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# Quarterly Report: 1 October – 31 December 2010

Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives—North, East and West (IDEA-NEW)

*Community Constructed Infrastructure (CCI) worker – Badakshan Province.*



*Submitted by Development Alternatives, Inc. in partnership with Mercy Corps and ACDI/VOCA*

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# Acronyms

<b>AAP</b>	Annual Activity Plan	<b>LOP</b>	Life of Project
<b>ADP</b>	Alternative Development Program	<b>MAIL</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
<b>AGE</b>	Anti-Government Elements	<b>m</b>	Meter
<b>ACCI</b>	Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>AISA</b>	Afghanistan Investment Support Agency	<b>MCN</b>	Ministry of Counter Narcotics
<b>ANDS</b>	Afghanistan National Development Strategy	<b>MHP</b>	Micro-Hydro Power
<b>ASAP</b>	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program	<b>MRRD</b>	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
<b>ASMED</b>	Afghanistan Small and Medium Enterprise Development	<b>MPW</b>	Ministry of Public Works
<b>CCI</b>	Community Constructed Infrastructure	<b>MoWA</b>	Ministry of Women’s Affairs
<b>CDC</b>	Community Development Council	<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>CDF</b>	Commercial Demonstration Farm	<b>NSP</b>	National Solidarity Program
<b>CNAT</b>	Counter Narcotics Advisory Team	<b>NTA</b>	Nangarhar Talc Association
<b>CNTF</b>	Counter Narcotics Trust Fund	<b>NVDA</b>	Nangarhar Valley Development Authority
<b>COIN</b>	Counter Insurgency	<b>PDC</b>	Provincial Development Council
<b>DAI</b>	Development Alternatives, Inc.	<b>PRT</b>	Provincial Reconstruction Team
<b>DCA</b>	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan	<b>RCC</b>	Reinforced Cement Concrete
<b>DDA</b>	District Development Authority	<b>RMHC</b>	Rabia Mariam Handicraft Co.
<b>DoPW</b>	Department of Public Works	<b>SDF</b>	Small Demonstration Farm
<b>DOWA</b>	Department of Women’s Affairs	<b>TCN</b>	Third-Country National
<b>EMS</b>	Environmental Management System	<b>TIMER</b>	Technology Innovations for Market-Led Economic Rehabilitation
<b>FTE</b>	Full-time Equivalent	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>GDA</b>	Global Development Alliance	<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>GIROA</b>	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	<b>USG</b>	United States’ Government
<b>ha</b>	Hectare		
<b>ICARDA</b>	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas		
<b>IDEA-NEW</b>	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives—North, East and West		
<b>IP</b>	Implementing Partner		
<b>IPM</b>	Integrated Pest Management		
<b>ISAF</b>	International Security Assistance Force		
<b>IVR</b>	Interactive Voice Response		
<b>JDA</b>	Joint Development Associates		

# Quarterly Highlights

During the quarter, IDEA-NEW focused on creating jobs throughout the North, Northeast East and West regions of Afghanistan, increasing farmers' agricultural sales and rural resident incomes, and strengthening the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's (IRoA) capacity to respond to the needs of its citizens<sup>1</sup>.

**115,050** families benefited in 14 provinces

**14,993** people received agriculture and livestock inputs through voucher programs

**744** full-time equivalent jobs were created in the quarter

**1,052** hectares of land were brought under improved irrigation as a result of system repair and construction

**891** new people worked 217,208 labor days in the quarter on community-constructed infrastructure projects

**118** new enterprises were created

**\$1,347,833** in wages paid to local residents on community-constructed infrastructure projects

**3,681** men and women received business skills training

**39,645** people received agriculture - and livestock-related productivity training

**18** government line staff were trained in topics related to their jobs

**76** hectares of alternative crops were planted by IDEA-NEW programs

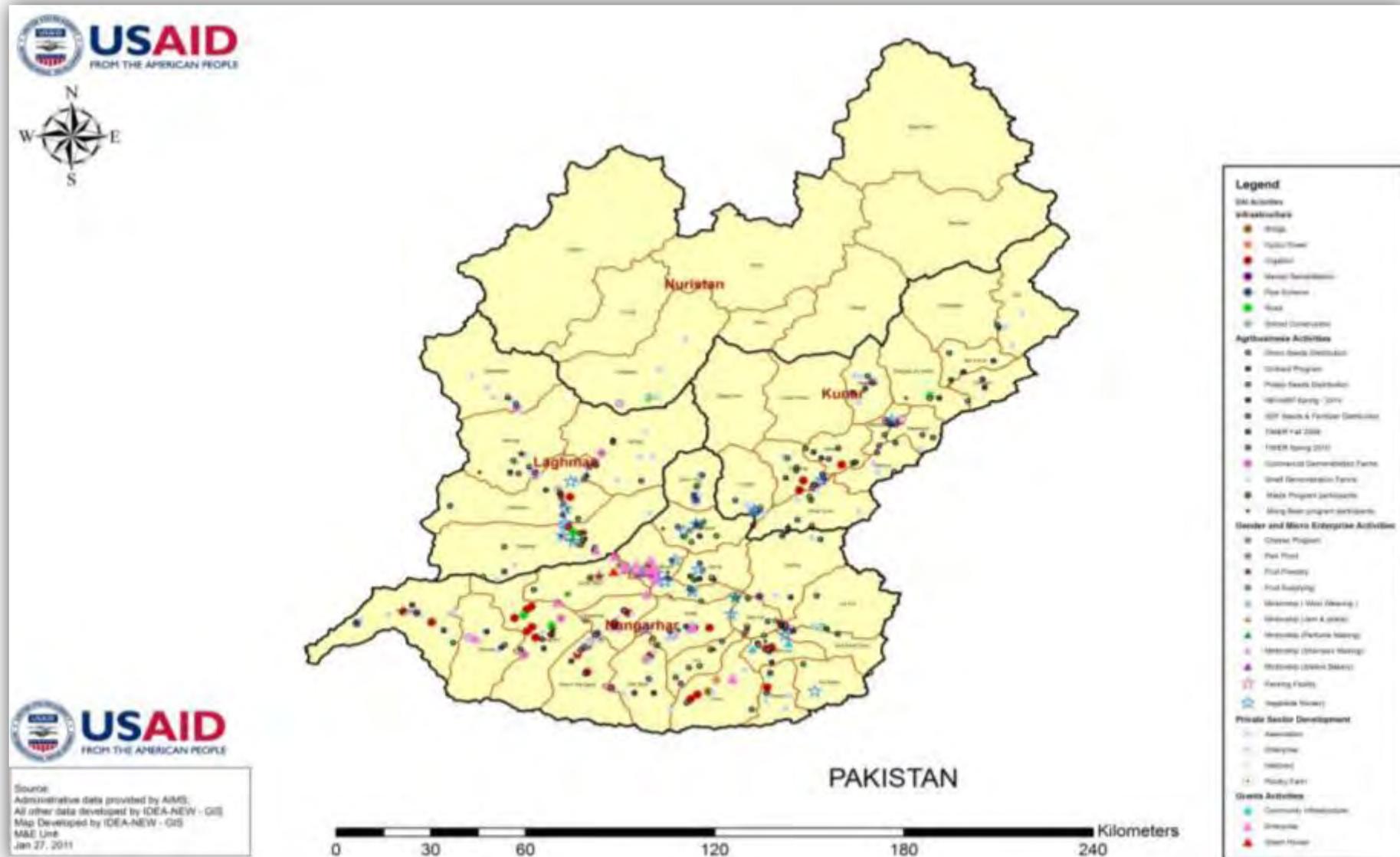
**98%** of IDEA-NEW's 669 full-time staff members are Afghan Nationals (655/669)

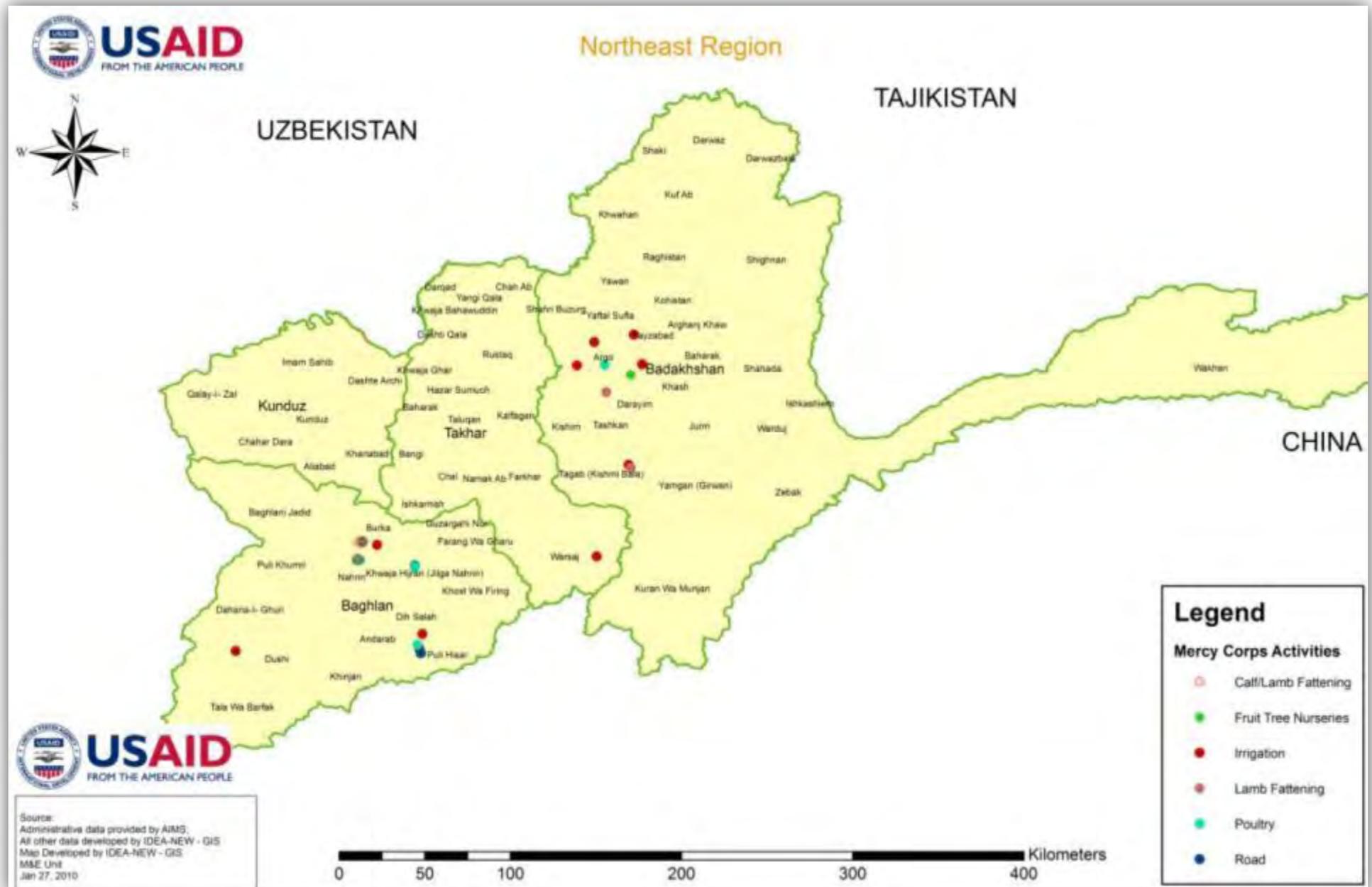
**660,948** livestock were brought under improved management and care

