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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program (CHAMP)

OVERVIEW

CHAMP began in February 2010, as a four year, \$34.9 million activity that will reduce poverty among 26,000 rural Afghan farmers by dramatically increasing the productivity of existing vineyards, and by assisting them to shift from relatively low-value annual crops such as wheat, to relatively high-value perennial crops. The program helps farmers upgrade their crops from cereal and poppies to grapes and pomegranates in Hilmand and Kandahar provinces, and to apples, apricots, cherries, and almonds in the south central region. In Kandahar, Uruzgan, Hilmand, and Zabul provinces, the program focuses on trellising existing vineyards, which will double the growers' income within two years. Participants will contribute \$4.5 million of their own funds to pay the costs of the new orchards and vineyards.

Afghan men and women have traditional roles in the production, household utilization, and marketing of the family's agricultural production, and will share the benefits of the CHAMP activity. However, to insure that women specifically benefit, and to encourage equal opportunities for women, CHAMP will initiate a women's program to increase vegetable and egg production and marketing by women.

ACTIVITIES

- **Expand fruit and nut production:** Assist farmers to establish 7,000 ha of new orchards of almonds, apricots, pomegranate, and citrus
- **Expand grape production:** Assist farmers to establish 1,300 ha of additional vineyards and utilize modern trellising in 1,300 ha of existing vineyards
- **Marketing and credit activities:** Assist farmers and merchants expand exports through training and assistance in marketing practices and credit by providing a marketing specialist.
- **Women's programs:** Assist women with inputs, training, and extension to generate income from kitchen garden (vegetables) and poultry farming.
- **Capacity building:** Increase support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) for the development of market-led agricultural production and marketing
- **Technical assistance:** Provide technical assistance to rootstock nurseries on proper fertilization and budding and grafting techniques

RESULTS

- Established more than 400 ha of new orchards and vineyards
- Conducted survey in Nahraseraj and Maiwand districts of Hilmand Province to determine quality of fruit nursery operations and quality of existing saplings and vine-saplings for possible use in the coming planting seasons
- Distributed 1,024 bags of urea and 512 bags of DAP fertilizer to program beneficiaries for tree and vegetable intercropping to promote greater plant growth and better crop quality in Paktya, Paktika, and Khost provinces
- Registered 567 farmers with 226 ha of land for establishing commercial fruit orchards in Paktika, Paktya and Khost provinces
- The Gardez Apple Growers Association and the Baladi Kali Association collected detailed information about available cold storage capacities, costs, and apple buyers' prices and quality requirements in Pakistan when they visited the Islamabad and Lahore fresh fruit markets