

AGRICULTURE MARKETING PROGRAM (AMP)

Final Report



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This report is intended to provide USAID and other stakeholders with an end-of-project report on the Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP). Produced to meet the requirements of the AMP Cooperative Agreement, the report lists achieved results and describes the context of operations, implementation processes, and program and environmental changes during the entire course of program implementation. The reporting period is January 28, 2020, through September 30, 2023.

The documents used in developing this report include all AMP quarterly progress reports, as well as supplementary project documents (surveys, assessments, etc.). These documents are available upon request from Roots of Peace Headquarters in San Rafael, California.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) or the United States Government.

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Abbreviations

ACCI	Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries
ADF	Agriculture Development Fund
AVC-HVC	Afghanistan Value Chains - High Value Crops
AVC-L	Afghanistan Value Chains - Livestock
ANNGO	Afghan National Nursery Growers' Organization
B2B	Business-to-business
B2F	Business-to-farmer
CHAMP	Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing Program
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
EOI	Expression of Interest
FFS	Farmer Field School
FSSAI	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HA	Hectare
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
IP	Implementing Partner
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LN	Local national
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MOIC	Ministry of Industry and Commerce
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Metric ton
PAIL	Provincial Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
PPE	Personnel Protective Equipment
RADP-E	Regional Agriculture Development Program-East
RFA	Request for Applications
ROP	Roots of Peace
TOT	Training of Trainers
UAE	United Arab Emirates
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	U.S. Dollar

Preface

AMP was conceived as a three-year follow-up to the ten-year USAID Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program (CHAMP), implemented by Roots of Peace. In 2010, when CHAMP began its work, many of its client farmers were lacking viable fruit saplings and basic vineyard technology. By the end of the project, the improved yields of those farms were appearing on supermarket shelves around the world. AMP was envisioned as a mechanism for building on those gains, primarily in export marketing. It would expand the number of regional and international markets where Afghan high-value products were sold, particularly Europe, China, and the Middle East. It would also expand the number of new products being exported.

These original ambitions did not take into consideration a global pandemic (which began only two months into the program) or a Taliban takeover of the Afghan government. How AMP weathered these challenges through three major iterations of its work plan, finding the means to meet and often exceed its continually evolving targets, is outlined in this final report.

Purpose of the report. This report, produced to meet the requirements of the AMP cooperative agreement, is intended to provide USAID and other audiences with basic information about the project, its results and its larger impact on Afghan farmers and agribusiness beneficiaries. It is the hope of Roots of Peace that the report will prove useful to researchers, planners, and managers of future development projects in conflict areas.

Contents and structure. This report lists achieved results and describes the context of operations, implementation processes, and program and environmental changes. Activities comprise three distinct phases of AMP's three-year evolution:

Phase I – Jan 2020 - August 2021

Phase II – August 2021 - January 2023

Phase III – February 2023 - September 2023

Following the activity section, the report describes AMP's achievement of program indicators, administrative functions as well as challenges, recommendations and lessons learned.

Source materials. The documents used in developing this report include AMP quarterly progress reports as well as supplementary project documents (surveys, assessments, interviews, etc.). A bibliography is included, and copies of these documents are available at Roots of Peace headquarters upon request.

Executive Summary



Executive Summary

AMP began on January 28, 2020, under a three-year cooperative agreement with a budget of \$30,000,000 and an additional cost-share amount of \$3,828,000. This agreement would undergo nine modifications over the next three years, revamping the project's scope and focus in tandem with changes in the global and political workspace. The project would receive a no-cost extension in its final year, extending its operational period to September 30, 2023, and reducing the cost-share amount by US\$1 million.

Phase I

AMP's first incarnation was as a program envisioned to increase the production and export of agricultural products to regional and global markets. The first fiscal year of operations was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected all areas of program implementation. Shortly after operations began, AMP was forced to evacuate (March 2020) as the pandemic began sweeping through Afghanistan. Expat and local staff worked from home until September, when the office began a phased reopening. The resiliency of the program was further put to the test by the collapse of the Afghan government in mid-August 2021. With the Taliban takeover and the closing of the U.S. Embassy, AMP was required by USAID to pause operations while a new operational mandate could be developed. Phase I continued until February 1, 2022, when a pivot plan was approved by USAID.

During Phase I, AMP's five key strategies were collated under four components:

1. Commercial Production

AMP worked to **establish new orchards and vineyards** to generate job opportunities and reduce poverty among rural Afghan farmers by helping them shift from relatively low-value annual crops, such as wheat, to relatively high-value perennial crops. During the first half of FY2021, AMP



A fruit tree sapling is shown being planted in a new orchard owned by an AMP client farmer.

established 675 ha of new orchards benefiting 2,298 farmers in eight provinces. More than 401,760 saplings and grape cuttings were distributed. For a second round of orchard establishment, 1,500 new farmers with 560 ha of land were registered to participate in Phase II. AMP conducted over 2,726 farm visits to provide technical assistance on good agricultural practices and climate smart agriculture.

AMP conducted **Training of Trainers** sessions aimed at helping fruit growers generate higher yields from their orchards/vineyards and adding value to their products. A total of 378 participants were trained in GAP, IPM and post-harvest management practices.

A core principle of AMP methodology centered on building the capacity of individual farmers to sustainably improve their products for supply to regional and international markets. The **Farmer Field School** was a learning process whereby farmers were presented with new technologies, new ideas, new situations and new ways of responding to agricultural challenges. A total of 435 FFS sessions were held for 4,384 farmers during Phase I.

AMP trained 124 lead farmers, 3,000 sub-farmers and 15 AMP and PAIL extension officers in **apricot**

sulfur drying in Zabul and Ghazni Provinces

2. Business Development

Activities under this component ensured that client agribusinesses had the capacity and know-how to meet export demands. AMP signed Memoranda of Understanding with 119 partner agribusinesses to participate in **business development** interventions during Phase I.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and the country-wide lockdown, in-class training was not feasible during Phase I. AMP therefore developed an online platform to make **training courses** available to target traders and businesses. A total of 13 training courses were published online, with 1,037 participants (839 male, 198 female) completing the courses.

AMP conducted two one-day **workshops** “Introduction to International Food Safety Management Systems Certifications: ISO 22000-2018 and FSSC 22000 V5.1 and HACCP” for 44 agribusiness participants.

AMP rolled out a program of **business incentives** designed to offset investment risks in value addition and new product development for agribusinesses. By the end of Phase I, AMP had created incentive opportunities worth over \$2.45 million, including \$1.3 million in matching contributions.

AMP created a **graphic communications unit** to assist agribusiness firms in developing professional logos, **websites**, packaging designs and marketing materials. AMP also developed a brand identity for Afghan agricultural products so that products from Afghanistan could be widely identified at trade shows and on supermarket shelves throughout the world.



AMP supported eight agribusinesses at the **Spring Agricultural Fair** in Kabul, where they showcased their products and formed linkages with local buyers.

3. Export Marketing

This component comprised activities aimed at increasing the growth of **export trade** in existing overseas markets such as India and the UAE and new or emerging markets such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and other countries in the region.

AMP supported Afghan traders at six **international trade shows** in the UAE, India, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey despite severe travel restrictions. AMP's agribusiness clients netted nearly \$89 million in confirmed deals for 19,296 MT of products.



An Afghan exporter discusses his dried fruit selection with buyers at Gulfood 2021.

AMP worked with its agribusiness clients to facilitate \$87 million (1,748 MT) in **exports** to traditional export markets and \$44 million (1,277 MT) to new markets.

AMP implemented an **air cargo** initiative to ensure a quick remedy for exporters seeking to export to the UAE and Indian markets during the pandemic. Two shipments were made to the UAE and two to India, with a total volume of 108 MT valued at nearly \$300,000.

AMP completed an inventory of products to be included in a **horticultural product catalog**.

Market Guides and **Import Guides** were also drafted with an eye to extending the reach of Afghan exporters into new markets. Plans were made for **trade offices** in India, the Gulf region and Turkey. But with the end of export facilitation activities, these activities were shelved at the end of Phase I.

AMP worked throughout Phase I to mitigate **trade issues** for its client exporters shipping to India. It also provided loan facilitation to four exporters accessing more than \$720,000.