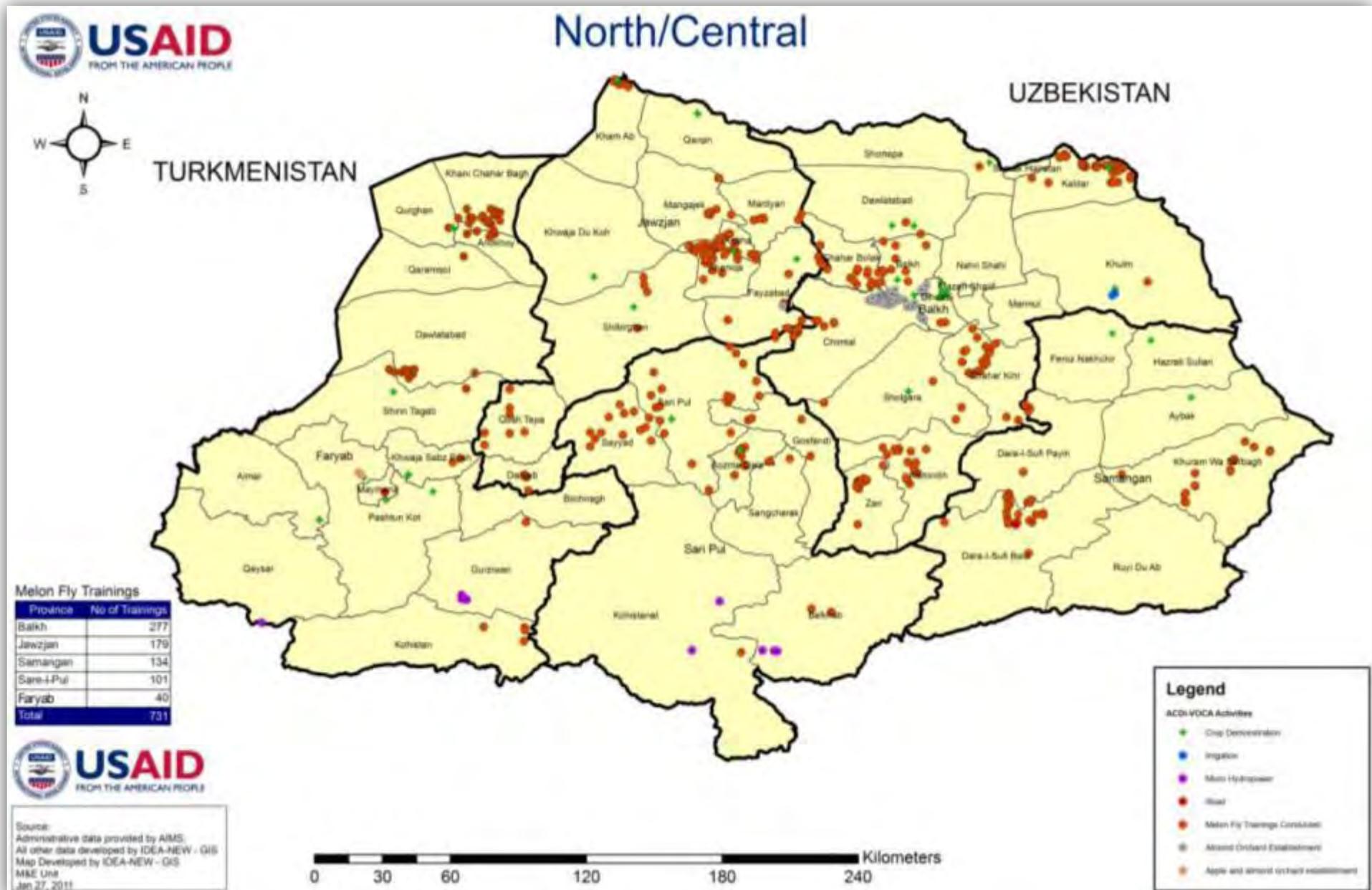
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<sup>1</sup> All reported data has backup documentation as per the IDEA-NEW M&E System. Please see information beginning on p. 45 for data disaggregation by province and gender.

# Maps of IDEA-NEW Activities







# Background

IDEA-NEW, a USAID-funded initiative in Afghanistan, began in March 2009. Activities target instability/insurgency locales and buffer zones to curb narco-trafficking, and at the same time, increase job creation, strengthen Afghan leadership and promote economic growth.

The program responds rapidly to community-identified needs through Community Constructed Infrastructure (CCI) projects that foster trust and infuse communities with cash and income. IDEA-NEW then builds upon those gains in order to maintain the long term focus of sustainable growth in the agriculture and rural development sectors. The program is predominately centered in the Eastern Region, but also addresses interrelated issues of instability and economic development in select areas of the country's Northern, Northeastern and Western Regions.

Major emphasis is on: *Job Creation, Agricultural Sales and Capacity Building*. IDEA-NEW provides support and linkages to overall US government counter-insurgency (COIN) priorities through local-level agricultural and private sector development, and by engaging local government to respond to the needs of its constituencies in these sectors.

## Partners

Three partners implement IDEA-NEW: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), ACDI/VOCA and Mercy Corps. DAI works in the East and West, ACDI/VOCA in the North and Mercy Corps in the Northeast.

## Regions

**East Region activities** are implemented in the Provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Nuristan. The program works closely with provincial- and district-level governments and within local communities, capitalizing on the successes of previous USAID projects in the area, which built strong relations among local stakeholders, and have given IDEA-NEW the ability to scale-up rapidly. In its second year of operations in the east, IDEA-NEW is undertaking work in 39 of the region's 50 districts.

**West Region activities** are implemented in the Province of Badgis. **North region activities** are implemented in the Province of Faryab, Sari Pul, Jawzjan, Balkh, and Samangan. **Northwestern region activities** are implemented in the Provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz and Baghlan.



# Quarterly Report

IDEA-NEW worked in 14 provinces in the October to December 2010 quarter, overall impacting 115,050 families in these areas. The program focused on creating jobs for local residents, increasing their incomes, fostering private sector growth, and drawing upon the expertise of various government counterparts, and at the same time strengthening government line departments' abilities to respond to the needs of residents.

The project created more than 744 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the quarter. These were in the areas of community-constructed infrastructure (CCI), rural business and agriculture. A total of 23 jobs were created for women 721 for men (agriculture jobs are not tracked by gender since the whole household typically works to increase crop yields).

## Community Constructed Infrastructure (CCI)

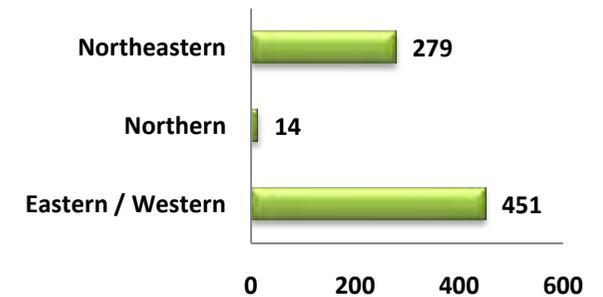
CCI projects serve a two-fold purpose: to restore and build productive infrastructure, and to inject cash into local economies in unstable and insecure areas helping to reduce communities' reliance on illegal activities including narcotics and insurgency.

IDEA-NEW has completed 76 community-constructed infrastructure (CCI) and worked on 56 projects throughout its areas of operation. During this reporting it paid more than \$679,236 USD in wages and generated 102,534 person days representing 394 FTE jobs.

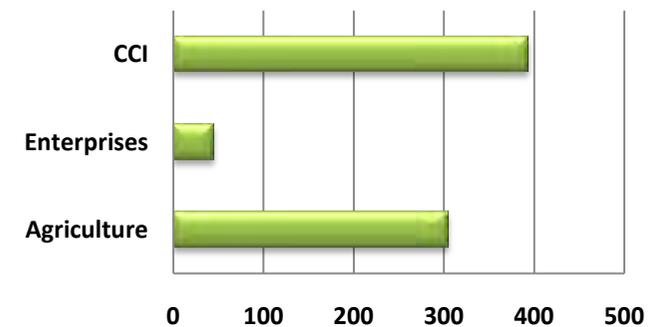
### October 1 – December 31, 2010 CCI Summary Chart

Region	Province	Completed Projects	Active Projects	Stopped Projects
Eastern	Kunar	-	2	-
Eastern	Laghman	-	4	1
Eastern	Nangarhar	2	10	2
Eastern	Nuristan	-	-	-
Western	Badgis	3	16	1
Northern	Balkh	4	1	-
Northern	Samangan	2	-	-
Northern	Jawzjan	-	1	-
Northern	Sari Pul	3	3	-

### FTEs by Region



### FTE Jobs by Type



Northern	Faryab	10	8	-
Northeastern	Badakhshan	14	3	2
Northeastern	Baghlan	31	0	1
Northeastern	Takhar	7	6	-
Northeastern	Kunduz	0	2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>7</b>

### Completed CCI Projects

- **Shapoola Canal Intake Improvement, Debala District, Nangarhar province / Eastern Region:**

The project ran from April 5 to November 16, 2010. The irrigation system is fed from an existing canal intake locally constructed on Akakhail Wash. The system is designed to irrigate 92.05 jeribs of land serving the farms of about 500 families and flowing through different villages in the District of Debala. The project constructed a 50-meter long stone masonry and RCC intake (weir) structure with a total length of 515 meter canal retaining walls.

*"I am very happy that after 30 years our canal is reconstructed and now we see canal full of water and our dream came true. The staff working on this project were transparent and they coordinated each issue with village elders and shura leaders. Before we were unable to irrigate the land coming under this canal and now the current improved system can irrigate the whole area of this canal and also the poor people financially benefited during implementing the project."*

**--Waqif Khan, Community Elder**

- **Marko girls and boys school boundary wall, Shinwar District, Nangarhar province / Eastern Region:**

The project ran from March 29 to December 25, 2010. The school is educating 4,200 students including 775 girls from 8,550 families of the area. However, without a boundary wall the school was considered unsafe and students were faced issues such as security and seasonal winds. Many families hesitated to send their children there.

The construction of the 920 m boundary walls, 2,500 m<sup>3</sup> back filling and three culverts helped to encourage more families to send their children to school knowing that they are in a safe environment. The six newly constructed toilets promoted hygienic conditions and will help to prevent diseases such as cholera and typhoid.

*"Earlier there was no boundary wall, so not only people but also cows and sheep used to pass through the school yard, now we feel safe and students concentrate well on their studies and they don't have any disturbance. We strongly appreciate the work done by IDEA-NEW."*

**--Bahadur Khan, principal of Marko School.**

- **Yasech Road Rehabilitation, Shuhada district, Badakhshan province / Northeastern Region:**

This project started in early August 2010 and rehabilitated 5.5 km road. The road provides improved market access to 26 villages, home to 1,560 families in the Yasech area. The project was identified by the Sarghilan CDC, local



**Photos:** Shapoola Canal Intake Improvement project before (above) and after (below) – Nangarhar Province



government and line departments as a priority for Shuhada district. Late spring avalanches destroyed 55% of the road surface, rendering it impassable. The community attempted to clear the road, but requested help with implementing a full rehabilitation from the government and IDEA-NEW. This project also provided cash-for-work opportunities for men in this impoverished area where half of the farmers are landless and rely on wage work. Agriculture products from 2,200 ha of agricultural land will be marketed via this road. The road rehabilitation links farmers and their products to district as well as provincial market centers.

- **Ghanew Feeder Road Rehabilitation, Warduj district, Badakhshan province / Northeastern Region:**

This project ran from August to December and improved 5 km of road, connecting 1,450 families to the market center in Warduj. This rehabilitation makes it easier for farmers to get goods to market, as well as improving access to other resources, such as schools and medical care. People in this area rely on agriculture and raising livestock, but previously people from Ghanew and four neighboring villages had almost no road access. This area has also been affected by the insurgency. The project was requested by the local communities and was identified as a priority by the local government and provincial Agriculture Department. Considering the renewed insurgency in the area, the project aims to create short term jobs through cash for work with the hope of keeping local people from joining the conflict.

- **Arbab Noor Mohammad Intake Construction Project, Burka district, Baghlan province / Northeastern Region:**

The community requested this project because the opening of the intake was eroded by yearly floods and the community was forced to constantly rebuild the intake mechanism. The poorly designed intake also prevented farmers from having reliable irrigation. The project started in August and employed 705 local workers. The intake is 18m long and feeds into a 70m canal that was resided with stone masonry walls. 180 ha of agricultural land will be irrigated and directly benefit 366 families.

- **Dasht-e-Flood Road Rehabilitation Project, Burka district, Baghlan province / Northeastern Region:**

This project rehabilitated an 8 km secondary road. Local workers compacted and graveled the road, excavated 3,600 m of ditches and constructed 15 culverts. The road connects two villages, Dasht and Floom, providing farmers with better access to district markets in Burka. In total, 3,000 local families benefit from improved road access and 1,905 local workers contributed to the construction.

- **Ganj Alibagh Gabion Protection Dike, Taloqan district, Takhar province / Northeastern Region:**

This gabion dike will serve to protect 150 households from flooding in the spring. The agricultural land in this area was severely eroded by floodwaters this past spring, so the community requested help in creating a permanent barrier. The wall was constructed by local men and women who received training in how to weave gabion boxes. The wall is constructed of 2,565 gabion boxes will protect 300 hectares in Taloqan from flood damage. 300 ha of land which were not previously cultivated because of flooding will be revived due to this project, enabling farmers to undertake wheat and rice cultivation again. In addition, the project will avert further loss of land and potentially allow farmers to recover previously lost areas through rehabilitation.



