

Afghanistan-Pakistan Activities
Quarterly Report XII
(July-August-September 2005)
Sustainable Development of Drylands Project
IALC-UIUC

Introduction:

Although specific accomplishments will be detailed below, a principal output this quarter was the Scope of Work (SoW) for fiscal year 2006 (FY 06), i.e. October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. The narrative portion of the SoW is attached to this report. Readers will note that this submission, which went to IALC headquarters on September 2, presents the progress made by our component thus far and the work ahead of us during year three of the current Cooperative Agreement and year four of the component we have titled "Human Capacity Development for the Agriculture Sector in Afghanistan".

The "Organized Short Courses" section of our FY 06 SoW states our intention to use core funds allocated through the Cooperative Agreement to support four one-month technical courses at an all-inclusive cost of \$50,000 per course. As has been done in past years, we were planning to combine core funds with supplemental funds from other sources, allowing us to offer the usual six to eight short courses per year. We were informed by the Project Director that there would be a redistribution of core funds and a reduction in our allocation, from \$375,000 in FY 05 to \$300,000 this year. If these funds are not restored in full or in part, either from the core or additional Mission buy-in, this budget reduction will add significantly to the challenges we face in FY06 because we will need to generate this short course support from other sources. At this stage in our thinking, possible sources of this supplemental support are: The RAMP project, USDA administered funds, Mission buy-ins, perhaps Japanese donor agencies, or even Department of Defense sources.

Details on Activities this Period:

1. Technical assistance to Afghan research stations through "twinning" initiative: As explained in the previous quarter's report, we are now using Islamabad buy-in funds to send Pakistani scientists to Afghanistan to work with their counterparts, helping them deal with the challenges they face on a daily basis. The delivery of this assistance on Afghan soil builds on and complements the training done at Pakistani research stations during 2004 through RAMP project support. As an example: RAMP support was used to send small groups (four to six researchers) to the Cereal Crops Research Institute (CCRI) for a series of three "calls" timed to coincide with critical stages in the maize growing season. The reciprocal portion of this "staged" training program took place in August 2005, when Dr. Kiramat Khan, Senior Maize Breeder at CCRI in Pirsabak NWFP, spent one week at the Shesham Bagh Station in

Jalalabad and at other locations in Nangarhar Province. Dr. Kiramat's trip report is on file at UIUC along with other reports that he prepared to provide details on the training he conducted while Afghans were with him at CCRI last year. During the weeks ahead, Pakistani research scientists from ARS-Mingora and ARI-Tarnab will travel to Afghanistan for the reciprocal portions of training conducted at their stations/institutes in the NWFP.

2. Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food (MAAHF) visited the NWFP: The research collaboration explained above received high-level attention when MAAHF First Deputy Minister, Mohammad Sharif, along with his Director General for Research, M. Qasim Qadri, visited the NWFP campus and four stations in the research system during the September 4 to 12 period. Institutional linkage support, allocated via the Islamabad buy-in, made their visit possible. Timely action by our Field Office Director while hosting this visit, resulted in the drafting and negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that formally links the MAAHF with the NWFP and the Illinois universities (UIUC and SIUC). That MoU has already been approved by MAAHF and NWFP representatives and is now being reviewed by the Illinois universities. During their visit, Minister Sharif and Director Qadri identified a wide range of potential activities and possible areas for research collaboration.
3. NWFP Faculty continue to serve as Visiting Professors at Afghan universities: Having spent the spring semester at Kabul University concentrating on courses and curriculum in Crop Production, Dr. Paigham Shah was invited to return for the fall semester and asked to concentrate on Experimental Design courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture. Dr. Naseer Hussain taught Entomology courses at Kabul University during the spring semester and is now spending the fall semester at Nangarhar University in Jalalabad, concentrating on the Pesticide Handling and Application aspects of their curriculum. Support for these visiting professor assignments also comes through the Islamabad buy-in.
4. A three-person USDA delegation visited the NWFP August 3 and 4 to better understand that institution's capacity to deliver training and technical assistance programs that are needed for recovery of the agriculture sector in Afghanistan. They were especially concerned with needs that exist in higher education and the extension service. The delegation consisted of Howard Anderson, Agricultural Attaché assigned to Pakistan and Afghanistan; Mark Holt, Chief of the Project Development and Management Center in International Cooperation and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service; and Kevin McNamara, a Purdue University Agricultural Economics Professor currently serving in Afghanistan through USDA's Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) with USAID. USDA is administering funds that flow through the PASA and funds that are generated through the monetization of agricultural commodities. The expectation is that USDA will invest these

funds in projects and activities that will hasten the recovery of Afghanistan's agriculture sector. We hope USDA representatives will recognize that investments in people, through training and education, are essential to making this recovery process sustainable. Resources available through our component of the IALC project can make an impact on the overwhelming need for training in Afghanistan's higher education system and in the agricultural extension service. We will continue the conversation with USDA representatives and hope to find a mutually beneficial relationship.

