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AFGHANISTAN

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DOC Office: +93 (0) 700 11 4015
E-mail: kabulaiddoc@usaid.gov
<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

FACT SHEET

Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program (CHAMP)

Implementation period: February 1, 2010 - December 31, 2014
Project budget: \$40,320,139

OVERVIEW

More than 80 percent of Afghans rely on agriculture to support their families. The Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program (CHAMP) works with Afghans like these by increasing yield and quality and opening up new global markets for pomegranates, apples, almonds, grapes, apricots and melons.

CHAMP works at each stage of the market process to add greater value to Afghan agricultural products, from the farmer, to the local trader, and finally to the buyer who receives high-quality produce. CHAMP's agribusiness activities grow Afghanistan's agricultural sector, create jobs, improve livelihoods, and boost the economy. CHAMP is active in 17 provinces in central, eastern, southeastern, and southern Afghanistan.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Establishing new orchards and vineyards and rehabilitating existing ones
- Linking farmers with traders, and traders with international markets
- Improving the performance of new and existing businesses
- Providing employment opportunities for women

RESULTS TO DATE

- Benefitted 36,000 Afghan households through activities ranging from establishing commercial orchards to exporting high-quality produce.
- Planted more than 2.8 million fruit saplings and grape cuttings and established 6,030 hectares of fruit orchards and vineyards and in partnership with 19,000 Afghan farmers.
- Converted more than 500 hectares of vineyards to trellising, doubling crop yield and farmers' income.
- Established more than 870 community-based Farmer Field Schools with over 12,000 members, including more than 534 women.
- Trained more than 92,000 farmers (including 1,600 women) on improved agriculture techniques, including planting, fertilization, irrigation, and disease and pest prevention.
- Trained more than 4,500 apricot producers in sulphur drying of apricots, including 750 women.
- Mainstreamed new agricultural practices, such as grape trellising, pruning ladders, collection baskets, sulfur drying of apricots, and growing produce driven by market demand.
- Helped traders adopt world standards by introducing carton boxes and plastic containers to reduce damage to fruit and provided assistance in marketing to meet buyer demand.
- Supported participation of Afghan businessmen and businesswomen in exhibitions such as Dubai's Gulfood Exhibition and the India International Trade Fair to open up new markets for Afghan produce.
- Facilitated the export of 13,500 metric tons of fresh and dried fruit and nuts worth an estimated \$15 million to international markets including Pakistan, Bahrain, Canada, India, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.
- Generated more than 6,000 permanent full-time jobs in areas such as pre-harvest and post-harvest handling as well as exporting since the start of the project.
- Constructed nearly 200 raisin-drying facilities and cold storage rooms to help farmers reap the highest profit from their harvests.