of these facilities, in collaboration with an entrepreneur in the region.

		Year
Indicator	Unit of Measurement	2007
Change in Number of ha w/ improved irrigation or infrastructure	Number	0

### 3.5 Objective 5 – Establish association and community outreach to provide services

Meetings were held with leading innovators and supporters of gender, youth and disadvantaged programs in Afghanistan, including USAID. The P2K team established liaison and held strategy meetings with DAKKAR, Tribal Liaison Office, Jaji Youth Council and other stakeholders.

		Year
Indicator	Unit of Measurement	2007
Change in Number of ag associations/ support institutions created	Number	0
Change in # of ag associations/ support institutions lobbying	Number	0

### 3.6 Cross-cutting Indicators

Indicator	Unit of Measurement	Year
		2007
Change in Number of FT equivalent jobs	Number	0
Change in rural household income	Percentage	0
Change in growth of agriculture value added	Percentage	0
Change in sales of licit farm and non-farm products per household	Percentage	0
Change in average produce prices	Percentage	0

### 3.7 Upcoming Program Activities

Winrock International's agro-forestry consultant will join the project team in February to work with Tom Cunningham to develop the initial agro-forestry strategy. Additional assessments will be conducted and the team will work with local communities to determine interventions and project activities.

## 4. Program Management and Administration

The VEGA Alliance for CDA-P2K signed with USAID	14 November 2007
Post Award Conference with USAID	5 December 2007

### 4.1 Sub-Awards

Sub-Awards with implementing partners were signed on the following dates:

ACDI/VOCA – Prime Implementing Organization	20 November 2007
Winrock International	5 December 2007
Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs	12 December 2007
Grand Council of the Kuchis	23 December 2007

### 4.2 Staffing

The staffing for the project includes the following individuals:

Name	Position	Organization	Date of Hire
Timothy Ham	Chief of Party	ACDI/VOCA	November 29 2007
Tom Cunningham	Agricultural Specialist	ACDI/VOCA	December 9, 2007
Vic Getz	Youth & Disadvantages	Winrock International	December 13, 2007
Robert Thompson	Security Director	ACDI/VOCA	December 8, 2007
Willem Wiid	Deputy Security Director	ACDI/VOCA	December 8, 2007

Additional candidates have been interviewed and will be hired from the region. Early hiring plans include national staff to address requirements of communications, grants management, agro-forestry, gender, marketing and horticulture, and support Farm Store development.

### **4.3 Facilities**

Given CDA-P2K's four province range, and the review of potential needs and opportunities, the team began a process to identify office space in Gardez and satellite facilities in Khost. On an interim basis, and after discussions with USAID, CDA-P2K accepted an offer for support services from PRT-Gardez. Two "B-Huts" will be constructed for a combination of accommodation and office set-up and the project will use these facilities for several months while finalizing formal operations. Meeting facilities will be identified in conjunction with the Grand Council of Kuchis. Additional facilities will be rented for the local security staff to ensure their availability in Gardez in anticipation of movement by team members.

### **4.4 Program Monitoring**

The P2K Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) program is under development. Once submitted and accepted by USAID, future results relative to the M&E plan will be submitted on a quarterly basis. The team will also submit monthly M&E reports, as required.

### **4.5 Security**

ACDI/VOCA has prime responsibility for security on the project. Current security staff includes three international directors/advisors and three drivers. ACDI/VOCA has also contracted with Commercial Security Guard Services (CSGS), an Afghan owned security firm. CSGS provides three security supervisors, 12 guards, and six un-armored vehicles.