4. Gender and Youth Integration

AMP selected 14 **women-owned/managed agribusiness** in five provinces for ongoing support.

AMP facilitated **mentorships** enabling five women-owned agribusinesses to work alongside established male-owned firms to receive training in processing and business skills.

AMP supported women-owned agribusinesses at domestic and international **trade shows**. One woman-owned firm, for example, signed deals for \$17 million in products at Gulfood in 2021.

Women-owned firms received support in improving their **brand identity** through logo development, marketing materials and collateral graphics.

B2B meetings linked women agribusinesses, suppliers/processors, and local and domestic supermarkets to establish business relationships and supply products.

AMP also facilitated the participation of 12 women agribusinesses in the 3rd Women's National **Entrepreneurship Summit** in Kabul.



A Herat saffron and dried fruit processor displays product samples at the Eid Bazaar Tradeshow.

Phase II

This second phase of AMP operations began with the launch of the Pivot Plan on February 1, 2022. During Phase II, AMP officially shut down all export facilitation and participation in international trade shows. The Taliban takeover brought a halt to many gender integration activities, as women business owners went into hiding or fled the country. All trade promotion activities were halted by USAID. Despite these challenges and many others, AMP was able to outperform most of its program indicators.



Bukhdy Bami generated \$26,000 in saffron sales at the Kabul AgFair.

This phase was characterized by political insecurity, humanitarian conflict and a food security and economic crisis. It saw a complete program makeover as AMP pivoted to more farm-based production work. AMP continued to seek ways of improving livelihoods by providing farm technology, building horticultural skills, and assisting women as home income providers.

Phase II activities comprised three strategies:

1. Connecting Farmers to Domestic Markets

AMP began by assessing and identifying 102 potential client agribusinesses. A total of 72 agribusiness MOUs were signed. AMP facilitated **linkages** between those clients and partners including farmers, intermediaries, and

wholesalers.

AMP worked with a total of **191 client agribusinesses**, providing them with market data, supporting them at linkage events with farmers, supporting them at domestic trade shows and other activities

aimed at helping them increase domestic sales. This number included 72 new domestic agribusinesses (5 of which were women-owned or managed and three owned or managed by youth).

During Phase II, AMP recorded sales of over \$41,405,338 million by client agribusinesses to domestic markets.

AMP organized a total of 1,488 **linkage events** between agribusinesses, farmers, processors, middlemen or agents, and wholesalers. The attendees made a total of 2,560 sales commitments resulting in verified sales of \$2,237,162.

Under the Phase II pivot, AMP shifted its focus from export promotion events to **domestic trade shows**. AMP supported 103 agribusinesses to attend four domestic trade events.

During Phase II, AMP collected **domestic market prices** for fresh fruits, dry fruits, nuts, staple crops, and vegetables every week at the wholesale level. Priority was given to sales prices in domestic markets with a focus on staple commodities and fresh fruits.



Women receive training on food safety related to home-based dried fruit & nut processing in Mazar-i Sharif, Balkh Province.

AMP provided processors and wholesalers in Herat and Nangarhar with two days of **classroom instruction** on "Post-harvest Management, Good Manufacturing Practices, Food Safety, and Agronomic Principles" for 42 participants. AMP also conducted two days of classroom training on "Post-harvest Management, Good Manufacturing Practices, Food Safety and Agronomic Principles" for 17 Kabul-based processors and wholesalers.

AMP's Grant & Incentive Program supported businesses to make **renovations and improvements** to their processing centers, warehouses, wholesale markets and cold stores. A total of 49 businesses received Incentive payments for facility renovations and improvements.

AMP worked to build the wholesale sector. A total of 77 agribusinesses were provided with financial support to improve **product handling and packaging**, undertake third-party processing and transport products throughout the country.

A total of 9 grants were implemented during Phase II in the areas of input distribution and capacity building to expand access to **nutritionally dense crops**. These supported 6,755 farmers (of which 1,379 were female).

2. Increasing Value-Add and Shelf Life

Requests for Applications were formally released for AMP's **Grant and Incentive Program**, soon after the pivot plan was approved. By the end of Phase II, AMP had received a total of 238 applications, 133 of which had been completed.

Five modules of a training course for **cold storage** operators were launched in Phase II. A total of 96 trainees completed the courses.

Two grants for upgrading cold storage facilities were implemented during Phase II.

AMP held a variety of training courses/mini conferences on **grape post-harvest handling and raisin processing** for fresh fruit businesses in Herat, Kabul, Balkh and Kandahar.

AMP signed incentive agreements with 26 women-owned or -managed businesses supporting activities creating or strengthening **employment opportunities** for women. A total of 5 grants directly focused on women or were implemented by women-owned businesses/community groups.



AMP worked with several agribusinesses to provide product photography and other graphic support to help them build their brand.

AMP provided in-person and online training in various **business management** topics to maximize the impact of grants and incentives, and strengthen technical and organizational capacity of client organizations. AMP completed delivery of 10 in-person trainings for 281 individuals representing AMP partner agribusinesses (including 91 women) in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar and Kandahar. AMP also made the trainings available online, in Dari and Pashto, to its database of more than 1,000 participants.

Many of AMP's clients lacked the necessary branding needed to compete in the increasingly sophisticated market. AMP assisted 63

agribusinesses in redeveloping their corporate image, developing marketing collateral, and product labelling and packaging designs.

Development of the **Afghan Product Catalog** continued during Phase II with additional photography and graphic design. But with the pivot to domestic marketing activities, this effort was suspended.

3. Support for Remote Rural Farmers

AMP held **Training of Trainers** sessions in eight provinces to strengthen the technical capabilities of 1,093 AMP extension team members and lead farmers.

During Phase II, 623 **FFS** training sessions were held in 10 provinces for 8,687 farmers (279 of whom were female).

AMP continued **orchard establishment** activities begun in Phase I, creating 1,739 new orchards comprising 751.5 ha. AMP conducted over 8,000 farm visits by technical staff to ensure the survival of new orchards.

Trellising was undertaken in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Balkh, Kunduz, Ghazni, Maidan Wardak and Nangarhar for 214 ha of vineyards. This improved the vineyards of 487 farmers and resulted in the generation of 58 FTE jobs.

AMP trained 416 farmers (24 of whom were women) in **apricot sulfur drying** techniques in Zabul, Logar, Ghazni and Kunduz Provinces.

AMP facilitated the construction of 30 **greenhouses** for farmers in five provinces, thereby extending the crop season.

AMP rehabilitated the Kanni Kulaw **canal** in Paktia Province. **The rehabilitation brought some 2,000 ha of land under irrigation.** A total of 42 **drip irrigation** systems were begun. Each system serviced a one-hectare orchard.



An AMP TOT session is shown in Ghazni Province.

Phase III

AMP's third phase of operations began on January 28, 2023, with the signing of a No-Cost Extension that would continue program activities under the existing budget until September 30, 2023. This



Farmers are trained on effective irrigation, intercropping and sucker removal, Nangarhar Province.

period of activity was motivated in large part by successive decrees by the Taliban limiting the rights, movement, and education of Afghan women.

During its final eight months of activities, AMP would continue many of the activities that were begun under the Phase II pivot. Rural farm activities such as orchard/vineyard establishment, trellising, intercropping training, quality improvement (FFS), greenhouses and irrigation would continue to be advanced. Business development, cold chain development, food processing and business strengthening would also be continued, though with a focus on ends that improved the livelihoods and capacity of women.

These activities were organized under three objectives in line with USAID development priorities.

1. New Technologies to Former High Conflict Zones

Orchard establishment continued under Phase III. A total of 693 ha (3,465 jeribs) of land was laid out for the establishment of orchards in 49 remote districts in 11 provinces.

More than 5,600 fruit growers in 11 provinces received **technical assistance** related to orchard maintenance.

FFS training continued during Phase III, with 698 FFS training sessions held for 6,782 farmers.

AMP extension officers trained **greenhouse recipients** on seed selection through classroom instruction and site visits.