*Photos: Arbab Noor Mohammad Intake Construction Project before (above) after (below) - Burka district, Baghlan province.*



- Eraghak Aqueduct Construction Project, Khost district, Baghlan province / Northeastern Region:**  
This 6 m aqueduct connects two sections of a longer canal. Previously, the aqueduct section was made of scrap wood that was easily damaged by the volume of water and debris. The new aqueduct structure is cement and will irrigate 70 ha of agricultural land, directly benefiting 190 families.
- Khoja Hafiz Gabion Protection Wall, Yangi Qala district, Takhar province / Northeastern Region:**  
This project was conducted in Khoja Hafiz village in response to villagers' requests for flood protection. In recent years, the flood path of a nearby river had begun to direct floodwater into population centers, damaging crops and houses. Male and female gabion weavers constructed 3,750 gabion boxes to form two dikes, 107 m and 360 m long, respectively. A total of 2,500 residents of Yangi Qala are now protected from the threat of flood.
- Markaz-e-Burka Road Rehabilitation Project, Burka district, Baghlan province / Northeastern Region:**  
The project ran from July 18 to November 11, 2010. It included the following components: 4 culverts, 3.5km road graveled, compacted, wet down and leveled. Prior to the project, the road was in extremely poor condition and local people were prevented from efficiently bringing their goods to market. This project links 400 farmers to the main market in Burka where they can sell their agricultural products. Additionally, 766 cash-for-work laborers identified by the local shura worked to construct the road.
- Kart-e-Itifaq Road Rehabilitation Project, Puli Khumri district, Baghlan province / Northeastern Region:**  
This 3 km market road project ran from March 8 to November 11, 2010 with workers constructing 27 small culverts, three wash culverts and 10 ditches. The road was graveled, compacted, widened and leveled. An additional 800 m of gabion retaining wall was also constructed. The improved road links 1,560 farmers to markets in Puli Khumri and will enable them to transport their goods cheaply.
- Andosha Aqueduct and Wash Culvert Construction, Jurm district, Badakhshan province / Northeastern Region:**  
Heavy spring flooding destroyed the two aqueducts of the two main canals of Kharandab Mantiqa in Jurm district, stopping irrigation of the downstream land. The communities requested help from the government and IDEA-NEW joined to reconstruct the damaged sections of the canal. The structure of Andosha project consists of an 8 m long aqueduct, 8 m wash-culvert and two protection side walls totaling 60 m in length. Construction of these structures prevented flood damage to the Joi Payan, and Joi Bala Canals and thus assures a regular flow of water for Jurm district. The project helps to irrigate more than 320 ha of agriculture land home to 730 farming households engaged in fruit and grain production.
- Nuqra Chasmah Canal Intake, Kalafghan district, Takhar province / Northeastern Region:**  
The canal intake includes a 260 m long canal in addition to the sluice gates. The project benefits some 300 farming families and irrigates 29 ha of agricultural land. Prior to construction of the canal, farmers made due with a small buried pipe, but the new stone masonry canal channel is 50 cm across and 60 cm deep, capable of carrying more water and less likely to be washed away with yearly flooding.



*Photos: Markaz-e -Burka Road Rehabilitation Project before (above) and after (below) - Burka district, Baghlan province*



*“This project works to our benefit in two ways. We are working on a canal that will irrigate our own land, and we are earning extra money building it. I have five children and currently this job is all I have to support my family.”*

**- Najibullah, local farmer**

- Dehbazar Gabion Protection Project, Darayim district, Badakhshan province / Northeastern Region:**  
 This 150 m gabion retaining wall was completed during the reporting period. In May 2009, local farmers suffered when 200 ha of agriculture land was flooded. The local shura prioritized flood control for this area and sought IDEA-NEW’s help in constructing a wall. The new wall protects 200 ha of land that is home to 700 families and a girls’ school. With the construction of the wall, farmers will also have to opportunity to reclaim agricultural land that was previously eroded by yearly flooding.
- Hydraulic Ram Pump Installation Project, Puli Khumri district, Baghlan province / Northeastern Region:**  
 This project was handed over to the Agriculture Department and local shura. Activities on the project included: installing two ram pumps, constructing two reservoirs, repairing one reservoir, and laying 4,500 m of piping. Through this project, 100 ha of planted orchards are currently being irrigated. The pump works by forcing water from a low-lying stream up the side of a hill to the reservoir. The hillsides have been recently reforested and are fed by the water from the reservoirs.
- Khaja Mukhtar Canal Intake, Taloqan district, Takhar province / Northeastern Region:** *(see photos right)*  
 The canal intake construction *(see photos right)* includes 240 m of lined canal backstopped by a 220m retaining wall. The lining of the canal helps improve water flow and helps it to last longer than a mud-walled canal, ensuring that local farmers have consistent access to water. The project also includes a stone masonry canal intake with two gates to control the flow of water. The project serves about 2,000 families on 2,000 ha of land.
- Tagab-e-Esamile Irrigation Canal, Qala-e-Now district, Badghis province / Western Region:**  
 The irrigation project ran from January through December, 2010 and created jobs for 80 laborers for six months. It has a total length of 320 m gabion protection wall and 4,200 m stone masonry protection wall. The canal is one of the most impressive irrigation systems in Qalae-e-Now District of Badghis province which irrigates around 120 ha and benefiting 800 families. Earlier the flooding season would destroy agricultural land, villages, schools and the irrigation structures but the project completed under IDEA-NEW program will help to prevent flood damage and improve dry season irrigation.



- **Pahlawan Irrigation Canal, Abkamary district, Badghis province / Western Region:**

The irrigation ran from January through December 30, 2010 and irrigates 160 ha land. The main crops cultivated under this project are wheat, vegetables and fruits. The project built protection walls with a total length of 300 m of 3,500 m canal that benefits about 500 families. The projects not only assisted farmers with agriculture but also created jobs for 80 laborers for six months.

- **Gudol Irrigation Canal Project, Abkamary District, Badghis Province / Western Region:**

The Godol irrigation protection walls project with a total length of 3,700 m and irrigates around 180 ha benefiting 700 families. It created job opportunities for 80 laborers of poor families for six months. After completion, now the project will assist the beneficiaries to boost their agriculture production

- **Mazar Almond Market Concrete Platform / Northern Region:**

The Mazar-e-Sharif Balkh Dry Fruits Processing Association (MBDFA) is developing a market area granted by the Mazar City municipality. The main types of produce sold in this market are almonds, pistachios, walnuts, apricots and dried plums. IDEA-NEW constructed a concrete surface in the market on which the market shopkeepers' produce can be stacked and dried more efficiently. The dry fruits that are processed in this market are grown in Balkh and its neighboring provinces.

The market houses 158 shops and the MBDFA members (shop owners) process the fruits by laying them in the open and exposing them to sunlight. Previously, they could not do so because the ground, bare earth, was dirty and unhygienic.

IDEA-NEW constructed a concrete platform of 2,508 m<sup>2</sup> area and MBDFA provided all the manpower for this project. IDEA-NEW also set an Internet connection to link the dry fruit dealers with potential buyers abroad.

The MBDFPA's contribution to this project was approximately \$5,000 USD. IDEA-NEW's contribution included designing the platform, supervision of work throughout the project life, supply of construction material to the project site for improving the market platform, procuring and delivering six desktop computers, 10 desktop computer desks, 10 chairs and funding the installation of Internet start up in the market.

The project was successfully completed and the ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Mazar-I-Sharif, Mohammad Younus Muqem, Provincial Elected Council Member, Haji Abdul Wakil, DAIL representative Mohammad Wakil Niazi, members of the Elders' Council, community representatives and members of the MBDFPA. Eleven local and national media reporters covered the event and reported it in their channels.



*Photo: Mazar Mayor thanks IDEA-NEW for coordinating with government and private sector on the Almond Market Improvement project – Balkh province*

## Started CCI Projects

- Kurani Siphon, Farkhar District, Takhar Province / Northeastern Region:**  
This siphon project is helping to address flooding problems. Kurani village has an irrigation canal that lies in the path of flood water from the Farkhar River and is frequently washed out by flooding. The surrounding area is mountainous and rocky, which makes flood control difficult. The construction of a siphon will help to channel the water into the canal in a managed way that does not overwhelm it. The siphon will be 81 m long and constructed with reinforced concrete and stone masonry. The siphon feeds into a longer canal that runs through two other villages before reaching Kurani village, and ensures that Kurani farmers have reliable access to water. This village is already well connected to the market by road access, thus, reliable irrigation water will further help farmers improve income from agriculture in this peaceful area. The project benefits 126 families on 100 ha of land.
- Shinwari Canal, Taloqan District, Takhar province / Northeastern Region:**  
Part of this canal was destroyed by spring flooding this year, prompting the local community to seek help in repairing it. The project will ensure regular flow of water through the canal intake and improve irrigation of 279 ha of land. A retaining wall will also be built to protect the wall from flooding in the future. The canal intake is 25 m and the wall will be 405 m. A total of 130 households will benefit from this project. Takhar is a poor area where families depend strictly on agriculture and farmers primarily grow commercial vegetables and commodity crops. The community was enthusiastic about contributing to the project and has agreed to improve the project site with the planting and maintenance of trees to help control erosion.
- Peri Farkhar Super Passage, Farkhar district, Takhar province / Northeastern Region:**  
Construction of this super passage will provide irrigation facilities access to agricultural land as the super passage serves to adjust the flow of water running into a local canal. The passage will serve 131 families, irrigate an estimated 400 ha and link two new villages (Kurani and Qapanger) to the larger canal as well. With the construction of the super passage, land that had previously been eroded by flood can now be reclaimed for agriculture.
- Shori Super Passage, Farkhar district, Takhar province / Northeastern Region:**  
This new super passage will help to prevent flooding in nearby villages by providing a channel to contain the floodwater. The passage is 52 m across and is flanked by wing walls 251 m long. Floodwater is a major problem in the spring and the local people requested help controlling the water damaging their agricultural land. The super passage will also help to protect small local canals from washout, allowing people to maintain regular access to irrigation, and to reclaim land eroded by floods for agricultural use. The project will benefit 1,200 people in Farkhar district on 200 ha of farmed land.
- Sagawa Canal Intake, Bangi district, Takhar province / Northeastern Region:**  
The community requested this project because their existing intake mechanism was unable to withstand yearly flooding. Without a functioning intake, farmers lacked reliable access to irrigation. The new intake is built to



*Photo: Kurani Siphon - Farkhar District, Takhar Province*



*Photo: Shori Super Passage - Farkhar district, Takhar province*



*Photo: Khulm laborers placing the gabions and filling them with stones on Khulm River bank – Balkh province.*

withstand floods so that irrigation is not interrupted. Bangi is a fertile agricultural area that is known for producing cauliflower. The intake connects to a 420 m long canal used by 1,000 families for 1,600 ha of agricultural land.

## Ongoing CCI Projects

### Northern Region

Work resumed on five Micro-Hydro Power (MHP) plants in Balkhab district of Sari Pul province. The projects had been suspended during the exceptional summer flooding, which damaged the structures and made necessary repairs and further strengthening.

Work continued on eight MHP plants in Pashtun Kot district of Faryab. These MHPs are located in the insurgency-prone and remote areas of Faryab and Sari Pul provinces which receive almost no other assistance. The provision of electricity to these remote communities brings significant improvement to people. Projects were implemented in the following districts: Khulm district, Balkh province; Pashtun Kot, Qaysar and Bilchiragh districts, Faryab province; Balkhab and Sangcharak districts, Sari Pul province; Feroz Nakhchir districts, Samangan province; and Mardian district, Jawzjan province.

IDEA-NEW has cooperated with the CERP (Commander's Emergencies Relief Program) Team of RC-North in identifying projects for CERP funding and providing the expertise of the Engineering Department to develop technically acceptable submissions to the CERP Board.

- **Khulm River Gabion Protection Extension (550 meters):**

The Khulm River provides irrigation for a large area of perennial cultivation in the north-east of Balkh province. Unfortunately, it is liable to severe flooding, which regularly destroys orchards and houses.

In the last quarter IDEA-NEW completed the construction of 975 m of the gabion protection wall in the Khulm River basin, which saved over 1,000 ha of land from heavy floods this summer. In response to a request from local community representatives and government, IDEA-NEW has agreed to extend the project by 550 m to strengthen the riverbank.

The locations that are to be protected are 3 km upstream and 3 km downstream from Khulm district center. IDEA-NEW infrastructure engineers assessed the total length of the riverbank that needed to be protected to be 550 m. Gabion protection walls are planned for six locations along the riverbank, that are most at risk. The gabion walls will safeguard 500 ha of endangered agricultural lands against flooding. It will also help the whole irrigation system by providing stable banks to the river. This will prevent loss of potential water for irrigation. The project is estimated to create 7,148 person-days of employment for local people from 500 families in Khwaja Assad, Qala Arab Bik, Oymahoot, Tailee, and Mirhazar villages of Khulm district, Balkh province.