5. Our Field Office Director has contacted Richard Boyum, the Regional English Language Officer (RELO), who is posted at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. From that location Mr. Boyum covers Pakistan. Dr. Qayyum has invited him to visit the NWFPAU and has requested his assistance in working with Prof. Ibrahim Khattak to establish an English Language Enhancement Center. We know that this Center will be critically important when more students from Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries enroll for graduate study at the NWFPAU. In most cases, these students will need remedial English training to succeed in their degree programs. We are confident that Mr. Boyum can help Prof. Khattak make the right decisions on using Islamabad buy-in support to establish this center.
6. The "Agricultural Extension Manual" was completed and distributed this quarter. It has been distributed both as hard-copy and in electronic format. This becomes number four in the series of manuals produced to accompany short courses. While the other manuals are available in English, Pashto and Dari; the Extension Manual is available only in English at this stage. We are also continuing with distribution of the 10,500 reprinted region-specific textbooks, as explained in the previous quarterly report and the FY06 Scope of Work. We are providing agricultural educators in Pakistan and Afghanistan with these six-volume sets. As an example, these books are currently being used and distributed by USDA personnel who are attached to the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT's) in Afghanistan. In addition to the PRT Agricultural Advisors, we have supplied Faculties of Agriculture at Kabul, Balkh, Nangarhar and Takhar Universities with these textbooks.
7. Information Piece #4 on "Strengthening the Faculty at Afghan Universities" was completed and is attached to this report. By showcasing this group of 10 post-graduate students and the contributions they can make to higher education in Afghanistan, we hope others will become sensitized to the critically important role that degree training can and must play in making that country's recovery process sustainable.

Activities Planned for the Following Quarter (October-November-December 2005):

Drs. Myers and Santas will participate in a seminar titled “Approach to Collaboration Between Universities in Japan and the United States in International Agricultural Cooperation” that will be held in Nagoya, Japan October 31 through November 2. Our invitation to participate in this seminar comes as the result of a concept paper titled “US-Japan Dialogue on Collaboration to Rebuild Higher Education in Agriculture in Afghanistan”. Our concept paper was submitted to the Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development (ALO) in late June. After a favorable review by ALO and cooperating Japanese organizations, we were invited to participate in the Nagoya seminar and will be able to initiate a dialogue with Japanese academics and donor agency representatives on the potential for collaboration.

This seminar will bring 10 U.S. university representatives to Nagoya to initiate a dialogue with ten representatives of Japanese universities, on the potential for collaboration in various African and Asian countries. During the session on “Renewed Capacity Building”, the participant representing Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (Prof. Kiyoshi Shimada) will present a paper on “Aid for Rehabilitation of Kabul University”. This will be followed by our paper on “Human Capacity Development for the Agriculture Sector in Afghanistan”, after which we will begin to develop plans for cooperation and joint activities. We hope to establish partnerships that will advance the development assistance agendas being pursued in Afghanistan by both the U.S. and Japan. Our letters of invitation are attached to this report.

At the conclusion of the Nagoya seminar, we will depart for Kabul where we link up with Dr. Qayyum and spend 10 days in Afghanistan followed by three days in Pakistan, with a November 18 return travel date. This annual visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan has become increasingly important as a way to maintain working relationships, keep ourselves informed and pursue supplemental funding. We still need to finalize the next RAMP Job Order and the subsequent Grant Agreement that will transfer \$178,000 to UIUC. These funds are already programmed to cover costs of the 10 enrolled M.Sc. students through their December 2006 degree completion dates. Our search for support for the next group of 20, ready and waiting to begin M.Sc. study at the NWFP AU, has not yet produced results. We will continue to pursue the support needed for this group through avenues such as: Mission buy-ins, USDA-administered funds, Japanese donor agencies, leftover RAMP project funds and /or Defense Department funds.

Looking ahead, most of our attention during the upcoming quarter will be given to our annual TDY in combination with the required lead-up and wrap-up activities.

AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN COMPONENT

Scope of Work for Year Three
October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006
Of the IALC Cooperative Agreement with USAID's
Bureau for Asia and the Near East

INTRODUCTION

The FY 06 scope of work has been receiving our attention for more than six months. With the approach of October 2005, these thoughts can be committed to paper. As examples of our forward planning, materials that were prepared for the early March ANE briefing included a section on "Plans for 2005 and Beyond". Also, installment #2 in our series of information pieces, "An Institution Building Success Story" includes a section on "Planning for 2005/2006". Our FY 06 scope of work will expand on these earlier statements and will allow us to update these plans based on recent events such as evolving training needs and emerging funding sources.

Before detailing these plans, it is important to mention that the same management team (as presented in information piece #1) will be kept in place to provide staff support for this component. The same infrastructure and institutional affiliations will continue during year three of this cooperative agreement. This continuity gives us useful perspective as we adjust to a steady stream of changes in the field, especially changes in personnel and themes being emphasized by various organizations. We remain flexible and continue to look for ways that IALC/UIUC/NWFPAU resources can contribute to these development assistance efforts.

ORGANIZED SHORT COURSES

Since the initiation of training activities in August 2003, we have delivered 19 technical short courses on 15 different topics, reaching a total of 361 individuals who are engaged in various segments of the agriculture sector in Afghanistan. Six of these courses were completed during FY 05, using a combination of core funds and a \$150,000 allocation from the AID/Islamabad buy-in. These courses have had an early impact on the human capacity needs of Afghanistan's recovering agriculture sector. We will continue to deliver short courses, while giving increasing attention to research collaboration and degree training during the final two years of our four-year Cooperative Agreement. During FY 06 core funds will support the delivery of four one-month technical courses. Input from the development assistance community in Afghanistan will be used to make decisions on specific course topics. Supplemental/buy-in funding for additional courses may become available through sources such as USDA/FAS/ICD, AID/Islamabad or Japanese donors. Courses supported by supplemental funds would be on topics and in locations specified by the funding organization. Our short course delivery model has been thoroughly tested. We have full confidence in the ability of our NWFPAU

colleagues to deliver technical short courses that meet the needs of Afghanistan's agriculture sector and the expectations of funding organizations.

DEGREE TRAINING

We will continue and intensify our efforts to find supplemental support for the twenty Afghans who have been nominated by their employers and accepted by the NWFP AU for M.Sc. degree study. This group represents six different universities in Afghanistan as well as various departments and research stations within the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food. The ten students currently enrolled in M.Sc. programs (five from Kabul University and five from Nangarhar University) serve as an excellent example of the contribution that advanced degree study can make to sustainable development. They reinforce our determination to find support for this pending group of twenty. The ten enrolled students will be featured in our forthcoming information piece #4. Supplemental funding provided by the RAMP project will support this initial group of ten through their December 2006 degree completion. This emphasis on degree training is the centerpiece in our overall strategy to improve higher education in agriculture, while facilitating collaboration between the NWFP AU and selected Afghan universities. The minimum amount needed to fund the pending group of 20 students is \$375,000. This is based on an all-inclusive cost of approximately \$7,500 per student per year and a time allowance of two and one-half (2 ½) years for M.Sc. degree completion. Our long range plan includes selecting two to four truly outstanding students from this group and sending them to a U.S. university for at least a second Masters degree.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

RAMP Job Order #25 provided support for Afghan research scientists to receive specialized short-term training at selected research stations and institutes in the NWFP AU system. Our strategy consists of using these training programs as a step toward "twinning" relationships between research stations in Pakistan and Afghanistan, which will in turn lead to cooperation on research projects that have cross-border significance. Having used RAMP support to complete a total of 24 training programs at research stations in the NWFP, we have begun using \$60,000 in AID/Islamabad buy-in support to send Pakistani scientists to Afghanistan, so they can work with their counterparts in an on-the-job setting. Buy-in funds will provide support for 24 Pakistani scientists to complete two-week assignments in Afghanistan. They will serve in a mentor and cooperating scientist role, as this research collaboration moves to the next level.