2. Protect Women's Gains

AMP shifted its **grant and incentive** focus to support female farmers, women-owned agribusinesses, female entrepreneurs, and women-focused NGOs by issuing a new simplified RFA. A total of 52 grants were completed under the new RFA, with 185 grants and incentives completed overall.

AMP created the **Enterprise Development Platform** to provide online knowledge, networking opportunities, and resources to Afghan businesses and entrepreneurs, particularly youth, women, and those interested or engaged in the agricultural sector. The EDP published more than 320 posts, the majority of them focusing on marketing, agriculture, and personal development. The EDP social media accounts had around 20,000 followers.

AMP continued to support women-owned agribusiness owners with professional branding and graphics in logo design, packaging designs and marketing collateral.



Women from Nangarhar Province benefited from an AMP grant aimed at encouraging production of high-value crops through training and the distribution of sesame seed, fertilizer, and toolkits.

AMP supported women-owned or -managed agribusinesses at two **domestic trade events** where they inked deals and created linkages for future sales.

A total of 57 partner agribusinesses were assisted by AMP during Phase III, either through incentives meant to boost **domestic sales** or through support at domestic trade events. These partner agribusinesses generated domestic sales of \$748,529.

3. Resilience

AMP completed rehabilitation of three **irrigation canals** in Logar, Kandahar and Ghazni provinces.



Workers install stone masonry on one of AMP's five canal and karez rehabilitation projects.

The activities provided more than 12,000 man-days of employment for the local community.

AMP also completed rehabilitation of two **karez**s in Zabul and Kandahar provinces. These provided 5,579 man-days of employment to the local community.

The 42 **drip irrigation** systems begun in 2022 were all completed in Phase III. Each system serviced a one-hectare orchard.

AMP trained 1,258 client farmers on effective surface **irrigation techniques** to enhance their ability to manage water resources efficiently, reduce water wastage and optimize crop yields.

Performance Indicators

A total of 24 performance indicators showed achievements throughout AMP's project lifetime. AMP met or exceeded targets on 16 of these indicators. Five of the remaining indicators did not meet targets because the indicator was removed or the activity was terminated.

Background



Introduction

Historical Context

While Afghanistan has long been known throughout the region as a producer of quality fresh and dried fruits, nuts and spices, the country has not traditionally been a volume exporter of agricultural goods. More than 80% of Afghan people derive their primary source of income from farming, livestock production or both, but the majority of Afghan farms are smallholdings of less than 1 hectare. This has limited Afghanistan's ability to shift to an export economy.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Afghan agriculture thrived, with farmers producing abundant fruits, vegetables, and cereal crops for the country's people. Exports of pomegranates, raisins, apricots, and dried fruits were known the world over. From its strategic location along the famous Silk Road, Afghanistan exported more than 60 percent of its agricultural products to lucrative markets in South Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the former Soviet Union.

Three decades of war, however, left Afghanistan's farming infrastructure in ruins. Farm families were scattered, export linkages were broken, and centuries of valuable farm knowledge was lost. Afghan produce exports were halted and the once formidable agricultural producer became dependent on aid and imports to sustain its population.

Following the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, which began in late 2001, USAID undertook what would become an investment of more than \$2.1 billion to help rebuild the country, including more than 60 programs focused on agriculture. Early USAID programs focused on direct humanitarian assistance to relieve a war-weary populace. In 2004, these efforts were directed at stopping the production and flow of opium from the southern part of the country. Other efforts were aimed at alleviating the effects of one of the worst droughts in Afghanistan's history in 2007-2008, which led to a dangerous drop in production of wheat and other cereal crops.

In 2010, USAID shifted its focus from stabilization to longer-term development. The ten-year Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program (CHAMP) would become an important component of that strategy. The \$71 million program helped Afghan farmers shift from cultivating opium poppy and lower-value annual crops such as wheat to higher-value perennial crops, such as apples, apricots, almonds, pomegranates, and grapes, by developing orchards, trellising vineyards, and linking producers to merchants for domestic and export sales. Its focus evolved throughout its decade of implementation, shifting from an initial emphasis on farm production to one that emphasized export marketing. The program supported the export of \$289 million in agricultural exports, trained 118,000 farmers in agricultural techniques and planted nearly 3 million saplings and cuttings in its orchard establishment activities.

To maintain the gains and momentum in exports achieved by CHAMP, USAID conceived a follow-up program that would serve the aim of expanding exports and exportable products into a wider range of markets. The Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP) would utilize the assets and many of the personnel in place from CHAMP. It would support the USAID/Afghanistan Mission's Country Development Cooperation Strategy, which focused on promoting greater economic stability and connectivity through international trade promotion. This was in line with Afghanistan's National Export Strategy, whereby increased agricultural exports served as the core driver of international trade and investment growth in Afghanistan.

AMP's original focus was twofold:

- (a) a focus on private sector-led agricultural development by facilitating exports and establishing trading relationships with buyers and retailers using approximately 80% of the program budget.
- (b) supporting peace by developing market linkages and value addition in newly de-escalated areas, which would utilize the remaining 20% of the program budget.

As will be seen, this strategy relied on the status quo that existed in late 2019 and would be overturned, at the very outset of program implementation, by the historical events that followed.

Evolving Scope of the Program

AMP began on January 28, 2020, under a three-year cooperative agreement with a budget of \$30,000,000 and an additional cost-share amount of \$3,828,000, later reduced to \$2,828,000 during Phase III under a modification of the agreement. This agreement would undergo nine modifications over the next three years, revamping the project's scope and focus in tandem with changes in the global and political workspace. The project would receive a no-cost extension in its final year, extending its operational period to September 30, 2023.

Phase I - 2020-2021

The program initially focused on increasing the production and export of agricultural products to regional and global markets. Although AMP supported all provinces, it emphasized nine provinces in the country's major production areas. To accomplish its objective, AMP's implementation plan pursued five strategies.

Increase bulk agricultural exports to existing markets. This strategy focused on strengthening market linkages between Afghan agribusinesses and existing export markets. It planned to establish trade offices in India and the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan's key export markets; develop and disseminate guides to accessing these markets; promote market linkages by helping businesses more effectively promote their products through sponsoring their participation in international trade shows; and address impediments to trade.

Expand the number of export products. AMP conducted research and analysis to identify the most promising markets for Afghan agricultural products and the requirements for these markets. The program then piloted shipments of select products to target markets. The pilot shipments identified practical opportunities for traders and processors to expand exports.

Develop new markets for Afghan exports. AMP researched new export markets to determine the demand for Afghan products, the market requirements (e.g., tariffs, preferential trade regimes, regulatory requirements, and standards), and the characteristics of alternative trade corridors. The program then used these data to identify markets into which Afghan firms could practically expand.

Increase the value-add of agricultural exports. The program assessed the demand for value-added products for export and the capacity of Afghan farmers and businesses to supply these products. It then helped build the capacities of Afghan businesses to develop and market the products that showed potential. The program's assistance to businesses included subsidizing the cost of equipment and infrastructure upgrades; improving their branding and promotion products and materials; and providing training in business development, communication, and marketing.

Develop remote rural areas to support the peace effort. This strategy involved working with farmers to increase the quantity and quality of high-value agricultural products with export potential—primarily horticultural crops. The strategy focused largely on establishing new orchards and vineyards as well as promoting productivity-enhancing practices to increase production and product quality. AMP subsidized investments in inputs (saplings, grape cuttings, and fertilizers), tools, and infrastructure (e.g., trellises) and established Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to train farmers.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 forced AMP to reconsider the bulk of its strategic planning. Travel restrictions that were imposed to slow the spread of the virus led to the cancellation of most international trade shows in which AMP planned to participate in 2020 and first half of 2021. The restrictions also hampered international trade by impeding cross-border land shipments and significantly reducing air traffic out of Afghanistan, which reduced the cargo capacity available to export products by air. Training programs shifted to online platforms, a change that would reap benefits under the crippling social proscriptions of the subsequent phase.

The Taliban takeover of the Afghan government triggered a substantial realignment of USAID programming in Afghanistan. Following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, USAID required AMP to briefly suspend operations. In October 2021, USAID asked AMP to develop a new strategy that pivoted from export facilitation and promotion to supporting access to domestic markets and improving livelihoods and food security.