Work on the Khulm River Gabion Protection Extension Project started on July 19, 2010 with the excavation of the foundations and weaving of gabion baskets. During this reporting period the gabion boxes were put in place and



*Photo: Balkhab District Governor officially opening the MHPs in his district. – Sari Pul province.*

filled with stone, creating a total of 3,293 person-days of employment and injecting a sum of 1,646,500 AFN as wages. The overall progress by the end of this reporting period shows 90%. The project will be closed in the early next quarter.

- **Construction of Micro Hydro Power Plants:**

IDEA-NEW constructs MHP projects to provide electrical power to remote communities. Electricity brings significant improvements to the lives of families. Inexpensive electric light will encourage handicrafts and enable children to study at night.

IDEA-NEW had previously signed a sub-grant with *International Assistance Mission (IAM)* to provide the electrical equipment for the construction of eight MHP projects in Qaysar and Kohistan districts, Faryab province. However, the deteriorating security situation in those districts has obliged IAM to withdraw from the area. IDEA-NEW has signed a modification to the agreement to allow the same number of installations to be made in Pashtun Kot district. The MHPs listed below will produce 75.4 KW power to eight communities of Pashtun Kot district of Faryab province and will serve 1,250 households.

During this reporting period, the IAM MHP engineers and technical team were working on all of these eight MHPs in Pashtun Kot district, and had reported that the eight MHP plants in Faryab were 100% completed; however, a visit by IDEA-NEW MHP engineer to five of them showed that the actual progress was as follows: Hazara Qala MHP 71%, Nawabad Beqlarsai MHP 81%, Kata Qala Shora-e-Bazaar MHP 95%, Kata Qala Shora-e-Madrasa MHP 80%, Kata Qala Haji Basir MHP 74%

These findings were shared with IAM during this reporting period and the IAM RESAP MHP engineer reported that they have resumed the outstanding work and will complete it early next quarter and will join the IDEA-NEW MHP engineer for the final inspection.

The team could not visit three remaining MHP plants in Ibrahimabad, Qalai Niasbeq-Payan and Qalai Niasbeq-Bala due to bad security in the area.

Balkhab district, Sari Pul province is a mountainous area with poor road access, especially in bad weather. IDEA-NEW is constructing five MHP plants through a contract with Remote Hydro-Light (RHL). Work on these projects has been seriously delayed by the heavy snow in 2009 and the exceptional summer floods in 2010. Under the agreement with the beneficiary communities, they were to carry out the civil works, but following the damage from the floods, it was clear that completing these projects would place an unreasonable burden and so they were modified so that IDEA-NEW provided more materials and contributed to the labor costs.

The plants at Chaila and Parawshan have been completed and officially turned on in the presence of the Balkhab district governor and community elders. Progress on the remaining plants is as follows: Hoosh 88%, Khamshorak

68% and Dahna Wa Kashkak 70%. The lack of access to the area due to cold weather and iced roads, once again caused a delay in completion of the extra work in the remaining MHPs in Balkhab district.

- **Construction of Mardian Water Reservoir:**

*IDEA-NEW is installing a High Density Polyethylene liner as part of a water storage pilot project in Mardian district, Jawzjan province. The liners are a less expensive and more effective alternative to open holding ponds or cement cisterns for water storage. The pond under construction will hold three million liters of clean potable water for 300 families, who will draw it off through a hand-pump. Because of security considerations, a subcontractor is implementing the Cash-for-Work (CfW) project rather than the IDEA-NEW Infrastructure team.*

Owing to deterioration in the security of Jawzjan province, IDEA-NEW decided to subcontract this project to a local construction company rather than directly implement it. The contract was awarded to Mujtaba Walid Construction Company (MWCC). During this reporting period, the excavation, shaping and paving of the pond was completed, amounting to progress of 65%, creating a total of 1,461 person days of employment. The project is scheduled to be completed in the first month of the coming quarter when the HDP liner is installed.



**Photo:** Laborers working to shape the side slope of the Mardian Water Pond – Jawzjan province.

## Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness

### **Annual Crops Demonstration / Northern Region:**

Yields of annual crops, such as wheat, are extremely low and susceptible to drought particularly on rain fed land. Heavy losses occur from weeds, fungal disease and insect pests. Traditional cultivation methods apply too much seed, leading to waste and overcrowding. To introduce farmers to improved methods of crop cultivation, IDEA-NEW in the 2011 and 2012 plans to implement a major two year project of demonstrations and extension training to be implemented by Joint Development Associates (JDA). This project was scheduled to start on October 1, 2010 in order to take advantage of the coming growing season. Although this project was in the approved workplan, approval of the contract by USAID was not received during this quarter. In order to keep the project on track, ACDI/VOCA issued a Letter of Authorization to JDA to commence expenditure.

During this quarter, 12 demonstration plots totaling 60 jeribs have been planted in eight districts of Balkh province and one district of each of Samangan and Jawzjan provinces. Field days have been attended by 1,226 farmers. Each demonstration plot contains wheat, oilseeds (flax, sesame, safflower or canola) and pulses (lentils or chickpeas). Farmers are shown the use of Two-Wheel Tractors for land preparation, sowing and harvesting. Control of weeds, pests and diseases is also taught.

**Demonstration Plot: Seeds Planted / Jeribs of land**

Province	District	Wheat	Jerib	Sesame	Jerib	Flax	Jerib	Lentil	Jerib	Safflower	Jerib	Pea	Jerib	Canola	Jerib	Total
Balkh	Khulm	√	2			√	1			√	1	√	1			85
Balkh	Balkh	√	2							√	1	√	1	√	1	114
Balkh	Dihdadi	√	2					√	1	√	1			√	1	111
Balkh	Khulm	√	2	√	1			√	1	√	1					79
Balkh	Sholgara	√	2							√	1	√	1	√	1	89
Balkh	Dawlatabad	√	2			√	1			√	1	√	1			120
Balkh	Dihdadi	√	2			√	1			√	1	√	1			108
Balkh	Kaldar	√	2					√	1	√	1			√	1	106
Balkh	Shortepa	√	2	√	1					√	1	√	1			115
Balkh	Nahri Shahi	√	2							√	1	√	1	√	1	67
Jawzjan	Fayzabad	√	2	√	1					√	1	√	1			118
Samangan	Aybak city	√	2	√	1					√	1	√	1			114



*Photo: IDEA-NEW field technician trains farmers on TIMER plot on harvesting. - Qarghayie district, Laghman province*

**TIMER Program / Eastern Region:**

Technology Innovations for Market-Led Economic Rehabilitation (TIMER) finished out fall 2010 season training activities, and started spring 2011 seasonal activities in the quarter. Spring season activities consisted of training and distributing inputs to farmers. A total of 2,418 farmers were trained on modern techniques in the quarter and each input package consists of vegetable seed and fertilizer to plant licit agriculture on one half jerib of land. As of December 31, 2010, 11,726 out of 15,000 farmers received inputs in eastern region Districts of Nangarhar (5,012), Kunar (3,899) and Laghman (2,815) Provinces. In addition, tools distribution to the TIMER fall, 2010 finished and 125 farmers received the required tools.

**Laser Land Leveling Project / Northern Region:**

Laser Land Leveling can increase the efficiency of water use for irrigation by 30%. IDEA-NEW has been demonstrating this technique with equipment provided under an agreement with the USAID funded ASAP project. It is now loaning the equipment to Agricultural Cooperatives that are capable of offering the service for hire to farmers. During the previous quarter, IDEA-NEW signed MoUs with Agricultural Cooperatives from Balkh, Sari Pul, Jawzjan and Faryab provinces, which agreed the terms under which the equipment would be loaned for hire to farmers. In this quarter, the cooperatives leveled 38 jeribs of land. Owing to the ground being too hard, because of lack of rain, this activity has been limited in this quarter.

## Orchard Value Chain

- **Orchard Establishment and Training / Eastern Region:**

The orchards program is working in various districts of Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar Provinces with both established orchards and new orchards. The project is working with a total of 2,000 farmers. Farmers were given ongoing technical assistance in pruning their orchards, proper fertilization and pest control. Those who requested were also able to participate in the REVAMP program, which gives fruit farmers technical assistance and inputs to grow vegetables as an interim cash crop until their orchards bear fruit; those farmers who planted vegetables in fall 2010 were given ongoing technical assistance in crop harvest and post-harvest management. A total of 1,214 Jerib land was selected for spring season, 2011. In addition, 279 new farmers received inputs at subsidized prices (with farmers paying 55% of costs) to intercrop vegetables for the fall season.

- **Orchard Establishment / Northeastern Region:**

During the quarter, the orchard establishment projects were ongoing in Badakhshan, Baghlan and Takhar. IDEA-NEW is working with a total of 327 lead farmers as part of various orchard establishment projects including, 164 fruit orchards, 71 fruit nurseries, 82 pistachio plots and 10 almond plots. In addition to the lead farmers, other local farmers are trained in various orchard cultivation techniques. Agriculture engineers lead trainings in orchard layout, irrigation techniques and pest control. Generally, trees planted as saplings take about three years to produce fruit and seedlings in the nursery become sellable saplings in one year.

In Badakhshan, 32 farmers in Baharak, Yaftal and Faizabad districts are participating in an on-going fruit nursery project that is currently 96% complete. The farmers are learning nursery layout, irrigation and pest control techniques for common pests such as cutworm that attach to seedlings. The farmers will sell the trees once they are saplings. During this quarter, farmers learned how to graft the budding branches. Sixty farmers established fruit orchards in Baharak, Jurm, Shuhada, Worduj, Argo, Darayim, Kishem, Teshken and Tagop. These farmers received similar training and the project was completed during the reporting period, though the trees have yet to bear fruit. In total, 1,047 farmers were trained on lead farmer plots for orchard establishment and 391 were trained on nursery plots.

Orchard establishment projects are ongoing for 116 farmers in Bano, Dehsala, Khost o Fereng, Puli Khumri and Nahrin districts, Baghlan province. The project is currently 90% complete and will end this October. Mercy Corps also supported 39 fruit nurseries located in Baghlan, which are 75% complete. Pistachio plots for 50 farmers in Nahrin and Burka are 70% complete. Ten almond orchard plots in Puli Khumri are also 100% complete. All of the nurseries will have saplings ready for sale this spring. In total, 336 farmers were trained in the nursery establishment project and 200 farmers were trained in the orchard establishment project in Baghlan.

The orchard establishment project is ongoing for 32 farming families on 25 jeribs in Kalafghan and Farkhar districts, Takhar province. The project is currently 44% complete and runs until January 2013. A total of 32 Takhar farmers are also growing pistachio trees. This project is 51% complete and also finishes in January 2013. During this quarter, farmers finished the grafting process, learned how to stake up the trees to maintain a good shape as they



*Photo: A view of sweet orange orchard supported by IDEA-NEW in Ghanikhail district, Nangarhar province.*

grow, were trained in how to make and apply compost, and winter application of fungicide. In total, 253 farmers were trained in orchard establishment techniques and 16 were trained under the pistachio project.

- **Orchard Management / Northeastern Region:**

The IDEA-NEW orchard management projects are on-going from the previous quarterly period. These farms are used as venues for field days where the broader farmer communities receive training in orchard layout, basin digging techniques to improve irrigation efficiency and limit pests, irrigation, mechanical and chemical pest control and pruning. This quarter, trainings focused on finishing the grafting process and preparing the trees for winter with pruning and fungicide application.

The project, in Badakhshan, is led by 30 farmers. A total of 715 farmers were trained on orchard management plots. Another 121 farmers received pruning training and will be able to work in their communities as master pruners next year and charge fees for their services.

The orchard management project in Takhar is based on 73 lead farmer plots in Kalafghan, Farhar, Chaal, Bangi and Warsaj. A total of 544 farmers came to the plots for various trainings as noted above.

In Baghlan, the orchard management project was ongoing on 47 lead farmer plots, with a total of 173 farmers receiving training on management techniques. Additionally, the project has 50 farmers running pistachio establishment projects.



*Photo: Farmers attend Orchard Management training on composting. –Farkhar district, Badakhshan province*

## Staple Crops

- **Foundation wheat seed multiplication / Eastern Region:**

IDEA-NEW and MAIL continued to cultivate eleven varieties of wheat breeder seeds through MAIL's Nangarhar Valley Development Authority (NVDA) on 100 hectares of government-owned land in Farm-E-Ghaziabad in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province; the wheat was planted in the previous quarter. The NVDA is responsible for implementing the wheat breeder seed cultivation project. NVDA contributed more than 12 tons of breeder seeds, labor, tractors and irrigation facilities, while USAID's IDEA-NEW and the Nangarhar PRT's ADT provided fuel and nearly 27.5 (12.5 MT DAP and 15 MT Urea) tons of fertilizer, as well as oversight by internationally trained agriculturalists.

