

Afghanistan-Pakistan Activities
Quarterly Report XV
(April – May – June 2006)
Sustainable Development of Drylands Project
IALC-UIUC

Principal Accomplishments this Period:

1. Early in the past quarter (April 2-19) our Senior Advisor, Dr. Oval Myers, was in Afghanistan and Pakistan. During this time he worked closely with our Field Office Director, Dr. Abdul Qayyum Khan. The primary reason for this travel was to work on the Balkh University Faculty of Agriculture (BUFA) Project in Mazar-e-Sharif. A significant portion of this travel period however, was spent in Kabul, Peshawar and Islamabad; during which time they conducted IALC-UIUC project-related business.

Examples of contacts that Dr. Myers and Dr. Qayyum made were: 1) USAID-Kabul's offices of Agriculture and Education, 2) The MAAHF Deputy Minister and the Directors of Extension and Research, 3) The USDA Agricultural Attaché assigned to Afghanistan and Pakistan, 4) Various representatives of the Chemonics International RAMP Project, 5) Deans of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Kabul University, 6) Representatives of the CFC-A/PMI Team, regarding the availability of CERP funds, 7) International Affairs contacts in the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education, and 8) the Vice Chancellor and an assortment of cooperating faculty at the NWFP AU in Peshawar.

Core funds were used to cover Dr. Myers' lodging and per diem while making the above project-related contacts. Readers may need to be reminded that the IALC is not involved in the BUFA project. This is funded by ALO (now HED), with SIUC in the lead role and support being provided by UIUC, NWFP AU, JDA and NEI.

2. Late in the past quarter, nine of the ten M.Sc. students (supported by RAMP) completed their degree work. The tenth student is finishing his data collection during the summer months. This group will be back in their faculty positions at Kabul and Nangarhar universities for the upcoming academic year.

A week-long retreat at ARS-Mingora became the capstone for their master's degree programs. A central feature of this retreat was specialized instruction on Research Methodology and Technical Writing. Each student's academic advisor also attended the retreat, with time allocated for student and advisor to prepare seminar presentations on their thesis research. After thesis defense and final presentations at the NWFP AU, plans are being made to have these M.Sc. recipients present seminars at their home universities and to selected other audiences such as RAMP and MAAHF personnel. Prior to this mid-June retreat, Dr. Qayyum organized a four-day study tour for this group to Faisalabad Agricultural University and the Ayub Agricultural Research Institute. A summary table of the ten students, their advisors and research topics is attached.

3. The English Language Resource Center (ELRC) and the Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS), which were established through Islamabad buy-in support, are now functioning entities within the NWFPAU. Examples of the role(s) these units play are: OIPS took the leadership in arranging a five day visit (May 14-19) by the Dean of Agriculture and one Department Head from Balkh University. They were seeking assistance in converting their academic calendar to semesters and in adopting a credit-hour system as well as the grade point average (GPA) as an approach to measuring and reporting student performance. The ELRC, for its part, played a lead role in the technical writing workshop at the ARS-Mingora retreat (see item 2 above) and in the presentation of results from thesis research projects.
4. The UIUC visit by the Ambassador of Afghanistan, as mentioned in last quarter's report, took place on June 6. His Excellency Said T. Jawad was accompanied by the Commercial Attaché, Khalida Atta. They were involved in a two-hour roundtable discussion session followed by a working dinner, with a group of eleven faculty and administrators representing both UIUC and SIUC. This productive exchange of information included a briefing by the Ambassador on the higher education scene in Afghanistan. This event gave us a valuable opportunity to acquaint the Embassy representatives with institution-building projects completed by the Illinois universities in various world regions. Biographies of the Ambassador and Attaché are attached along with a press release prepared by the Embassy giving details on the Illinois visit.
5. We continue to make contributions to the need for relevant printed materials that can be used by students, educators and others in the agriculture sector. Three specific accomplishments this past quarter are worthy of reporting:
 - A.) The Agricultural Extension Manual, used in English with the Extension Methodology and Technology Transfer short courses, was translated into Dari. Five hundred copies were printed and have been distributed by the MAAHF Director of Extension to Master Trainers in each district of all 34 provinces in Afghanistan.
 - B.) Three hundred copies of a Teaching Manual on Field Crop Production, in Dari, have been delivered to the Dean of Agriculture at Kabul University. Thirty copies were also delivered to the Dean of Agriculture at Nangarhar University and ten copies to the MAAHF Director of Extension. This Field Crop Production manual is based on lectures given by Dr. Paigham Shah while he served as Visiting Professor at Kabul University (through Islamabad buy-in support) during the 2005 spring and fall semesters.
 - C.) The manual used with past short courses on Post-Harvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables has been printed, in English, and distributed to various universities and MAAHF Departments, NGO's and participants in these courses.

