An Institution-Building Success Story

From 1983 to 1994 the Transformation and Integration of the Provincial Agricultural Network (TIPAN) Project provided institution building support to the Northwest Frontier Province Agricultural University (NWFPAU) in Peshawar, Pakistan. This collaborative assistance project, designed and implemented by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in collaboration with Southern Illinois University Carbondale, sent 215 faculty to the U.S. for training and constructed 500,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory, office and library space. The entire campus and research system were upgraded with new equipment and computer resources. With a $60 million dollar USAID investment over 10 years, the TIPAN project created a sustainable university and regional center of excellence patterned after the U.S. Land Grant model. The strengths of this model allow the NWFPAU to deliver short-term specialized training and high quality graduate degree programs in a wide range of disciplines.

From completion of TIPAN in 1994, the NWFPAU moved forward in developing new capabilities and tapped new sources of funding. An example is the Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, which integrates research and outreach to address local and national agricultural needs. Another example is the Institute of Business and Management Sciences which, for the past five years, has provided quality education for private sector development by focusing on entrepreneurship, information technology and outreach.

Since August 2003, more than 300 Afghan agriculturalists have completed one-month “train the trainers” courses on 15 topics key to development of their agriculture sector. These courses were conducted in Pakistan and Afghanistan by NWFPAU faculty.
The NWFP AU is uniquely positioned to impact the entire Central Asia region.

Training Programs Underway

- **Technical Short Courses:** Twenty-seven women were among the total of 350 Afghans who have completed 18 courses offered thus far and are rebuilding the agriculture sector.

- **Research Staff Training:** Afghan Research station personnel from Shesham Bagh and Darul Amaan were sent to the NWFP for 24 specialized short-term training programs. (usually one week duration)

- **Long Term Degree Training:** Ten candidates are currently enrolled in M.Sc. degree programs. Another 20 have been selected, accepted by the NWFP AU and are awaiting funding.


- More technical short courses will be delivered in Afghanistan
- Pakistani scientists will be sent to research stations in Afghanistan to provide on the job training
- Give more attention to the university community in Afghanistan through:
  A) Sending NWFP AU professors, especially those who earned U.S. doctorates during TIPAN and have recently retired, to serve as visiting professors
  B) Send their B.S. level faculty to the NWFP AU for M.Sc. degree study
  C) Distribute region-specific textbooks that were published during the TIPAN project
- Facilitate cooperative relationships between the NWFP AU and selected Afghan universities
- Serve as a resource base for USDA staff with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Afghanistan

“The course is very well planned and perfectly answers specific training options that we are looking for…”

~ COOPI
(Consorzio Cooperazione Internazionale ~ An Italian NGO )

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