



Establishing a True-to-Type Tree System in Afghanistan

Afghan almond producers and marketers want to improve the productivity of their orchards so that Afghanistan becomes more competitive in the world market.

While a number of practices have been suggested and are being implemented in nurseries, the industry could also consider establishing a system to "certify" "true-to-type" trees from nurseries.

While a complete and true certification system – as practiced in California - is presently beyond the capacity of the Afghanistan industry, a system could be established requiring a "chain of custody" record keeping system. "Chain of custody" records could then be "certified" by a national organization or the Government. This would represent a significant step forward in achieving the goals of a true certification system.

The steps involved would include:

1. Documentation that Mother Block budwood came from PHPD Certified Mother Trees
2. Mother Block trees clearly identified by brand and/or paint and/or metal tag.
3. Budwood records retained by nursery –of budwood being cut for propagation.
4. Budwood stick bundles are clearly labeled meaning identity is without question.
5. Each budded row is clearly marked by budwood Mother Block number, variety
6. Nurseries retain written records of budding and nursery map
7. Before digging, trees are painted to color code for each variety.
8. At digging, trees are graded, bundled, and labeled according to color/variety

All records must be retained for 5 years for audit showing clear chain of custody of the identity of the propagation material from PHPD Mother trees to the tree being sold. Audits of production practices and record keeping procedures should be done every year (or two). To become a licensed, certified "true to type" tree producing nursery, each nursery would need to adopt the practices above.

Prepared by John Driver, Corky Lovin and Mark Bell, February 2009

This publication has been produced with the support of the European Union, Perennial Horticulture Development Program, Almond Industry Development Project, Contract: ASIE/2007/135-504, Roots of Peace, Kabul, +93 (0) 794-677-212, zach@rootsofpeace.org. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of UCD and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. Copyright © UC Regents Davis campus, 2009. All Rights Reserved.



True-to-type trees produce more uniform nuts and lead to better profits.