6. The Afghanistan-Pakistan Training (APT) Group met June 14, thus continuing their pattern of meeting twice each year. This group of eight (four from UIUC and four from SIUC) serves as a valuable sounding board and source of advice to an increasingly wide range of activities in Afghanistan that are being pursued by the Illinois universities. The agenda for our June 14 meeting is attached to this report.
7. We continue to work on arrangements for the next group of ten students, these from the MAAHF Extension Department, to enroll for M.Sc. degree study at the NWFP AU. As was mentioned in last quarter's report, our proposal and budget have been submitted to the Director of Extension. The MAAHF needs to prepare a contract similar to the Grant Agreement that was used with the second installment of RAMP funds, and send that document to UIUC for review. Meanwhile, we are informed that the Ministry has appointed a committee that will design and implement a set of rigorous and demanding student selection procedures.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter (July – August – September):

1. Every effort will be made to complete the negotiation process and assemble the documentation necessary for enrollment of the ten M.Sc. students being selected by the MAAHF. We are confident that these plans and arrangements will materialize, but an August 2006 matriculation seems unlikely.
2. Our Fall 2006 visit to field activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan is being planned. Dates presently being held are September 8 – 22. In addition to Dr. Myers and Dr. Santas, the third Illinois traveler is Dr. John S. Russin; who is Associate Dean in the SIUC College of Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Russin is the P.I. on our BUFA project. After linking up with Dr. Qayyum, we anticipate spending a large share of our time at Balkh University. Most of our costs will be covered by the ALO/HED contract for the BUFA project. It goes without saying however, that a significant portion of our time – especially while in Kabul, Peshawar and Islamabad – will be used for contacts related to the IALC-UIUC component titled: Human Capacity Development for the Agriculture Sector in Afghanistan. It is important to make these contacts in the field at least once each year, due to the frequent turnover of persons representing the various organizations with which we must maintain a working relationship.
3. A website will be constructed to make all short-term training materials available electronically. This site will give access to information on all 21 completed technical short courses, that have dealt with about 15 different topics. We will include course announcements and outlines, with details on course content, instructional activities and the faculty member responsible for each aspect. Summaries of participant evaluations and organizations represented by trainees will be included, along with their duty stations by province. This website will meet a long-standing need for improved archiving of materials describing technical short courses that have been/can be delivered by our NWFP AU cooperators.

