

Afghanistan-Pakistan Activities  
Quarterly Report XX  
(July – August – September 2007)  
Sustainable Development of Drylands Project  
IALC-UIUC

Principal Accomplishments this Period and Plans for the Next Quarter:

1. The Scope of Work (SoW) for the Afghanistan-Pakistan component for fiscal year 2008 (FY08) was submitted to IALC headquarters. The narrative portion of the SoW, describing the areas and tasks that will receive our attention during the period October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008, is attached to this report.
2. An eleven day training course on Soil and Water Analysis Procedures was delivered at the Shesham Bagh Research Station in Jalalabad, Afghanistan during the period July 28 to August 8, 2007. A total of twenty Soil Scientists completed this training. Fourteen of these participants were employees of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), who are assigned to the Shesham Bagh Research Station. The remaining six were Nangarhar Province Extension staff and Nangarhar University faculty. Instruction and laboratory exercises were conducted by two Agricultural Chemists (M.Zamir Hussain and Tariq Masood) from the Tarnab Agricultural Research Institute in Peshawar. Logistical and administrative support was provided by Dr. Qayyum and our assistant training coordinator, Mr. Agha. This training course was requested and funded by USDA. A comprehensive final report has been submitted to USDA and is on file at UIUC. The request for this training was actually initiated by the USDA advisor who is assigned to the Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team.
3. A thirty-day course on “Home-based Food Processing”, requested and funded by FAO of the United Nations, was delivered at the Tarnab Agricultural Research Institute in Peshawar during the period August 20 to September 18. The twenty individuals who completed this “Train-the-Trainer” course were employees of MAIL, FAO and selected Afghan NGO’s. A final report on this training course is presently being prepared for submission to FAO. The contents of our report, with details on this training activity, will be included in the next quarterly report.
4. The Afghanistan Oilseed Sector Survey, also funded by FAO, is underway. Our three-person data collection team is spending the period September 12 to October 7 in the field, with bulk of their time in Herat and Balkh Provinces. The data collection team consists of: Dr. Oval Myers, Jr., Dr. Phil Eberle and Dr. Abdul Qayyum Khan. They are being assisted by MAIL Extension Department staff and by staff and students at Herat University and Balkh University. Results of field work on the Oilseed Sector Survey will be included in the next quarterly report.

5. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was carried by the Oilseed Survey team and signed by Herat University. With this signing, our three-university consortium (UIUC, SIUC, NWFPAU) is now formally linked with three regional Afghan Universities (Balkh, Nangarhar, Herat), with Kabul University and with the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).
6. Late last quarter our three-university consortium prepared and submitted a response to a USDA “Invitation for Expressions of Interest: Improving the Capacity of the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) to Deliver Extension Services.” We have since been informed that USDA selected the Expression of Interest submitted by a consortium of UC-Davis, Purdue and Cornell. The preparation of our response was, nonetheless, a useful exercise in cataloging resources and strengths that we can make available to MAIL, USDA and the development assistance community in Afghanistan.
7. Another proposal was submitted this past quarter. In late July, USAID-Afghanistan released an RFA titled “Afghanistan Water, Agriculture and Technology Transfer Program (AWATT)”. Due in part to the higher education dimension of this project, the RFA was restricted to Land Grant Colleges and Universities. Universities submitting applications were expected to partner with at least three Afghan regional/provincial universities. The Illinois universities (UIUC and SIUC) elected to join Colorado State University in a support role, with New Mexico State University taking the lead role in our consortium. A significant portion of the Illinois contribution to this proposal is our partnership with the regional/provincial universities, i.e., Balkh, Nangarhar and Herat. Our proposal was submitted by New Mexico State prior to the September 7 closing date.
8. As of this writing, there is nothing to report on our proposal that was submitted in June to the USAID Representative in Peshawar, suggesting steps we can take to expand the NWFPAU’s outreach and continuing education dimension.
9. The principal item on our agenda for next quarter will be taking action on the priorities and tasks that are identified and spelled out in the “Specific Areas of Concentration” portion of the attached FY08 Scope of Work. This is a working document that reflects the collective thinking of the three-person team (Khan, Myers, Santas) who are responsible for implementation of this component. Preparation of this SoW was not merely an exercise to meet a requirement.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Component  
Scope of Work for Year Five  
October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008  
of the IALC Cooperative Agreement with USAID's  
Bureau for Asia and the Near East

Introduction

Given that our cooperative agreement has been granted a no-cost extension, we will be able to use FY08 to consolidate, integrate and institutionalize the accomplishments that have been reported over the past five years. This additional time will allow us to make further progress toward the long range goal of positioning the NWFP Agricultural University in Peshawar, Pakistan, to serve as a regional resource base and a center of excellence in agricultural education, research and outreach.

Background

During the four-year life of our current cooperative agreement, with a scheduled 9/30/07 termination, the Afghanistan-Pakistan component has received a total of \$1,320,672 in core funds. These core funds were provided by USAID's Bureau for Asia and the Near East, to cover our operating expenses such as: salaries, domestic and international travel, per diem, and the cost of maintaining offices on campus and in the field.