Phase II - 2022

Effective February 1, 2022, AMP operated under a new implementation approach with three outcomes/strategies. The new strategies refocused original strategies 1 and 4 to emphasize domestic markets; dropped strategies 2 and 3; and boosted resources to strategy 5 to enhance farm-level production, livelihoods, and food security. Activities were focused on 11 key provinces.

Improving farmers' links to domestic markets. Interventions under this strategy largely mirrored those under the initial strategy, but with a pivot to domestic instead of export markets. This approach involved substituting domestic exhibitions for international trade shows, dropping international trade offices and missions, and refocusing other activities on domestic markets.

Increasing the value-add of agricultural products. Interventions under this strategy used training to build farm- and community-level capacities for value addition (e.g., improved apricot drying techniques) and enhanced product quality through improved farm-level pre- and post-harvest handling.

Supporting remote rural areas. This strategy increased investment in establishing and improving orchards and vineyards; improving irrigation; and expanding on-farm, post-harvest processing. It also expanded the focus beyond high-value horticultural crops to include staple crop production.

Phase III

The final phase of AMP (which began on January 28, 2023) came in response to growing proscriptions on the freedom and movement of Afghan women. Under Phase III, AMP shifted its focus to addressing the economic security of women. The program increased the number of women-owned businesses with which it worked, from 12 to 36, prioritized subsidizing women-owned business participation in domestic exhibitions and continued the grants program to support women-owned or -managed businesses in kitchen gardening training and food processing. AMP continued to offer Farmer Field School, orchard establishment, trellising, and irrigation rehabilitation activities, which primarily benefited male farmers. These activities took place in 12 provinces and fell under three objectives:

New Technologies to Former High Conflict Zones. Interventions supported orchard/vineyard establishment, quality improvement, high-density orchard establishment and off-season greenhouse vegetable production.

Protect Women's Gains. Under this objective, grants supported the provision of agricultural inputs, agricultural production and processing, agricultural and food processing equipment, infrastructure and marketing, and business development support, such as online training.

Resilience. Interventions supported the rehabilitation of irrigation systems (canals and karezes), soil and water conservation training, and drip irrigation systems.

Collaboration

Afghanistan Government

In its first phase, AMP engaged the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), PAIL, Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) and the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan.

AMP sought the support and approval of MAIL before rolling out interventions in target provinces.

AMP provided regular updates to MAIL of its work and sought its advice in achieving effective project implementation. All activities began with an MOU with MAIL, which then introduced AMP and its activities to field offices of its Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL). These were then followed by direct discussions between AMP and relevant DAIL authorities on methods and means for collaboration. CHAMP regularly included MAIL and DAIL staff into its horticultural training programs to create a sustainable pool of knowledge that would live on after the life of the program.

Interim Government

Following the collapse of the Afghan government, AMP forged relationships with the Taliban leadership at the provincial and district levels. AMP worked with the Taliban to find mutually beneficial solutions that allowed women to work and be educated without breaching new social edicts. This collaboration was critical for program success, particularly with regard to activities that involved women.

Private and Public Sector

In the initial phase of the program, AMP worked with the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) and the public universities of Balkh, Herat, Kandahar and Kabul to facilitate linkages and interaction between local public universities and the agribusiness industries in AMP target provinces.

USAID Implementing Partners

AMP also collaborated with other USAID projects, updating them on project activities, alerting them to possibilities for expanding their projects into zones served by the project and inviting them to implement components of their projects in support of AMP. These included:

- Agriculture Development Fund (ADF)
- Afghanistan Value Chains - High Value Crops (AVC-HVC)
- Afghanistan Value Chains - Livestock (AVC-L)
- Regional Agriculture Development Programs (RADP)

Sustainability

A central tenet of AMP's market-based and demand-driven approach is that to achieve sustainable results the private sector has to be the engine driving profitability and growth. AMP's interventions were guided by a systemic approach with sustainability factored into all activities. These activities, addressing the needs of farmers, agribusiness owners and other project clients, were not seen as an end unto themselves but as a catalyst for profit. AMP recognized that sustainability needs to be nurtured, and in some instances even fostered, by players outside of the private sector. Accordingly, AMP worked with public sector organizations such as MAIL's Private Sector Directorate and other government agencies. AMP also worked with private sector organizations (e.g. ACCI) to help tackle important impediments to the supply chain in areas such as freight and logistics, and food safety certifications that restrict the export of high value agriculture products.

In line with AMP's commercial focus, a central aspect of program sustainability was the development of linkages between agribusinesses and lead farmers. These commercial relations were vital in ensuring a steady product supply, which in turn expanded farmer employment and incomes. This also ensured that the product was delivered at appropriate quality levels and was handled and processed in accordance with best food safety standards. The effects of the Taliban takeover, however, posed a threat to the sustainability of some market linkages formed with AMP assistance, especially for businesses that relied on international trade that do not have strong, existing linkages to export markets and a presence outside of Afghanistan to handle monetary transfers. Until the travel restrictions and banking problems associated with the Taliban takeover ease, some export-oriented businesses will find it difficult to maintain relationships with foreign partners using only traditional business practices. The longer these restrictions persist, the more difficult it will become to resurrect relationships. Women-owned businesses, in particular, will have trouble sustaining foreign or domestic business relationships if they face additional challenges engaging in business.

Sustainability was at the core of AMP's Grant and Incentive activities. Recognizing that client buy-in is critical for the success of any activity, AMP required client participation in the form of copayments that varied from 10% to 50%. Copayments were also required from farmers participating in orchard establishment, trellising, drip irrigation, greenhouses and other activities involving tangible goods. Recognizing the disparity in means between Afghan men and women, copayments were often minimized and sometimes eliminated for activities targeting women beneficiaries.

Project Activities

2020 - 2023



AMP Phase I



AMP Phase I

The initial AMP cooperative agreement called for a three-year program period beginning January 28, 2020 and ending January 27, 2023. Under its initial program description, AMP would operate in 10 provinces in the major production areas of Afghanistan. The program would work with leading Afghan processing and export firms to increase export volumes and values, introduce new agricultural products to the market, diversify export markets and increase value-added processing. These efforts would stimulate the growth of Afghan exports to regional wholesale markets and supermarkets by up to \$450 million, increase domestic sales by \$50 million and add 4,500 jobs to the Afghan economy. AMP would support traders through trade offices to boost Afghan agricultural exports in these and other major regional markets.

Activities included: researching new market opportunities for Afghan products; operating trade offices in key markets; organizing or participating in international business-to-business (B2B) events, trade missions and trade shows; organizing promotional activities in key markets; providing incentives for businesses exporting new products or to new markets; exporter training; facilitating access to trade credit; and mitigating trade impediments.

These activities fell under five specific strategies:

- Strategy #1: Increase bulk agriculture exports to existing markets
- Strategy #2: Expand the number of export products
- Strategy #3: Develop new markets for Afghan exports
- Strategy #4: Increase value-add of agriculture exports
- Strategy #5: Develop remote rural areas to support the peace effort

During the second fiscal year, these strategies were aggregated under four components:

1. Commercial Production
2. Business Development
3. Export Marketing
4. Gender and Youth Integration

The first fiscal year of operations for AMP was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected all areas of program implementation. Shortly after it began operations, AMP was forced to evacuate (March 2020) as the pandemic began sweeping through Afghanistan. Expat and local staff worked from home until September, when the office began a phased reopening.

Throughout this first year, AMP took a leadership role working in collaboration with USAID and other implementing partners in addressing Afghan-Pakistan transit issues and challenges. The collateral impacts of the pandemic and these trade disputes resulted in a growing concern for food security. AMP worked with producers and traders to focus on supplying local markets, providing a short-term alternative to shuttered export markets.

While COVID-19 resulted in the cancellation of business-related training, it enabled AMP to rethink the development and delivery of business development and market initiatives through online platforms. Not only were AMP clients able to take advantage of these innovations, but the interventions would also reach a broader potential audience within the overall agribusiness sector. This would also make AMP better able to navigate the political challenges to come.