The project was expected to provide 250-300 tons of foundation seeds for wheat seed production enterprises and companies, including village-based seed enterprises operating throughout the Province. Due to a poor overall wheat crop nationally, in this quarter, cleaning process of foundation seed completed in NVADA and a total of 10.95 out of 12.8 metric tons seed was obtained with 20 % wastage. The 10.95 metric tons was distributed in 50% subsidy to two registered seed production companies namely, Alishang Katal and Kabul Seed Production Companies located in Laghman and Nangarhar provinces respectively. The mentioned seed were planted in 87 ha land (40 ha Nangarhar, 47 Ha Laghman provinces).

- **System of Rice Intensification Project / Northeastern Region:**

This growing system for rice was adopted in May in Baghlan and Badakhshan. The system uses special planting techniques to greatly increase the yields of rice paddies while also saving water because it does not rely on traditional flood-style irrigation. Farmers received training on skills such as transplanting, application of fertilizer, weed control and irrigation, and used of the Mandova Weeder. Farmers found that this process is much more labor intensive than traditional cultivation methods and at times struggled to keep up with the extra work. In the end, great increases in yield imply that this process can be worthwhile for farmers who have enough labor.

The SRI project in Badakhshan was completed during the reporting period. Under this project, a total of 42 lead farmers established demonstration plots on 1,423 jeribs in Kishem district. IDEA-NEW undertook this project to address declining rice productivity experienced by farmers using traditional wet paddy production methods. IDEA-NEW trained farmers in the SRI method, which uses fewer seeds and less water, but more labor, to increase rice yields. SRI is particularly appropriate for smallholders like our Badakhshan beneficiaries, who cannot afford to spend money on extra seed or fertilizer to increase yield, but have plenty of household labor. The 42 lead farmers received weeders, land markers and animal manure for fertilizer. Beneficiaries received comprehensive technical training and the lead farmer plots were also used to hold trainings for indirect beneficiaries in the area. In 2009, the average amount of rice produced on a half jerib using traditional methods was 539 kg, but the average amount produced on a half jerib using the SRI was 2,200 kg this year. The project had 50 beneficiaries, who noted that SRI is indeed more labor intensive, but produces vastly higher yields. In total, 391 farmers were trained in the System of Rice Intensification techniques in Badakhshan.

This program was piloted this year with five farmers in Puli Khumri, Baghlan province. The farmers experienced an average of 42% increase in yield using the SRI. In total, 20 farmers received training in the new rice cultivation technique.



*Photo: System of Rice Intensification Project – Northeastern Region*



*Photo: Riparian area surveyed for seeding - Noorgal district, Kunar province.*

## Natural Resource Management

- **National Watershed Management Program / Eastern Region:**

The National Watershed Management Program is being piloted in Noorgal district, Kunar province and Pachir wa Agam district, Nangarhar province. A draft implementation plan has been prepared, according to which community-based natural resources management associations are being established. A seven-member water steering committee has been formed, which will be responsible for making decisions on watershed program implementation procedures. Activities are currently being planned out with community members and include reforestation, gabions, rangeland management, irrigation channel rehabilitation, and others.

In the quarter, 100 ha reforestation (50 ha Pachir Wa Agam, 50 ha Noorgal) by direct seeding started. Around 62,000 seed of quercus, wall nut, alpine pine and pine nut was planted in both districts.

- **Forestry Innovation for Livelihood Diversification (FIELD) / Eastern Region:**

The FIELD Program is planting forestry trees for watershed and windbreak protection as well as woodlot production. A total of 199 farmers having 39.8 hectares of land were selected in the quarter for establishing the forestry plots for the spring 2011. Besides, 420 farmers received technical assistance on modern techniques in the reporting period.

- **Timber Cultivation Project / Northeastern Region:**

Baharak district, Badakshan province, is home to 40 farmers with commercial timber plots that are thickly planted so that some trees can be felled and sold as saplings, leaving the rest to grow to full size. The project uses a varietal that reaches full growth in as little as 6 years, whereas local varieties can take up to 10 years to reach maturity. This project is currently complete and farmers will be able to fell the first round of trees to use as saplings this spring. A mature tree is worth about 1,500 AFN, a fully grown tree producing 10 meters of wooden pole. In all, 806 farmers received training on timber cultivation on lead farmer plots.



*Photo: Timber Cultivation Project – Baharak district, Badakshan province*

## Vegetable Value Chain

- **Women-Owned Greenhouses / Eastern Region:**

IDEA-NEW provides support to 22 women owned greenhouses with technical and marketing oversight. During the reporting period, drip irrigation systems installations for the cucumber production in four greenhouses were completed.

- **Women-Owned Packing Facility / Eastern Region:**

Currently, fifteen women are employed by the facility in providing packing services for vegetables of the eastern region. In the reporting period, the facility provided its packing services vegetables worth \$1,944.12 USD under the brand of "Pride of the Eastern Region". Vegetables were shipped to Kabul supermarkets.

In December 2010, IDEA-NEW signed an MOU with the Tak Dana Company to assume management of the packhouse. According the MOU, IDEA-NEW will continue to monitor activities for another six months.

- **Commercial Vegetable Project / Northeastern Region:**

Under IDEA-NEW, farmers are cultivating a range of commercial crops including, potato, onion, cucumber, cauliflower, strawberry, devil's dung and cumin. This project helps farmers transition from lower value commodity and fodder crops, to high quality vegetables, fruit and spices that fetch better prices at the market by providing specialized training and quality inputs. The commercial vegetable trainings covered plot layout techniques, transplanting, irrigation, pest control, weeding and marketing. In total, 3,895 farmers received training in commercial vegetable cultivation. Commercial vegetables can bring substantial jumps in income for farmers who were previously growing lower value crops such as wheat or beans. Wheat sells for as little as 5,000 AFN (\$111 USD) per jerib, while high value vegetables can bring from 10-48,000 AFN per jerib (\$222-1,066 USD).



*Photo: Women operators pack the produced tomatoes in Surkhrod district, Nangarhar province.*

The commercial vegetable project in Takhar covered potato, onion and cauliflower in Kalafghan, Farkhar and Bangi districts, Takhar province. According to Takhar yield data, farmers growing cauliflower earned an average of 35,750 AFN per jerib (\$794 USD) this season, compared to only 9,500 AFN per jerib (\$211 USD) last season, therefore more than quadrupling their income over the previous year. Even the farmers who had grown cauliflower in the previous season saw a threefold increase in profit this year. Takhar yield data for potato farmers shows that this year they earned 48,600 AFN per jerib (\$1,080 USD) growing potatoes, compared to only 17,000 AFN (\$378 USD) for their previous year's harvest on the same land. These substantial increases are due in part to the quality of the training and upgrading from low value to commercial crops, though environmental factors may have also played a role. One Takhar farmer is currently piloting a project to grow cauliflower in the winter season in low greenhouses. The cauliflower is doing well so far and should be ready for harvest at a high price in the late winter due to the lack of cauliflower in the market at that time. In Takhar, 350 farmers were trained on cauliflower cultivation and 324 were trained how to cultivate potato.



*Photo: A farmer shows a cabbage grown as part of the Commercial Vegetable Project. – Takhar Province*

During the quarter, Baghlan conducted a successful commercial vegetable harvest for cauliflower, cucumber, onion and potato in Puli Khumri and Andarab districts. At the cauliflower plots, a total of 39 farmers received training on 12 lead farmer plots. According to yield data from Baghlan, farmers earned an average of \$727 per jerib of cauliflower, up from about \$111 if they grew wheat.

A total of 486 farmers in Badakhshan were trained on commercial vegetable cultivation for crops including potato, onion and tomato in Baharak, Jurm, Shuhada, Worduj, Kishem, Argo and Daryim districts.

- **Vegetable Marketing Survey:**

The northern region, and in particular, Balkh province, produces large quantities of vegetables. These are only sold on the local market, as poor sorting; packaging and marketing prevent them from being exported to the Gulf and other high value markets, or sold to suppliers of the international forces in Afghanistan. Consequently, there are seasonal gluts on the market and prices are low. IDEA-NEW is developing a project-wide program to raise standards to conform with internationally accepted Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) which would open up access to these higher value markets.

During this quarterly reporting period IDEANEW conducted a sample survey of farmers growing vegetable in Dihdadi district of Balkh province and completed 45 questionnaires. The purpose of the survey is to assess the potential production of vegetables and the willingness of farmers to comply with GAP.

## **Fruit and Nut Value Chain**

- **Women-Owned Tree Nurseries / Eastern Region:**

*IDEA-NEW supports 68 women-run tree nurseries (38 in one location) that sell forest and fruit trees to private clients, NGOs and USAID projects in the eastern region.*

In the quarter, insecticide was applied for pomegranate protection for fall season disease. Based on contract with IFHOPE a total of 40,000 citrus seedlings worth five AFN each were fully transplanted from Samarkhail, Behsood and Surkhroad districts, Nangarhar province, to IFHOPE. In addition, 430 kg of cotton was collected and kept for selling in quarter.

- **Strawberry Runners Project / Northeastern Region:**

This project in Takhar district is complete and the five lead farmers have covered the plants to protect them over the winter. Farmers who planted the strawberries have not commented very positively about continuing or expanding the planting of this crop. The plants did not produce as many strawberries as the farmers hoped, and therefore they did not generate as much income as other crops would on the same land. Farmers will most likely switch to another commercial crop that is a more efficient producer in the following year. In total, 24 beneficiaries, including the five lead farmers, were trained in strawberry cultivation.

- **Grape Trellises Project / Northeastern Region:**

Although the grape project introduces a crop that is new to Badakhshan, the favorable climate there bodes well for the success of the vines. In Baharak district, workers have completed pouring 550 cement columns that will be used as the t-trellis stands for the 10 beneficiaries. T-shaped trellises keep the grapes up off the soil, which allows the fruit more access to air and light than with traditional grape growing practices that allow the grapes to sit on the ground. Cement columns are favored as trellises because they do not break down like wooden structures. Currently, six orchards are ready for trellis installation and four remaining orchards are nearly completed and are digging pits for the columns. In all, 93 local farmers received training in grape cultivation.

- **Trellising Vineyards / Northern Region:**

Grapes are the major export crop. Traditionally in Afghanistan, vines are grown on the ground. Training them onto trellises, consisting of wire supported by concrete posts, doubles yields and is a practice used worldwide.

In order for farmers to see the benefits of trellising, IDEA-NEW is setting up 100 ha of vineyards in demonstration plots in grape producing areas in Balkh, Sari Pul, Samangan and Faryab provinces. IDEA-NEW also provided trellising for the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) European Commission (EC) funded, Perennial Horticulture Development Project (PHDP) vine variety collection at Pushti Bagh, Dihdadi District, Balkh Province, where 217 trellis posts were installed. Though the project was completed and delivered to the representatives of PHDP in Mazar-e Sharif in the previous quarter, the T-shape trellis posts were fixed and the wiring was completed during this quarterly reporting period.

In this quarter, the IDEA-NEW agriculture and agriculture retailing development teams established four demonstration plots in Maymana city, Shirin Tagab, Khwaja Sabz Posh and Pashtun Kot districts of Faryab province as well as 12 demonstration plots in Feroz Nakhchir and Hazrati Sultan districts of Samangan province. This project is implemented through agricultural retailers who have been trained to design the trellis layout for vineyards and



*Photo: Project signage outside a grape trellising project. – Baharak district, Badakhshan*

supervise the installation. As of the end of the quarter, 5,391 concrete posts and 13,000 kgs of galvanized wire have been used to trellis a total of 25 jeribs of vineyard orchards in both provinces.

The concrete trellis posts are manufactured by small local enterprises set up by IDEA-NEW ((see *Vineyard Trellising*).

- **Vineyard Trellising / Northern Region:**

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Samangan Agricultural Retailers have agreed to “market” trellising to vineyard owners. The Agriculture Retailing shop is asked to conduct assessments of the vineyards and estimate the required quantities of materials and provide the owner of the vineyard with a quotation. If the owner accepts the quotation, IDEA-NEW will be informed and they will arrange to deliver the specified number of concrete posts. The vineyard owner will pay 50 AFN directly to the post maker, for every undamaged post delivered. The Agriculture Retailing shop will sell the other materials such as wire and cross-pieces at a price specified by IDEA-NEW and receive a fee for every jerib trellised to an acceptable standard. A leaflet in Dari explaining the scheme has been prepared and will be given to farmers through Agricultural Retailing shop.

The Agriculture Retailer of Samangan surveyed and installed the trellis posts for 12 vineyards in Feroz Nakhchir and Hazrati Sultan districts of Samangan out of 21 surveyed there.

The Trellising program in Faryab also began in this quarter. Seven out of 15 surveyed vineyards were selected for trellising, which has been completed in four in Maymana City, Khwaja Sabz Posh and Pashtun Kot districts.

