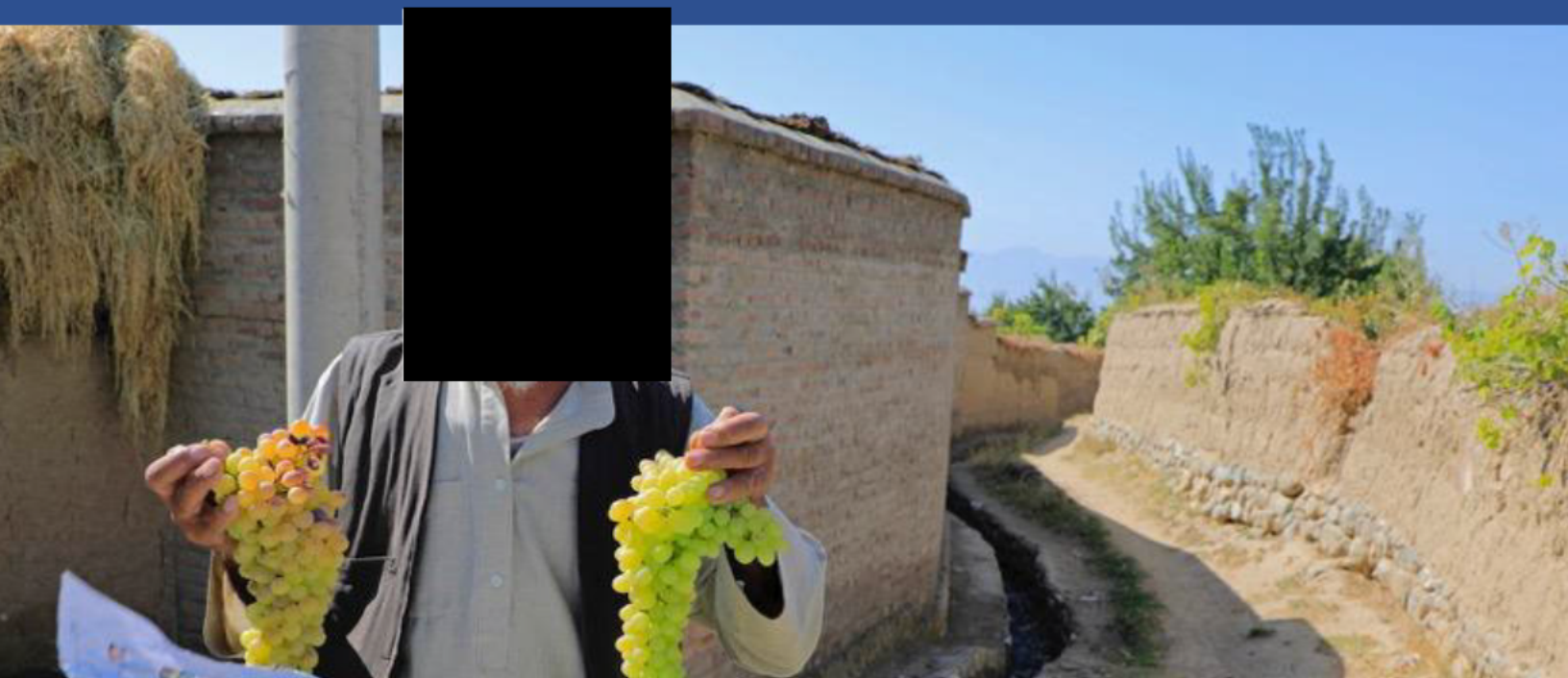


ARTF RESULTS STORIES 2020



Farmer Incomes Rise with Project Support

Afghanistan
Reconstruction
Trust Fund



FARMER INCOMES RISE WITH PROJECT SUPPORT

The [National Horticulture and Livestock Project](#) (NHLP) promotes the adoption of improved production practices and technologies by target farmers. The strategy to achieve this goal is based on the delivery of extension and investment support through strengthened systems. The project covers 291 districts across Afghanistan, and has reached over 580,000 farmers, about 40 percent of whom are women. NHLP is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. It is supported by a \$190 million grant from the ARTF. It has approved funding from December 22, 2012, to December 31, 2020.