The second fiscal year began under the lifting cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic and ended in the chaos of regime change. AMP had by now adapted to the former, developing creative tools to address the challenges of carrying out work in a society in quarantine. The program had shifted its internal collaboration to online platforms, classroom training courses were converted to online modules and relationships between traders and buyers also moved online. Despite a resurgence of

COVID-19 under the Delta variant, AMP continued to outperform most of its indicator targets.

The resiliency of the program was put to the test by the collapse of the Afghan government in mid-August 2021. The program had already adapted to the deteriorating security situation in several districts where it was working, which happened in lockstep with the drawdown of foreign troops. The northern Aqina border was closed, requiring traders to ship commodities through Hairatan to Turkey and EU markets, thus incurring higher shipping costs. Agribusinesses proved hesitant to stock up their warehouses, concerned that their products might be lost, or the roads closed due to localized fighting. Many goods were in short supply due to regular fighting in the provinces, on the connecting roads and at the edges of cities.

With the Taliban takeover and the closing of the U.S. Embassy, AMP was required by USAID to pause operations while a new mission mandate could be developed. Phase I continued until February 1, 2022, when a pivot plan was approved by USAID.

I. Commercial Production

Activities under this component took place in contested areas, or areas formerly held by anti-government elements, to provide immediate, visible impact and hope for the farmers of those regions. As the livelihoods in remote rural areas are dominated by agriculture, AMP support was aimed at providing skills training and business opportunities to raise the standard of living of farmers in those areas.

Crop and Market Connection Assessment

In preparation for AMP's activities under this component, AMP undertook a survey to identify crops/varieties currently grown, climate adaptation, current production methods, economic viability and potential for growth, and transport capability. The purpose of the survey was to guide the team in determining the best type of activities to help its rural client farmers, the types of crops, and the training needed. The survey was conducted in each district of the program and comprised all players of the chain including farmers, exporters, and extension team members. AMP interviewed 435 producers of different crops in 29 districts of its target provinces. AMP also visited local markets and collected market price information from vendors. The surveys were finalized in early FY2021.

Orchard/Vineyard Establishment

AMP worked to establish new orchards and vineyards to generate job opportunities and reduce poverty among rural Afghan farmers by helping them shift from relatively low-value annual crops, such as wheat, to relatively high-value perennial crops, such as citrus, apples, pears, peaches, apricots, almonds, grapes and other fruits, depending on the local climate. Participants received saplings and cuttings, assistance with layout and planting and other incentives.

In keeping with AMP's "Afghan First" policy, the program worked with Afghanistan National Nursery Growers Organization (ANNGO) provincial members to source the saplings. Farmers dealt directly with local nurseries to obtain their saplings or grape cuttings, with the nurseries committing to replace any trees that did not survive. This helped establish a working relationship between farmers and nurseries. AMP staff regularly visited the nurseries to verify the quality of saplings and root cuttings.

During the first half of FY2021, AMP established 675 ha of new orchards benefiting 2,298 farmers in



Farmers are shown being registered to participate in orchard establishment in Kunduz Province.

eight provinces. More than 401,760 saplings and grape cuttings were distributed. These included high density orchards (pear and apple) as well as conventional-density orchards (citrus crops, pomegranate, almond, apricot, peach and plum). To ensure farmer buy-in, participating farmers were required to make a copayment of 20-40% of the cost of the inputs supplied. (For a breakdown of saplings by type and location, see Annex 1 and 2.)

AMP provided program clients with individualized instruction on proper management of their newly planted orchards. To ensure that the farmers were following the instructions of the extension team,



A farmer from Batikot District, Nangarhar Province, receives fruit saplings.

AMP coordinated its efforts with community members and local elders. This allowed the information to be replicated through various sources so it would be easy to remember for illiterate farmers. Farmers were advised on how to accelerate the growth of the newly planted orchards, irrigation methods, use of mulch to avoid evaporation from the soil surface, weed and disease control, fertilizer use and IPM.

Field observation showed that the farmers followed the instruction of the extension workers. They improved their surface irrigation systems, field design and other practices under the supervision of AMP's extension team.

For a second round of orchard establishment, 1,500 new farmers with 560 ha of land were registered to participate toward the end of Phase I. Activities were paused owing to procurement delays surrounding the political crisis of August 2021 but were resumed during Phase II.

Orchard Care Activities

AMP's extension team introduced management techniques to its clients who received saplings and orchard establishment assistance, ensuring the survival and optimum growth of the young plants. Field staff visited farmers to provide advice on how to accelerate the growth of the plants through improved irrigation methods, use of mulch to reduce evaporation, weed control, use of fertilizer and IPM, intercropping management and other techniques.

During Phase I, AMP conducted over 2,726 farm visits to provide technical assistance on good agricultural practices and climate smart agriculture. Anecdotal field observations showed that the farmers used the information to improve surface irrigation systems, field design, nutrient management, IPM, canopy management and other practices under the supervision of AMP's extension team.

Trellising

Trellising vineyards significantly improves the harvest yield of grapes, both in quality and in quantity. T-trellising systems consist of concrete poles running parallel to the vines and steel wires fixed over the poles. This system, capable of supporting the load of the grapes, places the vines at a manageable height for the average sized adult. With this technique, grapes grow in greater quantities and reach a higher quality. Trellised vines are exposed to more sunlight, which encourages growth and increases yields and quality. Trellising also protects plants from the effects of flooding and hail. The net result is a doubling of yields and an increase in quality.

To increase farmers' income, AMP planned to trellis existing and newly planted vineyards in the grape-producing areas of, Kandahar, Helmand, Kunduz, and Balkh provinces. COVID-19 restricted trellising activities during FY2021, so AMP focused instead on developing viticulture management training material and developing the specification for the trellising materials (i.e. trellis posts, end posts, wires, and T-bars). AMP also finalized the design and specifications of the trellis inputs for

publishing a Request for Quotations to procure inputs.

By the end of FY2021, AMP had finalized the procurement of trellis posts and submitted a procurement request to USAID, as the amount exceeded the \$250,000 threshold. AMP finalized the selection of 300 farmers and signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) with them to participate in the activity. Trellising would be carried out in Phases II and III.

Training of Trainers

AMP worked to build the capacity of rural farmers and provide technical assistance in areas of proper orchard management, pre-harvest practices, IPM, harvesting and post-harvest management. AMP achieved this through a training of trainers (AMP and Provincial Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (PAIL) extension staff). The trainings were aimed at helping fruit growers generate higher yields from their orchards/vineyards and adding value to their products. Some trainings focused on skills related to specific crops such as figs, pomegranates, grapes and other crops.

During Phase I, AMP trained 387 lead farmers, PAIL extension officers and AMP extension officers in Balkh, Kandahar, Zabul, Nangarhar, Ghazni, and Kunduz provinces. The trainings focused on GAP, IPM and post-harvest management practices.

Farmer Field Schools

A core principle of AMP methodology centered on building the capacity of individual farmers to sustainably improve their products for supply to regional and international markets. The Farmer Field School (FFS) was a learning process whereby farmers were presented with new technologies, new ideas, new situations and new ways of responding to agricultural challenges. The knowledge acquired during the learning process built on existing knowledge, enabling farmers to adapt existing technologies to become more productive, more profitable, and more responsive to changing conditions with the best use of limited resources. Such knowledge had the potential to improve orchards/vineyards, boost farmer income and thereby increase Afghan exports to regional and international markets.



An FFS is conducted on winter oil preparation in Zabul Province.

FFS activities spanned all three phases of AMP. Overall, AMP facilitated a total of 701 FFS sessions for 6,976 farmers in Ghazni, Kunduz, Kandahar, Paktia, Balkh, Helmand, Nangarhar and Zabul provinces. The trainings focused on irrigation management, fertilization, nutrient management, IPM, pruning, mulching, fruit thinning, weed control, canopy management and related techniques. Of this number, 435 sessions were held for 4,384 farmers during Phase I. See Annex 3 for cumulative data.

Improved Apricot Drying

The apricot is a perishable fruit that loses its quality within hours if not handled properly. Due to a lack of resources, cold storage facilities, and proper transportation, Afghan apricots often spoil and go to waste. During the peak season, there is an overabundance of apricots reaching the local markets, forcing farmers to sell their apricots at low prices. To help farmers avoid these losses, AMP trained farmers in the technology of apricot drying that uses sulfur. Sulfur drying improves the shape, taste, and color of apricots, resulting in a higher value in the markets.