BUY-IN ACTIVITIES CONTINUING THROUGH FY 06

Activities funded through the AID/Islamabad buy-in that were not completed during FY 05 and will require our continuing attention during this upcoming fiscal year are:

Establish an English Enhancement Center at the NWFPAU, with its primary purpose being to assist students from Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries who enroll for degree study. We will work with Prof. Khattak, Chairman of the English Department to establish this Center. Prof. Khattak demonstrated the need and the potential for this Center by arranging English-improvement sessions for the current group of M.Sc. students. This made a huge difference in their academic performance. The \$10,000 buy-in funds will be used for instructional materials. The Department of State Regional English Language Officer, Richard Boyum, will work with Mr. Khattak during visits to Peshawar to select materials for purchase with AID/Islamabad buy-in funds.

Establish an Office of International Programs and Services at the NWFPAU, which supports our strategy to develop working relationships between that university and selected Afghan universities. This new office can broker and facilitate institutional relationships in Afghanistan as well as relationships with other universities in the Central Asia region. When that office is established and equipped, we will help them develop brochures and promotional materials that can be used to inform a regional audience about NWFPAU capabilities and resources. The four information pieces that have been produced by our component thus far can provide some of the ingredients needed to develop these promotional materials. Public-information materials will also contribute to the AID/Islamabad strategy of moving the NWFPAU toward its role as a regional center of excellence in agricultural education, research and outreach. A functioning and visible international office will be critical in this process. The \$10,000 buy-in allocation is specified for use in equipment purchases and preparation of promotional materials.

NWFPAU Faculty Assigned to Kabul University as Visiting Professors: An Entomologist and an Agronomist, both of whom hold PhD's from U.S. universities, completed assignments during the 2005 spring semester. Funds remaining in the \$60,000 allocation will support two visiting professors for the 2005 fall semester. The Kabul University Dean of Agriculture and the Illinois Field Office Director are presently making decisions on disciplinary needs and persons available for fall semester.

Establishment of Linkages between the NWFPAU and Afghan Universities is another part of our strategy to strengthen higher education and the AID/Islamabad strategy to develop a regional center of excellence. A logical first step toward these linkages consists of inviting representatives of the potential partner institutions to Peshawar for a familiarity visit to the campus and to selected units in the research system. The President and Dean of Agriculture from Balkh University in Mazar-e-Sharif were in Peshawar for this type of visit in April. The Kabul University Dean of Agriculture will lead a delegation of his Department Heads to Peshawar for the next linkage-establishing visit. We anticipate having sufficient funds in the initial \$30,000 allocation to support at least one more familiarity visit. There is a strong likelihood that an invitation will be extended to Nangarhar University in Jalalabad. Other universities that may be considered for linkage visits are Kandahar, Herat, Takhar and Alberuni. The Illinois universities (UIUC and SIUC) will play an advisory role and provide any coaching needed as these institutions explore ways to benefit from their partner relationships.

Distribution of Region-Specific Textbooks is another approach to serving the university community in Afghanistan. AID/Islamabad funded the reprinting of a six-volume set of textbooks that was written by Pakistani authors and compiled in the mid-1990's at the conclusion of our TIPAN project. The \$50,000 AID/Islamabad allocation allowed us to reprint a total of 10,500 textbooks. The titles in this six-volume set are: Crop Production, Horticulture, Plant Breeding, Animal Husbandry, Soil Science and Extension Methods. These are among the few textbooks that are specific to conditions in Afghanistan and have been a welcome addition to university libraries. Distribution will continue until supplies are exhausted.

USDA COLLABORATION: OPTIMISM WITH UNCERTAINTY

The principal criteria being used to determine the success of this component is whether we can attract and secure additional funding to supplement our core support from USAID-ANE. Supplemental support from the RAMP project (totaling \$578,000) made a big difference, but is not part of our future plans because that project ends in July 2006. The AID/Islamabad buy-in (\$484,000) was timely and helpful, but it is impossible to predict Mission priorities and the continuation of that funding stream. Our hopes for a direct buy-in from AID/Kabul have not materialized, and preliminary discussions suggest that this year may be no different. Given this rather bleak outlook, we were pleased to see USDA collaboration emerge as a potential fit for IALC/UIUC/NWFPAU resources and a possible source of supplemental funding.

International Cooperation and Development in the Foreign Agricultural Service of USDA is currently administering a comprehensive portfolio of agricultural development projects in Afghanistan. Most practitioners recognize the fact that a critical element in this type of project activity is human capacity development through training and education. Investments in people will make these projects sustainable. Discussions have taken place in early August, on the NWFPAU campus, with a USDA delegation led by the Agricultural Attaché posted to Afghanistan and Pakistan; to explore the possibility of using NWFPAU training and technical assistance resources in support of this USDA-funded project activity. The Field Office Director represented our component in these discussions. We are confident that a mutually beneficial arrangement will emerge from this dialogue. Thus far we have provided limited support and services to USDA personnel who are assigned to the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT's). This interaction has illustrated the potential for an expanded relationship between the NWFPAU's existing resource base and the wide range of project activity in which USDA is involved in Afghanistan. The infrastructure and support staff for this component will serve as the interface between USDA needs and NWFPAU resources. Bringing these preliminary plans and discussions to fruition will be at the top of our agenda for FY 06.