CHALLENGES

THERE HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS in development outcomes since 2001, particularly in expanded access to water, sanitation, electricity, education, and health services, but Afghanistan continues to experience insecurity and political uncertainty. Its economy has been hard-hit by the outbreak of the new coronavirus disease due to negative impacts on consumption, exports, and remittances.

Government capacity is still weak, despite improvements. The combination of poverty, insecurity, and poor governance means that the government faces daunting challenges. To ensure that benefits of agriculture-led growth are maximized and widely shared, continued investment is required in human capital, regional connectivity, expanded infrastructure, and an improved business regulatory environment.



APPROACH

ADOPTION OF IMPROVED PRODUCTION PRACTICES by target farmers is being promoted, with gradual rollout of farmer-centric agricultural services systems and investment support. Service delivery centered on farmers will promote increased participation of beneficiaries in defining the type of services required and in the delivery itself. NHLP also will promote improved ratio of overall costs reaching beneficiaries as direct investments. The aim is, thus, to promote sustainability, effectiveness, and efficiency in the horticultural and livestock sectors.

RESULTS

Orchards: Established 32,520 hectares (ha) of new fruit and pistachio orchards; rehabilitated over 32,000 ha of existing orchards.

Kitchen gardening schemes: Established more than 143,000 schemes.

Water harvesting: Constructed about 1,300 small water harvesting structures.

Raisin production: Constructed over 2,000 raisin drying houses on a cost-sharing basis.

Producers Marketing Organization: Set up 108 Producers Marketing Organizations with a membership of over 1,900 farmers.

Livestock activities: Supported over 200,000 livestock farmers (over 60 percent women), clustering them into producers' groups. About 17 million animals have been vaccinated against brucellosis diseases.

“NHLP has helped me understand farming. All the things that I currently know about horticulture, I owe to NHLP.”

— [REDACTED], pioneer farmer, [REDACTED], Paghman district, Kabul province



Farmers Double their Income with Project Support in Kabul Province

Apple farmer [REDACTED], 55, believes that he is the best pioneer farmer in his area in Paghman district in Kabul province. As a pioneer farmer, he provides guidance to other farmers and has seen the improvements made in their farming.

"I help supervise other farmers in this area and I have seen great progress in their work," says [REDACTED] who grows mainly apples on his 3-*jerib* (0.6-hectare) orchard. "They used to earn a minimum amount of profit, but now their benefits have increased like mine."

[REDACTED] was nominated by the local *shura* (council) of his village, [REDACTED], to be a pioneer farmer in 2013 under NHLP, which is active in over 300 villages in Paghman district.

Each village nominates a pioneer farmer, who is chosen based on his good reputation in the community, long experience in agriculture, and level of education (high school graduates are preferred). The work of a pioneer farmer helps increase the reach of NHLP initiatives, which promote modern practices and knowledge on horticulture.

[REDACTED] explains his work as a pioneer farmer: "I am in contact with NHLP engineers and biologists who teach me, and in turn, I teach other farmers what I have learned. Sometimes I organize other farmers to come to my orchard and we all receive training from NHLP." The training covers topics such as irrigation methods, pesticide application, identification of plant diseases, branch pruning, and fruit harvesting.

Notable Results

For [REDACTED] and some 80 farmers in [REDACTED] village, NHLP assistance has led to notable results. "I have worked with NHLP for many years and each year, my yield and income have improved," [REDACTED] says. "The support has made a big difference."

[REDACTED] saw his annual income in 2018 double over the previous year. "In 2018, I earned 330,000 afghanis [about \$4,400], in the previous year I earned 170,000 afghanis [about \$2,300]," he says. "When NHLP first came to our village, I was earning just 50,000 afghanis [about \$670] a year from my produce."

Although a voluntary position, [REDACTED] like other pioneer farmers, receives 5,000 afghanis (about \$66) a month to cover costs incurred by the training. After the years of training, [REDACTED] is confident in his work and grateful for the changes it has made to his farming. "NHLP has helped me understand farming," he says. "All the things that I currently know about horticulture, I owe to NHLP. I now know horticulture like a professional. I am very happy with NHLP for the work they have done for us."

"I help supervise other farmers in this area and I have seen great progress in their work. They use to earn a minimum amount of profit, but now their benefits have increased like mine."

— [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] pioneer
farmer, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Paghman
district, Kabul province



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