For production of the trellis posts in Feroz Nakhchir district of Samangan and Maymana city and Qaysar district of Faryab, IDEA-NEW signed the seventh Purchase Order (PO) with Mohammad Shah, the concrete post maker in Feroz Nakhchir for production of 740 concrete posts. The manufacturer successfully completed 4,900 concrete posts under six different POs in this quarter.

In Faryab, the post maker in Maymana city completed casting 1,480 concrete posts under two separate POs. IDEA-NEW signed the third PO for production of 730 concrete posts. The manufacturers temporarily stopped production of the concrete posts in Maymana and Qaysar district due to the cold weather in the area. They will resume the work as soon as the weather improves.

- **Pomegranate Pest Control Using Pheromone Traps:**

Pomegranate, a major crop in Afghanistan, suffers heavy losses from a fruit borer, the larva of the Carob Moth (*Ectomyelois ceratoniae*). An analogue of the female pheromone has been synthesised by a Californian company (ISCATech) and formulated as a mating disruptant.

During the 2010 growing season, IDEA-NEW treated 60 hectares of pomegranate orchards in Khulm district of Balkh province. During this quarter, the effectiveness of the treatment was evaluated by comparing yields from 10



*Photo: Installing trellis system in a vineyard in Feroz Nakhchir. - Faryab Province*



*Photo: Casting trellis posts in Feroz Nakhchir (SM)*

treated and 10 untreated orchards. It was found that the quantity of fallen or damaged fruit in the treated orchards was 4.39 seer/jerib (= 153 kg/ha) compared with 33.97 seer/jerib (=1,189kg/ha) in untreated orchards. Fruit from treated orchards attracted an average farmgate price of 201 AFN/seer compared with 160 AFN/seer from untreated.

In Khulm, pomegranates are grown in mixed orchards with almonds, figs and apricots. As a result the yields per hectare are low in comparison with monoculture orchards and this means that this method of control is too expensive for these conditions. However, it would be economic in areas with more intensive methods of cultivation where this pest is a problem.

#### **Agricultural In-Kind Grant distribution / Northern Region:**

IDEA-NEW supports six provincial Agricultural Retailing associations with 109 members in Balkh, Samangan, Sari Pul, Jawzjan and Faryab provinces in order for the associations to become professional service providers for local farmers. As part of this program IDEA-NEW granted items to the associations in this quarter include the following:

- 10,000 liter dormant oil to Bawar, Balkh Bastan, Kawsar, Bahar and Khurasan agriculture retailers associations
- Trellising equipment: augers, pliers, measuring tape, steel cutters, 4.5 MT of galvanized (4 & 3 mm) and 500 metal Trellis T-bars to Bawar Agriculture Retailing Association of Faryab for trellising program in the province.
- An amount of 8.5 MT of galvanized (4 & 3 mm) wires to Motmaeen Agriculture Retailer of Samangan Province.
- A total of 80 trellis molds to Maymana and Qaysar post makers for production of concrete posts in their sites.



*Photo: wire transportation to Motmaeen Agriculture Retailer Association (SM)*

## Rural Business Development

IDEA-NEW's private sector development activities assist entrepreneurs to start up new businesses and expand existing operations. It helps people to create bankable business plans, delivers technical and financial management training, facilitates linkages with financial resources, helps establish market linkages for program participants and provides support to business associations. Activities are designed and new projects selected based on considerations of long-term employment opportunities and domestic market product development to reduce reliance on imports. It also makes a particular effort to incorporate women into regional value chain development in meaningful ways. Highlights from eastern region in the quarter are as follows:

### Poultry Value Chain

- **Breeder Farm Development / Eastern Region:**

During the quarter reporting period, IDEA-NEW established four new commercial broiler poultry farms in Bihsud District, Nangarhar Province. IDEA-NEW also distributed 1,000 broiler chicks and 50 bags feed free of cost to each farm and the poultry farmers contributed building construction, equipment. The chicks distributed were from the local hatchery in Saroobi district which hatches locally produced fertile eggs. Breeder farms play a key role in providing high-quality chicks to local poultry farmers for rearing. The farm produced from 5,000 - 8,000 fertile eggs on a biweekly basis for sale to local farmers.

*"IDEA-NEW interventions are effective in the poultry industry. It is a comprehensive program and is helping in all areas. I hope it will continue and that our government will also closely cooperate so we can achieve our goals. It will help me make profit and I will be able to repay the outstanding loan I have for this business along with other opportunities. I wouldn't have gotten the breeders if I didn't have IDEA-NEW assistance and I am grateful for this assistance."*

***--Ehsanullah, owner of the Hidayat Brakat Breeder Farm.***

- **Hatcheries' Development / Eastern Region:**

Fertile eggs from the breeder farm were sold to an IDEA-NEW supported hatchery in Saroobi to produce day-old broiler chicks. Day-old chicks were hatched and sold to local poultry farms; around 2,000 chicks were hatched on a biweekly basis and sold to local poultry farmers.

- **Commercial Poultry Farms / Eastern Region:**

Support continued with 24 commercial layer farms directly established with IDEA-NEW support in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces. The primary objective of this program is to create jobs, promote the viable poultry sub-sector and supply table eggs to the local market. These farms which have produced 577,643 table eggs worth 4.5 AFN/egg in local market which generated a total around \$565 USD in quarter to these poultry farmers.



**Photo:** A woman holds a basin full of table eggs collected from poultry farm in Mehterlam district of Laghman province.

- **Women’s Smallholder Poultry Farms / Eastern Region:**

During the reporting period, 50 women’s poultry farms were provided training and subsidized feed (50% farmer contribution). Approximately 312,913 eggs were laid in quarter, generating \$30,611.05 worth of eggs total for the 50 women farmers.

- **Women’s Poultry Projects / Northeastern Region:**

The poultry project was implemented in Badakhshan, Baghlan and Takhar this quarter for a total of 870 women. Under the project, women receive 40 pullets, window and door frames for their chicken coops, and three months worth of subsidized feed. They also receive assistance in designing the coops and on-going trainings in chicken health, nutrition, hygiene and egg production.

In the completed women’s poultry project, a sample of 10 women from the initial group of 120 women in Badakhshan found the project to be a strong income generator. Several indicators point to the sustainability of this project—most of the women have more than 40 chickens, indicating that they purchased more birds once they recognized the good income generation opportunities from the project. Key elements of the training such as disease control and feed blending ensure that egg production is maximized (compared to raising local variety chickens or just feeding them kitchen scraps).

This project also has significant substantial start-up costs for the women because they have to build the coop, (anecdotally about 10,000Afs (\$222). Yield data from the sample of 10 beneficiaries tells us women with an average of 60 pullets that over the 10 months of the project produced on average 6,840 eggs, which generated revenue of 34,200Afs. Accounting for feed costs, the women made about 28,600 (\$636) profit or 18,600 (\$413) accounting for the 10,000Afs cost of building the coop. Of course, the families probably consumed some of the eggs, so these figures are just representative of possible income.

Two groups of women are participating in the poultry project in Takhar. The first group of 240 women in Kalafghan has already purchased two batches of feed with the chickens recently starting to produce eggs. A second group of 120 women in Baharak district just started the project in December and have not yet received their pullets.



*Photo: Women’s Poultry Project – Baharak district, Badakhshan province*



*Photo: Beekeeping Project –Baharak district, Badakhshan province*

## Beekeeping

### **Northeastern Region:**

In the beekeeping project, IDEA-NEW has provided two bee hives, bees and safety equipment to the farmers. Beekeeping is a traditional practice in Badakhshan, however, bee populations were wiped out by disease two years ago and are beginning to be restored through this project. The project is also being piloted with 15 famers in Baghlan and 40 in Takhar. Recently, farmers received training from livestock staff in how to prepare the bees for the coming winter. The training covered housing the bees in cold weather, proper winter nutrition, the bee life cycle and disease prevention.

*Badakhshan:* In the beekeeping project, price data for the first group of 79 beekeepers in Badakhshan suggests healthy profits. On average, farmers surveyed had 5 beehives (no contribution for the hives or kits), produced an average of 214kg of honey which generated average revenue of 74,917 AFN (\$1,664 USD) over the past year. After expenses due to the cooperative (about 7,280Afs), farmers take home 67,638 AFN or \$1,503 USD. A kilo of honey sells for about 350 AFN (less 20 AFN if farmer sells through the cooperative).

The bee project is on-going in Badakhshan with 199 participants in Shuhada, Baharak and Jurm. All participants receive monitoring visits from livestock staff and additional training in bee care. The project is currently 85% complete in Shuhada and 88% complete in Baharak and Jurm.

## Textile Value Chain

- **Processing Facility / Eastern Region:**

The textile washing and pressing facility continued operation with IDEA-NEW support. During the reporting period, the facility continued serving to the textile weavers located in the rural areas. The facility is contributing much in encouraging textile weavers to expedite their production, encourage businessmen to invest in textile sector that will result in creation of new jobs for local Afghans in the rural areas where job opportunities are limited.

During the quarter period, the facility washed and pressed the following quantities of products, which were woven by individual textile companies and weavers from Rodat and Behsud Districts of Nangarhar Province.

Product	Quantity	Processing Description
Nylon and woolen shawls	5,209	Pressed
Cotton Cloth	94 m	Pressed
Scarves	3,353	Pressed & dyed

- **Textile Weavers' Support / Eastern Region:**

Textile weavers in Rodat district of Nangarhar Province continue to produce different textiles for the local market. IDEA-NEW will support these weavers in mechanizing their business by providing power looms to replace manual looms which are very labor intensive and limit the quantity and quality of textiles produced.

IDEA-NEW helped in establishing one electrical running textile factory in Kama district of Nangarhar province. IDEA-NEW purchased power looms and other necessary equipment for \$14,200. A total of \$3000 further is available to be used to train the employees who knew using manual textile looms but not power looms. The machinery has arrived, and will be installed next week. The training and operation will start very soon. The owner contributes land, generator, building and working capital. This small enterprise creates eight job opportunities.

*"I will increase my production, currently; I can produce more using power looms. IDEA-NEW is the only project doing good things in textile industry which once employed more than 10,000 jobs. IDEA-NEW has done and is doing all what is possible to enable the environment for textile industries and it is quite successfully. We are thankful to this assistance."*

*--Haji Zazi, owner of the textile factory in Kama.*

- **Fiber Distribution Center / Eastern Region:**

The fiber distribution center supported by IDEA-NEW continued delivering services to textile weavers. During the reporting period, the center distributed 900 kg of fiber in this quarter to the local textile weaving factories. The center is offering fiber with credit for around three months period, giving the textile weaving companies enough time to process and sell their products in the market and then pay their dues.

- **Silk and Wool Spinning Training / Northeastern Region:**

This project in Baghlan is a follow-up to the silkworm growing project from last quarter. Under the previous project, IDEA-NEW helped reintroduce silkworm production to an area where it had formerly been practiced, and provided a kit of materials to support the silkworms and training for their care. The silkworm cocoons sold for 800-1,000 AFN (\$18-22 USD) per kilo, and each box of eggs produced 12-14 kilos of cocoons.

During the second phase of the project, 30 women learned to spin silk and wool thread using spinning wheels provided by IDEA-NEW. This thread has a market in Mazar-e-Sharif with a woman-owned and staffed workshop that has an ongoing need for silk thread. For processed silk thread, the output quantity is 1.6 kg for every 5 kg cocoons with a selling price of 2,500 AFN per kilo (\$56 USD). This project provides a simple source of extra income with very little monetary or labor cost to the family since the wheel is provided and the silk worms can live off of existing mulberry tree leaves.



*Photo: Silk and Wool Spinning Training – Baghlan Province*



- **Wool Spinning wheel project:**

Carpet weaving is one of the most important activities at home industries in the Northern provinces of Afghanistan especially in five provinces in Northern (Balkh, Samangan, Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Faryab) of Afghanistan. Most women spin the wool using the traditional drop spindle, which is time consuming and difficult. However, with wheel spinning, women obtain a more uniform quality and a faster work rate. As well as the use of the spinning wheel, women also need training in sorting and cleaning the wool.

After the successful completion of Spinning Wheel Phase One in Mazar-e-Sharif City of Balkh province, IDEA-NEW started the Spinning Wheel Phase Two to expand the activity in all provinces of IDEA-NEW North Central. A woman-owned handicrafts company, Rabia Maryam Handicrafts Company (RMHC), has been contracted to provide technical assistance and training to 500 women for six months in all five Northern provinces.

IDEA-NEW financial support includes paying cost of materials and procurement of wool spinning wheels for all 500 trainees.

During this reporting period, the contract was signed for a six month long training with RMHC. The IP has officially commenced the training in Sari Pul, Samangan and Jawzjan provinces. Provincial directorates and representatives of Women Affairs, Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock, Economy and members of provincial councils participated in the opening ceremonies of this project in these provinces.

The IP has scheduled the opening ceremonies in the remaining centers in Balkh and Faryab provinces in the first biweekly period coming quarter.