Farmers in Kunduz Province are trained in apricot sulfur drying techniques.

AMP trained 124 lead farmers, 3,000 sub-farmers and 15 AMP and PAIL extension officers in apricot sulfur drying in Zabul and Ghazni Provinces. As part of the training, farmers learned to sort, grade, and clean the apricots by arranging the apricots on wooden trays in a sulfur-drying hut. The farmers fumigated the apricots with sulfur gas for four to six hours, then removed the trays and put them in the sunlight to dry for three days. After removing the seeds and treating the apricots with paraffin oil, the apricots were sun-dried until the fruits' moisture was reduced to 20 percent. The dried apricots were then ready to be packaged and sold.

2. Business Development

Activities under this component ensured that client agribusinesses had the capacity and know-how to meet export demands. AMP worked to improve food safety and help its clients obtain the certifications they need to meet overseas import requirements. It also worked individually with businesses to improve their brand identity and online presence. AMP began development of a horticulture product catalog to provide information on Afghan products to potential overseas buyers. Online training modules enabled agribusiness participants to increase their capacity in a wide variety of business and export skills.

Agribusiness Survey and Client Selection

During the first two months of the project, AMP's marketing team undertook a comprehensive survey among previous CHAMP-supported agribusinesses and new agribusinesses in key production areas. The survey was used to select AMP clients and better understand the needs of Afghan agribusinesses. Businesses were surveyed in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Nangahar and Ghazni. AMP had an ambitious target of increasing exports by \$150 million per year, providing more targeted assistance to a relatively small number of agribusinesses rather than general assistance to a large number of businesses over the lifetime of the project.

By the end of Phase I, AMP had signed MOUs with 119 partner agribusinesses, as shown in the table below.

Table 1: AMP Agribusiness Clients

Location	Number of Clients
Kabul	43
Ghazni	1
Kandahar	15
Balkh	13
Herat	34
Nangarhar	10
Daikundi	2
India	1
Total	119

Agribusiness Training Needs Assessment

AMP conducted an assessment of agribusinesses early in Phase I to document the training and business development needs of 72 AMP clients in Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces. AMP conducted this study to understand priority training areas for agribusinesses and design customized course materials based on the survey findings. The study would help AMP better understand the products being developed by the clients so that AMP could create trainings that dovetail with their needs.

This study was commissioned as a follow-on to the business survey referenced in the previous section. Due to the pandemic and the ensuing movement restrictions, AMP conducted the interviews by phone. Some parts of this survey were designed to serve as a baseline for evaluation of AMP business development efforts.

Respondents indicated a strong demand for capacity building programs on packaging, labeling, food safety and quality certifications, and marketing and promotion (particularly branding) as well as business management (especially accounting, finance and project management).

Most agribusinesses demonstrated interest in a Food Safety and Personal Hygiene training. Additional interest was noted in the areas of food safety management during COVID-19, product testing and analyzing product technical specifications, fumigation and food preservation, enhancing the shelf life of fresh fruits and sanitary and phytosanitary trainings.

Some agribusinesses intended to purchase new processing and packaging machinery and develop new products, which would require one-on-one technical advice. Some requested that AMP help put them in contact with the ADF for long-term Islamic loans or grant-making projects.

These assessments were part of AMP's learning efforts that would evolve with the project.

Site Assessments

AMP conducted preliminary site visits of its client agribusinesses in Kabul to verify that the survey information provided to AMP regarding the capacity and business development needs of the business was reasonably accurate. AMP documented production, food safety, and business operation through photos and videos. AMP evaluated the facilities, staff, management, and owners to determine whether the firm had the capacity and willingness to work with AMP to improve their business practices and brand. The survey identified potential areas in which AMP could provide technical support in adding additional new products and/or improve packaging, marketing, and branding of existing products.

Online Training

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and the country-wide lockdown, in-class training was not feasible during Phase I. AMP therefore developed an online platform to make training courses available to target traders and businesses. Courses were developed in Microsoft Sway in Dari and Pashto and included a pre-test and post-test to measure learning.

A total of 13 training courses were published online for AMP-supported agribusinesses, IPs, universities, and entrepreneurs. The courses drew 1,037 participants (839 male, 198 female) who completed the courses, as shown in the table below.

Table 2: Online Training Participants

Course Name	Month	Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
Managing Food Safety during COVID-19	July 2020	-	7	7
Food Safety and Personal Hygiene	Aug 2020	-	2	2
Standards for Labelling of Packaged Foods	Oct 2020	64	17	81
Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)	Nov 2020	76	15	91
Basics of Accounting	Dec 2020	140	20	160
International Trade and Export Procedures	January 2021	66	14	80
Preparing for a Tradeshow Webinar	February 2021	160	30	190
Market Research Tools: Trade Map	March 2021	81	16	97
Digital Marketing	April 2021	58	16	74
Saffron Safety & Quality	May 2021	65	14	79
Business Accounting: QuickBooks	June 2021	54	23	77
Access to Finance in Afghanistan	July/Aug 2021	36	19	55
Letters of Credit	September 2021	39	5	44
Total Participation		839	198	1,037

AMP online courses were published at www.amp-hub.com (non-indexed page on the Roots of Peace website). At the end of Phase I, following the political events of August 2021, courses related to export were removed from the portal to avoid potential conflict with USAID instructions.

Food Safety & Quality Management Workshops

AMP conducted two one-day workshops “Introduction to International Food Safety Management Systems Certifications: ISO 22000-2018 and FSSC 22000 V5.1 and HACCP” in collaboration with KIA Research and Development Company, and Nutritional Educational International.

The first workshop was held at the DAIL office in Herat province. AMP’s 23 Herat-based clients (of which five were women-owned) participated. The second workshop was held in the MAIL Private Sector Directorate in Kabul. A total of 21 Kabul-based agribusiness representatives (including three women-owned agribusinesses) participated.



Food Safety Management System Certifications Workshop, Conference Hall, Directorate of Private Sector, MAIL, Kabul, Afghanistan

The purpose of the workshops was to enhance the knowledge and understanding of AMP clients on international food safety management systems certifications and food testing. Topics included:

- Pre-requisite programs for ISO 22000, FSSC 22000 and HACCP
- The pre-audit process for ISO 22000, FSSC 22000 and HACCP

- International Food Safety certification requirements in international high value markets i.e., Asian, European and US markets
- Time and cost associated with obtaining food safety management systems certifications
- Food testing (nutritional facts, microbiological analysis) and availability of testing in Afghanistan

Business Incentives

AMP business incentives were designed to offset investment risks in value addition and new product development for agribusinesses. The incentive structures were designed to target the following four areas:

- Introducing new technology or management practices
- Implementing food safety and quality management systems
- Establishing new methods of product, company, or brand promotion
- Adopting Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) for food safety

AMP rolled out its business incentives at the end of FY2020. By the end of Phase I, AMP had created incentive opportunities worth \$2.45 million, including \$1.3 million in matching contributions in various forms of interventions in the four target areas above. AMP followed a rigorous selection process which included technical and financial viability assessments and an evaluation of clients' capabilities through site assessments and other due diligence. By the end of Phase I, 119 active applications were in the pipeline and would be implemented in Phase II. See table below.

Table 3: Summary of Current Business Incentive Applications by Category

Incentive Category	No. of Applications	Minimum Anticipated Client Contributions (US\$)	Maximum Potential AMP Commitment (US\$)
New Technology of Management Practices	47	\$916,250	\$1,138,563
Food Safety/Quality Certification	16	\$103,895	\$111,645
New Method of Branding or Promotions	26	\$75,963	\$36,913
Purchasing of Personnel Protective Equipment	30	\$41,246	\$26,820
Total	119	\$1,137,353	\$1,313,940

Agribusiness Academy

As a part of its capacity-building efforts, AMP planned to work with new and emerging entrepreneurs, providing them with entry points into the sector through an agribusiness incubator and accelerator program branded as "The Agribusiness Academy." This would have offered an immersive, multi-faceted program in two distinct tracks. The **Incubator track** would help develop new agribusinesses and nurture agribusiness startups. It would have offered in group settings where participants collectively learned skills related to contemporary agribusiness practices and international trade. The **Accelerator track** would have taken a more tailored approach and provided established businesses with on-demand business advisory, technical assistance, and business incentives aimed at new product development and value addition.