During this same four-year period, our component has been able to secure a total of \$1,515,363 in buy-in support and supplemental funding. Because some of these supplemental funds could be used to cover our operational expenses, we now have accumulated core funds that will carry over and allow us to operate at full capacity, continuing our activity for one more year. In essence, the four year allocation from USAID/ANE will result in at least five years of contributions to "Human Capacity Development for the Agriculture Sector in Afghanistan" by our component.

The following summary of our supplemental funding will serve as a review of progress and a point of departure, as we identify goals for the coming year.

1. Chemonics Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP)	\$533,538
2. USAID–Islamabad Cooperative Agreement Buy-in	\$484,090
3. HED funding for Balkh University Faculty of Agriculture	\$119,933
4. Afghan Ministry of Agriculture Funding for M. Sc. Training	\$266,692
5. USDA funding for Soil Analysis short course in Jalalabad	\$11,979
6. FAO Funding for Food Processing short course in Peshawar	\$49,133
7. FAO Funding for Oilseed Sector Survey in Afghanistan	<u>\$49,998</u>
Total supplemental funding generated:	\$1,515,363

#### A General Statement on FY08

Having used \$1,320,672 in core funds to leverage an additional \$1,515,363 in supplemental funds, we will follow this same plan during the year ahead and build on this record of success. Our basic plan and strategy has consisted of “brokering” and making connections between resources available at the NWFP Agricultural University and the agendas or needs of various development assistance agencies and organizations operating in Afghanistan. We have been successful in helping this development assistance community recognize the NWFP AU as a valuable regional resource and helping them access these resources, especially in the area of training. This includes M. Sc. degree training, as well as specialized short- term training. We will continue in this broker role, while at the same time making deliberate and rapid moves toward preparing the NWFP AU to function as an institution that can deal directly with development assistance organizations that operate in Afghanistan and the Central Asia region. If our plan works and our record of success continues, we will generate more supplemental funding during FY08. We should then be able to use a portion of the supplemental funds to cover our operating costs, thereby conserving the carryover core funds. This scenario would allow us to carry on with “Human Capacity Development for the Agriculture Sector in Afghanistan” well into FY09 before our operational funds are exhausted.

### Specific Areas of Concentration

During the five-year life of this component, the UIUC/SIUC/NWFPAU consortium has developed a solid working relationship with development organizations operating in Afghanistan, as well as key Afghan Ministries and Universities. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations however, was not among those organizations and is our most recent connection. FAO seems quite impressed by the services our consortium can deliver and may want to expand this relationship. The home-based food processing short course was completed in Peshawar during August-September 2007. Oilseed Sector Survey activities were initiated during FY07, with data collection in September/October 2007; but this work will continue into the next fiscal year. FAO has mentioned an interest in M. Sc. training. This possibility is high on our FY08 agenda.

The USDA relationship also seems ripe for expansion. They came to appreciate the unique nature of NWFPAU resources through our delivery of an eleven-day course on Soil and Water Analysis Procedures in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. This training request was initiated by the USDA representative assigned to the Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team. USDA personnel also gained an appreciation for our capacity and resources through a proposal submitted by the UIUC/SIUC/NWFPAU consortium to “Improve Capacity of the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) to Deliver Extension Services”. Although our proposal was not selected for funding, we believe this exercise helped to educate our USDA cooperators and will pay dividends. Hopefully this proposal submission has opened the door to expanded interaction.

Another buy-in from the USAID Mission to Pakistan is a possibility. At the request of the USAID representative in Peshawar, we submitted a proposal describing activities that will strengthen the relationship between the Illinois Universities and the NWFPAU. The principal focus of this proposal is on expanding the NWFPAU’s Outreach and Continuing Education dimension. We have also presented ideas and suggestions on how this university can improve Afghanistan-Pakistan cross-border relationships. This proposal is being reviewed by USAID personnel in Peshawar and perhaps at the Mission level in Islamabad. Follow-up on this will be part of our FY08 Scope of Work.

A proposal has been submitted to USAID-Afghanistan, in response to RFA 306-07-020 titled “Afghanistan Water, Agriculture and Technology Transfer Program (AWATT)”. New Mexico State University is the lead institution in our submission, with the Illinois Universities (UIUC/SIUC) and Colorado State University in support roles. If our proposal is selected, this project will become a big part of our FY08 activities.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) relationship is another FY08 priority activity. The MAIL Extension Department is currently providing support and assistance with the FAO-funded Oilseed Sector Survey. Our agreement with the MAIL Extension Department, to provide M. Sc. training to ten of their staff, serves as an example of Afghan-funded development efforts. The ten students are doing well in their graduate study at the NWFPAU. We hope that another wave of ten, from the Extension Department or another MAIL department, will be selected and sponsored.

We will continue our dialogue with BearingPoint Inc., to determine whether our resources can make a contribution to their USAID-funded multi-sector human resource development effort known as the “Afghans Building Capacity Program (ABC)”. We have made contact with staff in their Kabul office and in their McLean VA headquarters.

Given the nature of development work, it is impossible to predict and anticipate the exact issues and opportunities that will surface during the year ahead. This scope of work highlights the areas that, at this point in time, will require our attention.