*Photo: Calf and Lamb Fattening Project- Northern Region*

## Livestock Value Chain

- **Calf and Lamb Fattening Project / Northeastern Region:**

The lamb and calf fattening project serves to help increase the market value of livestock by helping them gain weight for sale. Farmers purchase concentrate feed and VFU services through the IDEA-NEW voucher program with a 30% beneficiary contribution. Mercy Corps livestock staff provide training that covers food preparation for winter, breed differences, keeping sick animals separate from healthy ones, feed composition, de-worming, vaccination and animal husbandry. Additionally, staff connect farmers with their local VFUs and Paravets and encourage regular prophylactic checkups to maintain animal health. The project works with 201 herders in Baghlan, 200 in Takhar and 80 in Badakhshan.

*Takhar:* This project is now complete. Livestock staff worked with 200 families and 1,000 one to two year old calves in Bangi and Baharak. Prior to the project intervention, beneficiaries had very little knowledge of technical issues such as feeding and veterinary care. The project distributed 150kg of balanced feed per participant three



*Photo: Livestock are dewormed as part of the Feed and Veterinary support for Milch Animals – Badakhshan province*

times and calves gained an average of 40.96kg over 90 days. VFUs also vaccinated and de-wormed the calves, and farmers were taught the benefits of paying for regular veterinary care.

In Baghlan province, farmers purchased feed through the IDEA-NEW voucher program on a cost contribution basis. In total, 68,400kg of concentrate feed went to the 201 beneficiaries and 1,127 lambs in Burka, Nahrin and Dushi districts, this quarter. This program stresses face time with Paravets to help farmers build a lasting relationship and continue maintaining the health of their animals. Before the project, the lambs weighed 21 kg on average and gained an average of 18 kg over the course of the project, weighing about 39 kg afterwards. Lamb sells for 250 AFN per kilo, therefore, if farmers sold their lambs without the project's help, they would take home about 5,250 AFN (\$116 USD); however, after the intensive feeding and medical care, they would earn 9,750 AFN (\$216 USD) per animal. If the farmers paid for all of the food and veterinary services at full price, the cost would be approximately be \$40 per animal, enabling the farmers to still earn an extra \$60 per lamb over their previous asking price of \$116 USD.

The Badakhshan team reported based on a sample of beneficiaries that the calves under the project gained an average of 44.35kg and lambs gained 17.7kg. The 80 beneficiaries in the project were skeptical at first that their animals would gain as much weight as promised, but by the end of the project they understood that through proper feeding, watering and de-worming, the animals could put on a substantial amount of weight. For calves, farmers made an average profit of 3,826Afs (\$85) and earned 1,664Afs (\$37) for lambs. This project was implemented in Jurm and Darayim districts and was completed in early October.

- **Feed and Veterinary Support for Milch Animals / Northeastern Region:**

This project supports the health and value of 460 beneficiaries' cows and calves in Khash and Kishem districts, Badakhshan. Beneficiaries receive training in animal health and nutrition, and have a chance to build a relationship with Paravets in their area. The project is currently 70% complete. So far, the animals have received vaccinations for Black Quarter and Foot and Mouth Diseases and have been de-wormed.

- **Women-Owned Dairy Processing Centers / Eastern Region:**

IDEA-NEW technically and financially supports eight women-operated "Spinghar Cheese" processing centers located in Surkhrod, Kama, Batikot, Shega districts of Nangarhar and Husain Abad in Laghman provinces. Technical support provided to these processing units aims to ensure clean procedures and promote the self-sustainability of operations. Total cheese marketed in this quarter was 1,351 kg worth 4,887.92 USD.

- **Establishing Village Milk Processing Centers with Balkh Livestock and Dairy Union (BLDU) / Northern Region:**

Most dairy production in Afghanistan is by households owning one or two cows. Traditionally, it is an activity carried out by women. Most of the product is consumed by the household, but a surplus may be offered for sale locally. Balkh Livestock and Dairy Union (BLDU), has developed a network of household dairy producers over the last seven years who sell surplus milk for processing by the Balkh Dairy in Dihdadi. A program of extension training in animal breeding, feeding and health care, together with improved access to veterinary services, has increased



*Photo: A women operator arranges cheese produced in Surkhrod District, Nangarhar Province.*



*Photo: BLDU woman master trainer meeting with women - Faryab province.*

the marketable surplus and provided a boost to household incomes. In order to extend these benefits to other districts in the region, BLDU, under a sub-Agreement, will set up a further 10 village milk processing centers where fresh milk can be processed by hand-operated equipment into cheese, butter and yoghurt.

- **Organizing women dairy farmers in training classes / Northern Region:**

An important element of the project is extension training for participating cow owners in animal husbandry and dairy hygiene. In this quarter, the women master trainer of BLDU, held meetings with nearly 400 women in Balkh, Jawzjan, Sari Pul, Faryab and Samangan to form training classes. The purpose of these meetings was to organize member women farmers for training courses.

Following the formation of two training classes in Shisha Khana village of Fayzabad district of Jawzjan province and one in Koshkak village of Balkh district of Balkh province, the training program in Baba Ewaz and Koshkak villages of Balkh and in Ghaznigak and Jui Zindan villages of Samangan province was started. Eight classes were held, each having 25 students, making a total of 200 women participants. The training will continue for four months.

- **Animal Health and Production / Northern Region:**

Under a two year project, Strengthening Animal Health and Production, implemented for IDEA-NEW by the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), the followings activities have been accomplished during this reporting period:

DCA has previously established a network of veterinary field units (VFU) in the northern region covering nearly every district of every province. It consists at present, of 96 VFUs in 51 districts of the northern region, (Balkh 33, Samangan 15, Jawzjan 9, Sari Pul 6 and Faryab 33). The paravet generates his own income by selling his “products” to the farmers, creating a kind of personal revolving fund to buy new vaccines and medicines the paravets are supported, advised and monitored by the DCA staff on all kind of veterinary issues.

A group of 18 new paravets, including the three female trainees are undertaking a six month long training course that will finish in mid January 2011.

Through the IDEA-NEW Program, DCA will take a number of steps to ensure that all livestock owners in the targeted provinces are aware of the VFUs, have greater access to veterinary services through the VFU system and are more likely and able to avail themselves of those services. Also some additional actions will be undertaken to give the farmers more possibilities to increase their income and to upgrade their knowledge in proper caretaking of their animals.

In this reporting period, the selection of four villages, in consultation with local shuras, for the establishment of feed bank in Samangan province was completed. These feed banks give the farmer (mostly in remote areas) the opportunity, when needed, to buy fodder during the winter time. DCA is now formulating a contract between the responsible people for the feed banks in the field and DCA. The selected places will be visited again soon, and the process of purchasing fodder and stocking them in the feed banks will be initiated.



*Photo: Practical lesson in anatomy for Basic Veterinary Workers*



*Photo: DCA monitor visiting VFU*

A BVW (Basic Veterinary Worker) training course that had started earlier in this quarter will be completed for an initial 15 BVW in January 2011. During the program a total of 60 BVW will be trained. Selection of the potential BVW is very important. Trainees should be selected from places where it is difficult for the paravet to visit a regular basis, though they should always be supervised by a paravet (VFU) and should have regular contact with them.

DCA have regularly been monitoring the VFUs in all project areas. They also held meetings with local agriculture departments in the project areas.

**Other Rural Job Creation:**

- **ZRM Carpet Weaving Company / Eastern region:**

A total of 89 square meters carpets have been woven in ZRM Carpet Weaving Company. The design, ordered by a buyer in Canada, is a new and difficult for the weavers. ZRM credits IDEA-NEW supported with helping them to secure and supply the order of the Canadian buyer and is confident that through this order they will be able to win the trust of international buyers.

- **Happy Afghan Sport Company / Eastern region:**

IDEA-NEW provided an in-kind grant of \$7,000 USD to Happy Afghan Sport Company to start operations in Jalalabad. The grant will provide necessary machinery for the factory to produce leather bags, sport tools and gloves and leather jackets in latter stage. This factory will create seven job opportunities.

- **Textile Power Loom in-Kind Grants / Eastern Region:**

IDEA-NEW approved in-kind grants to four entrepreneurs in Hisarshahi village of Rodat district, Nangarhar Province. Providing textile power looms to each entrepreneur with a value of \$12,000 USD. The owners will contribute construction and working capital. These four small factories will create a total of 28 direct jobs that include 20 males and eight females.

- **Soap Factory Expansion / Eastern Region:**

Wahid Kamawal Soap Factory expanded operation with IDEA-NEW support. IDEA-NEW provided in-kind grant of \$30,000 USD to this factory. Half of the machinery has arrived and the remainder will arrive soon. This factory has hired 10 new employees.

- **2-Wheel Tractor Maintenance and Repair Workshops / Northern Region:**

The project intends to promote improved cultivation of annual crops through the adoption by farmers of mechanization based on the use of Two-Wheeled Tractor (2WTs). For this, to be successful, it is essential that owners and operators have access to retail outlets for spare parts and to facilities for repair and maintenance of their machines. IDEA-NEW contracted with Osiyo Hamkorlik Company to establish 25 repair and maintenance workshops in the region in order to support farmers who purchase this equipment.



*Photo: A weaver engages in weaving the carpet in ZRM Company - Rodat district, Nangarhar province.*



*Photo: Spare parts delivered to local mechanic for his Maintenance and Repair Workshop – Northern Region*

During this reporting period, the contractor surveyed districts in each of the five provinces, identified potential mechanics for this job, conducted training, provided them with a package of spare parts and signed MoUs with all 25 workshop mechanics in Balkh, Samangan, Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Faryab provinces.

The two year long project will provide technical services to the farmers who buy the two wheeled tractors. The mechanics are ready to maintain the two-wheeled tractors in their shops.

#### **Grants and Contracts / Northern Region:**

- Purchase orders were signed with Afghan vendors for the supply of the following agriculture pruning tools and pesticides and the goods were received: (i) 2,200 Felco 611 pruning saws (ii) 2,500 Felco 5 pruning shears (iii) 10,000 kg wettable sulfur (received in January 2011)
- 2-Year Farmer Training on Improved Agronomy and Small Scale Mechanization project was approved by USAID and the Sub-agreement was signed in January 2011 with the implementer, Joint Development Associates (JDA). Work on the project started on October 2010 based on a Letter of Authorization signed by ACIDI VOCA
- Milk processing equipment to be used in the Village Milk Collection/Processing Project was received
- A purchase order was signed with an Indian vendor for the import of ice cream making equipment. The beneficiary is Balkh Livestock Dairy Union (BLDU).
- Quotes were received from vendors for the import of 192 Nos harvesters to be used with the 2-wheel tractors purchased by IDEA NEW during the previous quarter.
- A sub-agreement was signed with an Afghan company to train 500 women in the five provinces on wool spinning using spinning wheels. Work on the project started in December 2010
- A sub-agreement was signed for the Establishment of 25 Nos 2W-tractor repair and spare-parts workshops in the five provinces. Work on the project started on October 2010

#### **Market Information System**

The Market Information System collects, analyzes and disseminates price data for 25 commodities in 11 major wholesale markets throughout Afghanistan and in Peshawar in Pakistan. Afghan markets include Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar, Parwan, Laghman, Kunar, Herat, Kunduz and Qala e Naw. The commodities are fertilizers, fruit, vegetables, meat, and grain. The program also airs three live radio programs in the eastern region in collaboration with MAIL; three times per week in Nangarhar and once per week in Laghman and Kunar each.

During the reporting period, a total of 62 radio shows (the show is called *Karkila Aw Maldari*, which means "Agriculture and Livestock" in Pashto), were also aired from Sharq Radio (91.3 FM) in Nangarhar province, Kunar Radio (105.2 FM) in Kunar province, and Kawoon Ghag Radio (89.3 FM) in Laghman province. A total of 275 listeners called into the shows, asking different questions about their orchard, vegetable and livestock problems, and received answers from each show's featured agriculture expert. Besides, around 15 were handed over to individuals who answered respective questions relating agriculture and livestock in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar provinces as part promotion to the radio show.



*Photo: Naqibullah Hamdard, IDEA-NEW annual crops expert, talks on cultivation of onions during live show at Sharq Radio Station in Jalalabad city - Nangarhar Province.*

# Capacity Building

## Community Institution / Eastern Region

- English language proficiency, computer literacy and management skills training provided to 100 youth girls and professional women in Nangarhar, 50 in Laghman and Kunar provinces each.
- During the reporting period, a two-day training completed of first aid assistance for the representatives of 20 factories in Nangarhar in collaboration with Nangarhar industrial association. These 20 individuals were all members of Nangarhar Industrial Association. The purpose was to enable the factories to provide first aid assistance to an employee in case of fires, accident injury or during any other misfortune events. This was a two-day training provided by first aid specialists from the public health department. At the end of the training, a first aid kits were also provided to each participant.
- Trained 31 veterinary students of Nangarhar University in breeder farm management in one of the IDEA-NEW supported breeder farms.

