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# COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE & AGRICULTURAL MARKETING PROGRAM (CHAMP)

FEBRUARY 2010 – DECEMBER 2019

\$71 MILLION OFF-BUDGET

## OVERVIEW

The Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program (CHAMP) works with leading Afghan processing and export firms to enhance the supply chain, marketing, and export promotion of Afghan fruits and nuts. CHAMP supports traders through its trade offices located in New Delhi, India, Dubai, UAE and Almaty, Kazakhstan to boost Afghan agricultural exports in these and other major regional markets. CHAMP is working to strengthen the capacity of local packaging manufacturers, improve the skills of exporters in business administration and finance, establish an Agricultural Export Knowledge Management Unit that will disseminate reliable data on agricultural exports, promote investment in cold storage and pack house facilities, expand quality standards certification, and support freight and logistics facilitation to promote agricultural trade. These efforts will stimulate the growth of Afghan exports to regional wholesale markets and supermarkets by up to \$30 million annually.

## ACTIVITIES

- Improve pre- and post-harvest methods for fresh fruits, dried fruits, nuts and vegetables to meet market requirements.
- Link farmers with traders, and traders with domestic and international markets.
- Facilitate the export of selected fresh and dry fruits and nuts to international markets.
- Build the capacity of agribusinesses to comply with international market requirements
- Support the trade offices established in Dubai, New Delhi and Almaty to facilitate exports of agricultural products from Afghanistan.
- Establish community-based Farmer Field Schools.
- Train farmers on improved agriculture techniques, including planting, fertilization, irrigation, and disease and pest control.
- Support traders to adopt global packing standards by introducing corrugated cartons and plastic containers to reduce damage to fruit during shipment.
- Assist Afghan exporters to participate in exhibitions such as the Gulfood Exhibition and the India International Trade Fair to open new markets for Afghan produce.
- Mainstream new agricultural practices, such as trellising, pruning ladders, collection baskets, sulfur drying of apricots, and growing produce driven by market demand.
- Provide matching grants to private sector firms for the improvement of existing packing houses, packaging manufacturers and cold storage facilities.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Facilitated exports of 86,700 metric tons of fresh and dried fruit and nuts worth an estimated \$116 million since 2010 to international markets including Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Canada, India, Germany, Iraq, the U.S., Australia, the Netherlands the UAE, Russia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.
- Benefitted 38,400 Afghan households through activities ranging from establishing commercial orchards to exporting high quality produce.
- Created more than 8,725 full-time jobs through opportunities afforded by increased production, quality improvement and export facilitation.
- Increased 19,714 farmers' incomes 4.5 fold by assisting them to switch from annual crops to perennial horticultural crops.
- Helped 19,500 farmers to plant more than 2.85 million fruit saplings, pomegranate and grape rooted cuttings, and converted 6,170 hectares previously used for cereal crops to fruit orchards and vineyards.
- Assisted 2,900 farmers to trellis 600-hectares of existing vineyards in Kabul, Parwan, Logar, Ghazni, Zabul, Helmand and Kapisa provinces, realizing yield increases of more than 100% and a significant increase in quality over traditional methods.
- Established more than 230 improved raisin-drying facilities and cool rooms for apples in partnership with farmers.

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