The plan for the Incubator and Accelerator program was to establish a main center in Kabul with satellite locations in key provinces. During the first half of the fiscal year, AMP inspected over 50 locations in Kabul to setup the incubation and acceleration center. A location was selected, and all technical and security details were finalized, with the center set to open in Kabul. Satellite centers would have been based in universities in key provinces. AMP met with faculty heads of three of the



AMP's Business Development team tours Herat University's food technology lab

four universities to discuss setting up these satellite centers.

The terms of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AMP, ACCI and USAID were finalized and submitted to USAID for approval. Under the agreement, ACCI would assist AMP in identifying qualified recruits and provide training and office space. AMP assessed ACCI's proposed spaces in Kabul and the provinces and made preparations to establish the centers as hybrids of coworking spaces and training and resource centers.

These preparations were all canceled following the Taliban takeover in the fourth fiscal quarter. The collaboration with ACCI was terminated and the Incubator and Accelerator program was shifted to an online platform to ensure continuity of operations and enable women to participate.

Branding and Promotional Content Development

Several AMP exporters expressed an interest in developing new corporate logos and upgrading their corporate branding. AMP created a graphic communications unit to assist agribusiness firms in developing professional logos, websites, packaging designs and marketing materials. This unit would prove instrumental in upgrading the business identity of agribusinesses throughout the duration of the program.

Corporate Imaging

Many AMP agribusiness clients lack the proper branding needed to differentiate and define themselves from competitors. Those with basic corporate logos do not have a branding manual to help them maintain uniform graphics in their collateral marketing materials (such as color usage, fonts, and logo variations). Many also lack professional branding and graphics on their packaging designs and marketing collateral. During Phase I, AMP worked with agribusinesses to develop new or improved logos and collateral materials (stationery, brochures, etc.). AMP also operated an in-house creative studio to provide product photography and promotional content development services, including producing corporate videos for clients. For samples of logo re-designs and marketing materials designed over the course of the program, see Annex 4.



Product photography is shown as produced for Nikan Saadat.

Creative Support for Tradeshows

AMP developed a brand identity for Afghan agricultural products so that products from Afghanistan could be widely identified at trade shows and on supermarket shelves throughout the world. The

Afghan... Naturally logo incorporated a design that reflected the all-natural production of Afghan agricultural products. The logo was approved by USAID and was used as a uniform corporate identity



for Afghan exhibitors for the first time during Gulfood 2021. In addition to appearing on the Afghanistan Pavilion, it was replicated on facemasks and shirts. The new brand identity was received positively by traders and other stakeholders. At Gulfood, the Afghanistan Consulate General in Dubai requested a

copy of the logo along with product photos for promotion in the consulate's magazine.

AMP also providing branding assistance to eight agribusinesses participating at the Spring AgFair. Support included designing and printing company banners, developing audiovisual media for display during the exhibition, business cards and company brochures.

Promotional Media Content

AMP assisted agribusinesses in releasing promotional articles to the overseas press highlighting the merits of particular Afghan horticultural products. In doing so, AMP aimed to raise awareness of these products and provide exposure to exporters working with these products. The process demonstrated to agribusinesses the value of writing and releasing articles similar to promote their products.

During Phase I, two articles were released. The first article on Afghan cherries was published on June 24, 2021 on [FreshPlaza.com](https://www.freshplaza.com) and on June 25, 2021 on [Fruitnet.com](https://www.fruitnet.com). Both web services are major sources of information for the international produce industry. The second featured Amiri Apricots on the two websites.



Domestic Trade Show Support

AMP supported eight agribusinesses at the 25th Annual Spring Agricultural Fair (AgFair) organized by MAIL. The event took place on March 22-25, 2021, at the Badam Bagh exhibition area. Of the eight participating businesses, six were women-owned companies. AMP arranged booth rental, shipping product samples to the exhibition, booth design, promotional materials (such as banners, stands and flyers) as well as accommodation and airfare for agribusinesses attending from the provinces.

The AgFair is the largest agriculture exhibition and trade show in Afghanistan. Held twice a year, the event showcases Afghanistan's agricultural products for local and international visitors, promoting small agribusinesses, increasing sales of local products, and promoting fundraising for the agriculture sector. The exhibition serves as a platform to facilitate market linkages across agricultural value chains. Thousands of visitors attended the event, including government officials, local and international agribusinesses, development partners, media outlets, farmer associations and the general public.

During the four-day event, AMP exhibitors made direct sales, signed contracts, and attended B2B meetings organized by MAIL. Immediate sales totaled \$13,631.

3. Export Marketing

This component comprised activities aimed at increasing the growth of Afghan trade in domestic and existing overseas markets such as India and the UAE (per Strategy 1) and new or emerging markets such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and other countries in the region (per Strategy 3). A combination of trade missions, trade shows, trade office services, removal of trade impediments, government subsidized export freight and incentives proved successful in stimulating export activity in the past. AMP worked to build on those efforts and focus resources on the most effective combination of incentives and resources that fit each market and trade corridor.

Product Inventory

Early in Phase I, AMP began an analysis of products that were being regularly exported from Afghanistan to identify new products for export. This began with a national inventory of current production. The purpose was to identify products not being exported to target markets and determining their feasibility for export.

A Business and SPS Training Needs Assessment was conducted to identify the training needs of AMP's Afghan agribusiness clients, with questions on products currently being traded and processed. A survey showed that a number of agribusinesses were interested in developing new products, particularly seasoned nuts in retail-ready packages.

AMP developed an export product portfolio matrix of Afghan products, with price points and available volumes, that were cross-referenced and scored with current and potential markets based on growth and market prices. AMP also documented the sourcing of these products and mapped the supply chains of these products.

Site assessments were completed at all Kabul-based AMP client agribusinesses. A critical aspect of the assessments was to identify all products being traded (raw, processed, and value-added) and add them to the product inventory and product catalog. Professional photographs were taken of all products and price points determined. The product catalog and inventory were updated with new products identified and cross-referenced in the export product portfolio matrix.

By the end of FY2020, AMP had completed its inventory of products to be included in the product catalog. This information was shared with other IPs for review and input. With the end of export facilitation activities, however, this activity was discontinued.

Participation at International Trade Shows

AMP provided assistance to Afghan traders to access buyers in international markets for export sales. Exposure at exhibitions and trade fairs was important for providing greater visibility to Afghan products and allowing exporters to link with new buyers. The trade shows also exposed the exporters to the market requirements (packaging, quality, and consumer demand) of different countries. Although trade show participation was truncated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Afghan agribusinesses were able to generate sales of nearly \$89 million¹ to buyers from 27 countries (\$66 million of which was generated by Indian buyers alone). See Annex 5.

Gulfood

Only weeks after project startup, AMP supported Afghan exporters at Gulfood, the world's largest food and beverage trade show. The event, which took place in Dubai on February 16-20, 2020, drew nearly 100,000 visitors and some 5,000 participants. A total of 26 Afghan agribusinesses exhibited, and an additional 17 Afghan agribusinesses attended as observers. This was the tenth consecutive year that USAID supported the participation of Afghan traders at Gulfood.

¹ This represents deals generated at international trade shows that were verified as fully executed.

Event preparations were conducted by AMP in partnership with other USAID programs, including the Afghanistan Value Chains – High Value Crops (AVC-HVC) project, which took a lead role, the Regional Agricultural Development Program East (RADP-E), Afghanistan Value Chain – Livestock and the Community-Based Agriculture and Rural Development – Access to International Markets (CBARD-AIM) project.

AMP-supported businesses signed a total of \$13,206,433 in deals with buyers from India, Iraq, Indonesia, Kuwait, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, Kazakhstan, Egypt, and Vietnam. Based on data received from businesses, figs, raisins, dried apricots, almonds and saffron were in highest demand, respectively.