## Capacity Building Highlights / Northeastern Region:

- In Baghlan, IDEA-NEW management is conducting a training series on project management, and report and proposal writing for 120 government line staff. The training will help to raise the management capacity of local government officials.
- November, Badakhshan province - 14 IDEA-NEW program staff and four MAIL, MRRD and Economy departments line staff took part in the three day Community Mobilization (CoMo) Training aimed at imparting P4M (Participatory Project Prioritization Process Meeting) tools to train beneficiary communities to prioritize and select projects according to their needs.
- October, Badakhshan province - Six government Agriculture Extension district officers and 28 wooden timber cultivation farmers received a two-week training in wooden timber production techniques. The training was aimed at providing and reinforcing cultivation practices and after-care of the timber plantation undertaken in the last season before the upcoming winter. The training also serves to increase the capacity of MAIL staff to provide guidance on timber cultivation to local farmers. Previously, MAIL staff were not familiar with timber cultivation practices.
- October, Kabul - Staff attended the International Ag Fair at Badam Bagh Demonstration Farm. The IDEA-NEW team met a cross section of market players in agriculture, livestock inputs suppliers, rural financing service companies, and Ag mechanization companies who were all gathered at the fair and were able to make good connections for potential future projects.



*Photo: IDEA-NEW poultry specialist trains Nangarhar university students in a breeder farm in Behsud district, Nangarhar province*



*Photo: IDEA-NEW Northeast Region continues to focus on Community Mobilization, not only for their staff, but also for local and provincial staffs as well. – Badakhshan Province*

### **Pesticide Dealer Training / Northern Region:**

As part of the Pesticide Dealer Certification program and to improve standards in the retail sector, a three-week Training of Trainers (TOT) course that was started in the last weeks of previous quarter was completed on Oct. 07, 2010. The participants were IDEA-NEW staff from all regions, and MAIL staff from Kabul PPQD and from provincial DAIL offices. Following the ToT, and as part of the overall training program, the new Trainers gave three courses with 15 retailers each from all five project provinces. These retailer courses consisted of the basic knowledge required by anyone transporting, storing, selling and providing advice on pesticide use, and also had the objective of changing retailer attitudes and practices. The remaining retailers from the six Agricultural Retailer Associations will be trained in future courses.

### **Association Support**

#### **Eastern Region**

- Eastern Region Fruits Growers Association continued conducting a survey of fruits availability and problems of orchard holders in the region. To date, 2,000 orchard owners have been surveyed.
- Spinghar Poultry Farmers Association (SPFA) continued operation with IDEA-NEW assistance. The association collected membership fees from poultry farmers in the region. It also provided technical assistance to the member poultry farms in various districts of the region.
- Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) signed with the Nangarhar Incubator Association, Nangarhar Fishery Association, Nangarhar Beekeepers Association, Laghman Fishery Association and to provide support for the associations.
- Nangarhar Industrial Association continued the process to elect a board for the organization. During the reporting period, elections were held in the two sub-sectors under NIA (water & ice). The Association also agreed on some terms and conditions to get land for their members in the Jalalabad Industrial Park.

#### **Northern Region**

- **Agricultural Retailing Development Program:** IDEA-NEW continues to support the six non-profit provincial agricultural retailers' associations, which were established in Northern Afghanistan and registered with the Afghan Ministry of Justice. These associations serve the farmers through 109 Ag-Retailing shops currently operating in the five Northern provinces.
- **Agriculture Retailing Shop Upgrading Survey:** Agriculture retailing shops do not comply with acceptable standards of construction and internal organization, or with good practice for the storage and sale of pesticides. A survey of all 109 retail shops belonging to the six Agricultural Retail Associations in the five project provinces to assess upgrading needs was begun during the last reporting period. Two teams from the Infrastructure and Agricultural Development departments conducted the survey in Balkh, Samangan, Sari Pul and Jawzjan provinces in August and



*Photo: IDEA-NEW signs an MOU with the Nangarhar Fishery Association.*

September. 52 shops were surveyed, while 25 were in insecure areas. The survey teams also entered the data into a database.

Assessment of shops in Faryab province will be carried out in the next reporting period, as two of the enumerators were involved as trainers in the pesticide retailer training program during this reporting period.

- **Agriculture Retailers Monthly Coordination Meeting:** To see the improvement of the agriculture retailers associations in providing good quality service to the farmers as well as their members, IDEA-NEW holds monthly coordination meeting with executive members of the six provincial associations. In this quarter, three monthly meetings with the board of directors of six Agricultural Retailing Associations of Balkh, Samangan, Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Faryab provinces have been held.



*Photo: IDEA-NEW liaison representative and other government officials in TWG meeting in Nangarhar province.*

## USG and GoIRA Cooperation

### Eastern Region

- November 2010, Meeting arranged among Shamshad Feed mill representatives, farmers' groups representatives, PSD and AH responsible staff signed the contract in which the feed mill team will purchase yellow maize grain with high price than of the local market in order to encourage farmers to sell yellow maize on feed mill.
- November 2010, A watershed meeting with Pachir Wa Agam elders was conducted and discussed the process of direct seeding of forestry seed. It was decided that eight teams will be made monitored by a supervisor and each team will include 11 members to carry on the activity of direct seeding (Nangarhar province).
- November 2010, Kunar Nursery Growers Board had a meeting with the Roots of Peace organization in which nursery grower Manager was selected to watch closely certain nurseries.
- December 2010, Held discussions with the irrigation department of Nangarhar Province on providing food for gabion implementation project labourers relating to the watershed program in Chaparhar and Pachir Wa Agam districts.
- December 2010, Eastern Region Fruit Growers Association (EFGA) signed a contract with Agriculture Credit Enhancement (ACE). ACE will provide 22,800 bags of fertilizer through Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) benefitting 1,900 farmers of the EFGA in the three provinces. EFGA is negotiating a deal for 120 tractors with necessary equipment (plough, trolley and etc).
- December 2010, A meeting with Pachir Wa Agam and Noorgal Watershed associations in order to properly coordinate site for the reforestation project.
- December 2010, Meeting organized among MADERA, Mercy Corps., IF-Hope, CHAMP, PHDP, ASAP, and FRUGA representatives for better coordination of perennial horticulture activities in the eastern region.

**Northeastern Region**

- December, Badakhshan - Community mobilization staff met with 15 CDC leaders and 124 farmers in locations including Baharak, Jurm, Argo, Kishem and Faizabad to discuss beneficiary selection for next year's agriculture projects.
- Throughout the quarter, Takhar staff participated in the monthly Infrastructure and Natural Resources meetings with the provincial governor and other local development actors. Mercy Corps presented on progress with infrastructure projects.
- December – IDEA-NEW Agriculture staff met with Baghlani Jadid and Dushi district governors, agriculture extension managers and local elders to discuss village selection for future programs.
- November - IDEA-NEW program director and Baghlan program manager met with Kenny Dunn, the newly arrived USAID agriculture specialist to discuss MC-IDEA-NEW activities in Baghlan.
- November - IDEA-NEW program director and Badakhshan deputy program manager met with the new provincial governor of Badakhshan, Dr. Shawali Habib, to introduce IDEA-NEW and discuss plans for the \$450k+ Sakha Canal that will irrigate 3,200 jeribs in Baharak and ensure the government's support for this rehabilitation project. Another meeting was also conducted with the USAID representative in Faizabad, Engineer Nazir, regarding this large project.
- Takhar province - The program manager met with Mr. Jody Stallings – General Development Officer USAID PRT Kunduz, Mr. Theodor Baatrod – Re/N USAID, and Husain – Development and Military affairs staff member. MC explained the IDEA-NEW project selection criteria and the group discussed how MC can uphold its project selection criteria while also finding ways to work in USAID targeted areas.

## Key Problems/Constraints

**Northeastern Region**

The main constraints facing the project continue to be security related. In Baghlan, we struggled to monitor the projects in Burka and Nahrin districts, though national staff can now visit projects sites in these areas again. In Kunduz, our ability to monitor is also somewhat constrained; however, local staff members are sometimes able to visit the project sites. Otherwise, the projects are progressing successfully.

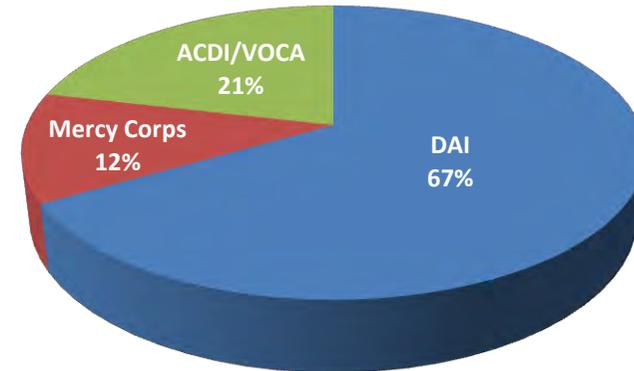
## Afghan First

Supporting the local economy through the procurement is another way IDEA-NEW is supporting Afghan First. In this IDEA-NEW spent more than \$3.9 million USD on local procurement. Locally purchased materials for each implementing partner (IP) during the reporting period follows:

- DAI (Eastern / Western Region) \$2,621,182 USD
- Mercy Corps (Northeastern Region) \$473,409 USD
- ACDI/VOCA (Northern Region) \$840,400 USD

IDEA-NEW pays close attention to fostering the growth of its staff, particularly its managers, and develops individual capacity building plans to ensure the implementation of high-quality programs with majority Afghan National staff. Currently, 98% of staff are Afghan.

### Local Procurement by IP



# Monitoring & Evaluation Data

## Performance Indicators

Outputs are tracked through 25 Performance Indicators. Regional implementing partners use the same forms to capture data, and it is reported into a central database. Depending on the indicator, results are reported on a biweekly, quarterly or annual frequency. There are 16 biweekly indicators, seven quarterly indicators and two annual indicators. The tables below give the results for the reporting period by partner as well as by the program as a whole, and are charted against “targets” by Fiscal Year.

## Impact Evaluation

Output indicators by themselves are not a basis for rigorous performance measurement; IDEA-NEW also conducts impact evaluation for some of its largest projects. With the flexibility to conduct specific impact assessment at regular intervals, this plan serves to measure program effectiveness and give management the right information to make better-informed decisions about IDEA-NEW’s work, as well as give USAID Afghanistan a clear picture of IDEA-NEW’s outcomes and impacts over the life of its project.

The project also conducted a baseline household study in July 2009, and will follow up at intervals to assess household impacts in areas where IDEA-NEW is working. This will be done on a biennial basis, and will include those items measured in the household economic baseline. The baseline report, which gives a full economic picture of households in provinces where it was implemented, is available by request.

## Field Missions

Finally, Field Missions are undertaken to provide contextual information, as well as quality assurance/quality control. On infrastructure projects, engineers assess construction quality and project progress, and laborers are asked if their wages are paid in a fair and transparent way. For non-infrastructure, overall quality, transparency and effectiveness are assessed. All field missions are conducted to inform program managers about areas of improvement. All missions also review environmental compliance with USAID, and ensure that GPS grid points for projects are captured. For irrigation and road projects, the areas irrigated and length of road are captured to ensure the highest accuracy for performance indicators. Approximately six to eight missions are conducted weekly.

## Some explanations on indicators

All definitions and data collection methods for all indicators below are available at request. Some answers to common questions:

Full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs: These are calculated in two ways. For CCI projects, 260 labor days = 1 FTE. For agriculture projects, .25 ha under licit cultivation = 1 FTE. For enterprises, a new employee reported by an IDEA-NEW assisted business to be “full time” = 1 FTE. Existing employees at the start of IDEA-NEW intervention does not count. There is a one-month lag time for CCI wage reporting.

Increased sales of licit farm- and non-farm products are tracked in different ways. Farm product sales are tracked through surveys of key agricultural interventions programs involving 10,000 people or more. Non-farm products are tracked through bi-annual sales reports from assisted enterprises; only increases over the baseline are reported.

All data reported to USAID has “back-up” documentation, including training sign-in sheets, contracts, export documentation and enterprise forms that detail sales and employee information.

## ANNEX I: Performance Indicator Table

*(See Attached)*

## ANNEX II: CCI Project Data by Region

*(See Attached)*

## ANNEX III: Grants Table

*(See Attached)*

## Cooperative Agreement Information

**PROJECT** ..... Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West (IDEA-NEW)  
**START DATE** ..... March 2, 2009  
**END DATE** ..... March 1, 2014  
**Cooperative Agreement Number** ..... 306-A-00-09-00508  
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**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE** ..... Northern, Eastern and Western Afghanistan

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