Presentation of Research finding by Afghan Participants

No	Student Name	Department	Advisor Name	Research Topic	Date of Presentation
1	Masood	Horticulture	Dr. Mateen	Effect of Phosphorus and Plant Density on Floral Yield and Corm Production of <i>Crocus Sativus</i> (Saffron)	
2	Hussain Gul	Agriculture Economics	Prof. Dr. Anwar F. Chishti	Production and Marketing of Grapes in Parwan Province Afghanistan	
3	Sakhidad Saleem	Plant Protection	Prof. Dr. Farmanullah	Studies of Cereal Aphids and their Natural Enemies on wheat	
4	Mohammad Salim Rahimi	Plant Protection	Dr. Ahmadurehman Saljoqi	Study of Population Density of Cicada and its Management in the Grapes Vine yield in Shamali Plains Afghanistan	
5	Najmuddin Najam	Plant Protection	Prof. Dr. Farmanullah	Insecticides for Peach Tree Dormant Spray.	
6	Saidajan Abdiani	Horticulture	Dr Abdur Rab	Effects of Rizubiam Inoculations and picking stage on Seed Quality and fresh yield of Garden Pea	
7	Abdul Wahab	PBG Plant Breeding and genetics	Prof. Dr. Raziuddin	Genetic Analysis Using 8x8 diallel crosses in Brassica Napus	
8	Mohammad Bashir Dodial	Agricultural Extension Education and Communication	Iftikahr Ahmad	To Study the Ways and Means for Accelerating the Dissemination of modern Technology in Nangarhar Province	
9	Noor Mohammad	Horticulture	Dr. Sher Mohammad	The effects of IBA and 2,4-D on Micro Propagation of two different Cultivars of Tomatoes	
10	Mir Hatam Niazi	Poultry Sciences	Prof. Dr. Fazli Raziq Durani Naila Chand (Co-Advisor)	Effect of Medicinal Plant on the Performance of Broiler Chicks	

Biography

His Excellency Ambassador Said Tayeb Jawad

Afghan Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of Afghanistan
Washington,. D.C.



His Excellency Said T. Jawad, appointed as Afghanistan's Ambassador to the United States by President Hamid Karzai, presented his credentials to President George W. Bush on December 4, 2003.

Under his leadership, the Embassy of Afghanistan is emerging as one of the most successful missions in Washington DC. He also serves as Afghanistan's non-resident Ambassador to Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Argentina and accompanies President Karzai on most foreign trips.



In March 2002, Ambassador Jawad returned to Afghanistan from the United States to assist in the rebuilding efforts. He served as the President's Press Secretary, Chief of Staff as well as the Director of the Office of International Relations at the Presidential Palace. Ambassador Jawad has worked closely with President Karzai in formulating strategies, implementing policies, building national institutions and prioritizing reforms in Afghanistan. He also worked with the U.S. and Afghan military experts to help reform the Ministry of Defense and rebuild the Afghan National Army. Among his many accomplishments, Ambassador Jawad was instrumental in drafting Afghanistan's foreign investment laws and also served as President Karzai's principal liaison with the constitutional commission during the process of drafting Afghanistan's Constitution.

Ambassador Jawad was educated at the Afghan French Lycée Istiklal and School of Law and Political Sciences at Kabul University. Shortly after the Soviet invasion in 1980, he left Afghanistan and went into exile in Germany, where he studied law at Westfaelische Wilhelms University in Muenster. In 1986 he settled in the United States, where he earned his MBA from the Golden Gate University in San Francisco and worked for a number of prominent law firms.

Ambassador Jawad is also a writer and commentator. He has published hundreds of articles and conducted numerous interviews with international media. He is fluent in English, German and French. He is married to Shamim Jawad, a financial consultant, and they have a son, Iman, 16.

Biography

Khaleda Atta

Acting Commercial Attaché
Embassy of Afghanistan
Washington, D.C.



Khaleda Atta serves as Acting Commercial Attaché for the Economic, Trade & Investment Department of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington, D.C. Atta was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, raised in New York and has resided in the San Francisco Bay Area for the last seven years. Currently she is a resident of Washington, D.C.



She has an M.A. in International Policy Studies with a specialization in International Trade & Development from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA and is also a graduate of the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California with a BA in Communication with a Media/Public Relations emphasis. Atta has spent two years as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, focusing research on the Middle East. She has also worked with the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Afghanistan & Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Forces in Washington, D.C.

Atta serves as a Board Member of a number of humanitarian and civic organizations and has been an active member of the San Francisco Bay Area Afghan community, home to the largest population of Afghan-Americans in the United States. She was a past President of the Society of Afghan Professionals (SAP) and has been writing for afghanmagazine.com since 1997. Languages include English, Farsi (Dari), Arabic & Spanish.