ASSOCIATION LIAISON OFFICE FOR UNIVERSITY COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT

American Council on Education / American Association of Community Colleges / American Association of State Colleges and Universities Association of American Universities / National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges

September 26, 2005

Dr. John Santas
Associate Director, ACES Global Connect
College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
211 Mumford Hall, 1301 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, Illinois 61801 USA

Dear Dr. Santas:

On behalf of the Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development (ALO) and the International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education (ICCAE), Nagoya University, we are pleased invite you to participate in a seminar “Approach to Collaboration Between Universities in Japan and the United States in International Agricultural Cooperation.” The seminar will take place in Nagoya, Japan, from October 31 to November 2, 2005.

This three-day residential seminar will explore the changing role of universities in Japan and the United States in education for development. Participants will include university faculty, policy-makers and aid agency representatives from both countries. Specifically, the seminar will provide an overview of university involvement in educational cooperation from the perspective of Japan and the United States, an exchange of experiences in addressing critical issues in agricultural education in developing countries, and examples of cooperation in the field of agriculture. Participants will jointly examine components of innovative and successful models, and explore the possibility of future cooperation between universities in Japan and the United States, by addressing organizational issues and constraints, as well as aid agency policy and practice. The seminar will offer participants an opportunity not only for intellectual exchange, but also for development of the personal and professional relationships that can form the basis for future collaboration.

This activity is supported by a grant from The Japan Foundation’s Center for Global Partnership. The grant will cover your local and international travel

expenses (economy airfare) to Nagoya and return, and up to five day's lodging and per diem expenses in Nagoya to attend the seminar. Round-trip airfare and related travel expenses justifiable for the most economical way between your residence and Nagoya University will be reimbursed by Nagoya University. Please proceed with making your flight arrangements and make sure you save all receipts, itineraries, boarding passes, and related documents for reimbursement. We ask that you send a finalized itinerary to Michelle Wright, ALO Program Associate, at wrightm@aascu.org. as soon as possible.

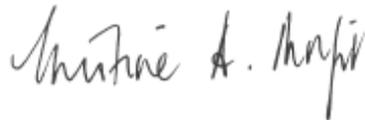
Our ICCAE colleagues will reserve accommodation for all participants at the Hotel Rubura Ohzan (Tel: 052-762-3151; <http://www.rubura.org>; 8-18 Kakuoan-dori, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya) from October 30 to November 2. The seminar will be held at the Noyori Conference Hall on the Nagoya University campus.

Participants are expected to arrive in Nagoya by early afternoon, Sunday, October 30, in time for the opening reception at 6:00 p.m., and depart Thursday, November 3. The seminar will end mid-afternoon on November 2, which will allow the rest of the day for other meetings or sightseeing.

We have attached some important information for your presentation preparation, a draft agenda, and a biodata sheet for the U.S. participants. Dr. Tetsuo Matsumoto, Professor, Nagoya University, is the primary organizer of the seminar in Nagoya. His email address is: matsumot@agr.nagoya-u.ac.jp.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to be part of this important meeting, and look forward to seeing you in Japan.

Sincerely,



Christine A. Morfit
Executive Director

Enclosures: Draft of seminar program
List of U.S. participants
Seminar information and presentation guidelines sheet

ASSOCIATION LIAISON OFFICE FOR UNIVERSITY COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT

American Council on Education / American Association of Community Colleges / American Association of State Colleges and Universities Association of American Universities / National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges

September 26, 2005

Dr. Oval Myers
Professor Emeritus
Dept. of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems
Mail Code 4415
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Carbondale, IL 62901

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This activity is supported by a grant from The Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership.

Please proceed with making your flight arrangements. We ask that you send a finalized itinerary to Michelle Wright, ALO Program Associate, at wrightm@aascu.org as soon as possible.

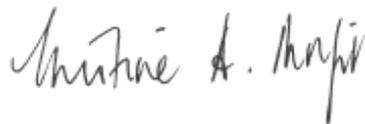
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