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The Embassy of Afghanistan
WASHINGTON, DC

FOR IMMEDIATE

RELEASE:

June 7, 2006

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**AMBASSADOR SAID T. JAWAD ADDRESSES
AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION IN ILLINOIS**

WASHINGTON – Said T. Jawad, Afghanistan's ambassador to the United States, traveled to Illinois on June 6 and 7 to participate in a number of forums addressing Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and rural development. At the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), Ambassador Jawad participated in a roundtable discussion of the relationship between education and development. The roundtable participants visualized a future partnership between Afghanistan and the University of Illinois, which could include the creation of scholarships for Afghan students, training programs for Ministry of Agriculture employees, faculty exchange programs with Kabul University, the implementation of a national soybean development plan, and distance-learning education initiatives. The Embassy's Economic, Trade & Investment Department pledged to continue pursuing the development of these and other cooperative programs for Afghanistan's agriculture sector. Ambassador Jawad met with the Deans of University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign and Southern Illinois University's agricultural colleges to thank them for their contributions to Afghanistan's agricultural sector.

On June 7 Ambassador Jawad addressed the audience of the WSEC program *The Ambassador Series* in Springfield, Illinois. The Ambassador spoke broadly about trade, rural development and economic reconstruction. "Since the days of the silk route, Afghanistan's unique location in the heart of Asia has made it a natural trade hub. Our two most important assets are our location and our people. Afghanistan is a land bridge connecting emerging markets with energy sources in Central Asia. In central and south Asia all roads lead to Afghanistan. Our population is young, eager to learn and to partner with the international community," he said. Work is nearing completion on Afghanistan's 3,300 km national highway system, which will connect all Central Asian capitals to the Persian Gulf in less than 32 hours.

Afghanistan has experienced double digit economic growth in the past four years and made considerable progress in connecting the country by building roads and telecommunication systems. The Asian Development Bank expects economic growth to reach 11.7% in 2006 and 10.6% in 2007. Ambassador Jawad stressed that the Government of Afghanistan would continue

to pursue market-driven, private sector led growth, combined with significant investment in human capacity, physical infrastructure, legal reform, and institution building.

International experience has shown that long-term rural development is the best means of fighting against narcotics. Agricultural development is key to sustained, effective rural development. Prior to the Soviet invasion, agriculture accounted for more than 83% of Afghanistan's economic production; in 2004, agriculture only accounted for 38.4 % of GDP. Further agricultural development in the form of increased access to irrigation, dams, roads and cold-storage facilities will provide a strong economic incentive for farmers to abandon poppy production.

The Ambassador discussed Afghanistan's business-friendly investment climate and pointed out that the World Bank has ranked Afghanistan among the 16 easiest countries in the world to start a new business. The Ambassador identified the private sector as the true engine of Afghanistan's economic growth, and explained that the major obstacles to private sector development have been removed. "Why invest in Afghanistan? We have low tax rates, low labor costs, a growing domestic consumer market, an opportunity to create employment for women, and an eager and committed work force," he said.

AGENDA

Afghanistan-Pakistan Training (APT) Group Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2006
Room 350A Edward R. Madigan Lab

1. April 1-19 travel by Oval and Qayyum to Peshawar/Kabul/Mazar/Islamabad
2. Proposal to HED in response to IDEAS rfa, for continued involvement at Balkh University
3. June 6 meeting at UIUC with Afghan Ambassador, His Excellency Said Tayeb Jawad
4. Soybean Development Plan submitted to Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food (MAAHF)
5. Afghans enrolled for M.Sc. study at the NWFPAU
 - a) completion of ten from Kabul and Nangarhar universities
 - b) Plans for enrollment of ten funded by MAAHF
6. Field report from Dr. Qayyum
7. Construction of website with details on complete technical short courses
8. APT input to summer meeting of IALC Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors
9. Other items contributed by APT members