While participation at Gulfood was primarily aimed at linking exporters with buyers and inking deals, it also gave Afghan exporters a chance to see how similar products are packaged and sold by other countries.



Keynote speakers are shown during the inauguration of the Afghanistan Pavilion at Gulfood 2020.



The Afghanistan Pavilion is shown at Gulfood 2021.

In 2021, AMP organized the participation of 29 Afghan agribusinesses at Gulfood on February 21-25. The exhibitors were supported by AMP, AVC/HVC/Livestock and RADP-E. Two of the exporters were financially sponsored by CBARD. A total of 28 exporters exhibited in the Afghanistan Pavilion, with one late entrant exhibiting independently.

The COVID-19 pandemic loomed large over the event, impacting visitor turnout and necessitating restrictions on social distancing, masking, and sanitization. Exhibitors were required to limit direct contact with visitors and use contactless

exchanges of contact information. Visitor traffic was estimated by some Afghan exporters to have been around 40% lower than previous years. The Afghan Commercial Attaché for the UAE was on hand throughout Gulfood to monitor deal-making, meet potential buyers and generally assist Afghan exporters.

Overall, despite a generally low turnout and restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 saw Afghan exporters generate more deals than at any previous Gulfood event, signing \$171.3 million in deals with buyers from more than 30 countries. India accounted for 61% of deals signed (\$105 million) followed by the UAE (\$27 million) and Saudi Arabia (\$7.5 million). Dried fruit generated the lion's share of interest, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the contracts signed (\$107 million), followed by nuts (\$43.6 million) and spices (\$13.4 million).

World Food Istanbul

AMP supported Afghan exporters twice at World Food Istanbul; the first occasion on November 24-28, 2020, at the Tüyap Fair and Congress Centre in Istanbul. A total of 38 Afghan agribusinesses expressed interest in participation (27 from AMP and 11 from the AVC-HVC project). However, many were unable to obtain Turkish visas, despite submitting visa applications a month in advance and AMP engaging the Afghan Commercial Attaché in Istanbul and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), through the MAIL Private Sector Directorate. (See "Challenges" section.)

A total of 17 companies were eventually able to participate (16 supported by AMP and one by AVC-HVC). To support each Afghan participant, AMP provided Turkish-Dari and Turkish-Pashto student translators and procured mandatory personal protection equipment. The four-day event resulted in deals realized by eight of the participating agribusinesses, valued at \$3,931,950.



The opening ribbon cutting is shown at World Food Istanbul in November 2020.

AMP participated again on September 9-12, 2021. Together with AVC-HVC and CBARD-AIM, AMP supported the participation of 14 Afghan agribusinesses, again at the Tüyap Exhibition and Congress Center in Istanbul. This time, with up to 28 companies expected to attend, AMP reserved a space of 186 m² divided into three separate blocks. The number of participants dropped significantly owing to the political events of mid-August. Many of the companies that wanted to participate were not issued Turkish visas, could not obtain their passports back from the Turkish missions in Afghanistan or could not travel because of the

cessation of international flights. The selection criteria were therefore relaxed, and the booths were made available to any business that was able and available to participate. All except one participating company had representatives already in Istanbul at the time of the event.

Each business was provided with a 9 sqm, 12 sqm or 15 sqm booth together with shelving, meeting tables and chairs, and a display case. Although companies were encouraged to print their own graphics, AMP prepared a standard identity backdrop for each booth using the "Afghan... Naturally" logo. AMP also provided PPE to ensure compliance with trade show regulations, and Turkish/Dari or Turkish/Pashto translation for eleven of the Afghan businesses. Each business was responsible for paying for their own visa fees, COVID-19 PCR tests, quarantine costs, lodging, flights, marketing materials and other incidental costs.



Business negotiations are shown taking place at the Jamshid Ramin booth at World Food Istanbul in 2021.

As the lead implementing partner for the trade show, AMP was responsible for coordinating with trade show organizers, allocating booths/space for the Afghan agribusinesses, managing trade show registration and profile uploading, deal tracking, coordinating at-event promotion of the Afghan Trade Office social media activities, trade magazine advertising, and undertaking sector promotion to Turkish businesses.

Deals valued at \$3,631,100 were signed during the event – just slightly less than the previous year – which was encouraging given that several of the businesses were unable to display products. These deals were signed by eight of the participating Afghan agribusinesses, six of which were supported by AMP. Deals signed by AMP supported businesses totalled \$3,109,390. Businesses that entered into deals with AMP agribusinesses originated from Turkey, UAE, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon and the USA.

Uzfood 2021

AMP supported two Balkh-based agribusinesses at the 20th International Exhibition on Food, Ingredients and Food Technologies (UzFood 2021) on April 28-30, 2021, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. More than 122 exhibitors from 21 countries participated, with attendance by more than 4,000 visitors

representing retail chains, importers, food manufacturers and distributors.

Jamshid Ramin Ltd and Mohammad Hashim Husain Zada were each provided with a 9 sqm booth to display their dried fruit, nuts, spices, and medicinal crops. AMP's Senior Marketing Specialist for Balkh Province accompanied the two businesses to the exhibition and also arranged a visit to the retail market in Tashkent to examine products, prices, quality, and packaging for various dried fruit and nuts. The companies also participated in face-to-face B2B meetings with major importers and retail chain representatives.

The two businesses secured three deals valued at \$306,231 for cumin seeds, licorice roots and red raisins. By the end of June 2021, the value of red raisins and licorice exported exceeded the total value of deals signed.



Mohammad Hashim Husain Zada signs a deal with an importer of licorice roots.

Interfood Azerbaijan

A delegation of Afghan agribusinesses participated in the 26th annual InterFood Azerbaijan



Afghanistan Red Gold Saffron's products being introduced to the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Inam Karimov.

International Food Industry Exhibition on June 10-12, 2021, at the Baku Expo Center in Baku, Azerbaijan. The event was held in conjunction with the 14th Azerbaijan International Agriculture Exhibition 'Caspian Agro' and was opened by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Inam Karimov. The event hosted 71 companies from 12 countries. This was believed to have been the first time Afghan agribusinesses attended a trade event in Azerbaijan.

AMP supported four businesses at the event - Afghanistan Red Gold Saffron, Ikram Ezat, New Yaqoubi and Wais Sodais – sharing a space of 30 m². Participation was made possible when the Azeri government authorities implemented a policy allowing visa issuance on arrival in Baku, thus enabling Afghan

businesses to travel.

While in Baku, the exhibitors visited importers, local wholesale markets and supermarkets to explore the market dynamics and potential for their products against competitors.

Fresh India Show

Three Afghan fresh-fruit businesses participated at the Fresh India Show with AMP support on August 5-6, 2021, at the Pride Plaza Hotel, New Delhi. Although small in scale, this was the first trade event to take place in India for more than a year. The three agribusinesses (Nejat Trading, Abobaker Haseeb Trading and Hamza Popalzai Trading Company) shared a 9 sqm booth at the conference showcasing Afghan fresh produce.

All three companies commented on the high number of visitors to the event and indicated that they had made some good contacts for future engagement. Visitors to the conference were predominantly from Delhi, although others from Kolkata and Mumbai were also in attendance. Visitors were interested in a wide range of fresh fruit products, including melons, apples, grapes, and apricots. The "Afghan... Naturally" brand was promoted during the event.

CNR Food Istanbul

AMP, in collaboration with AVC-HVC and CBARD, supported the participation of eight Afghan agribusinesses at the CNR Food Istanbul trade show, which took place at the Istanbul Expo Center on September 1-4, 2021. The exhibition was Turkey's second largest food and beverage trade show after World Food Istanbul and brought buyers from Turkey, the EU, Ukraine, Russia, Central Asia, Caucasus, Iran, and the Balkans. This was the first time Afghan agribusinesses had participated at the trade show.

The event was aimed at promoting Afghan agricultural products to Turkish importers. It helped stimulate business relationships between international buyers and Afghan exporters and provided a forum for conducting business negotiations.

Initially 14 businesses were selected, but owing to the political events in mid-August, challenges in obtaining Turkish visas and the cessation of international flights, the criteria was relaxed, and the booths were made available to any business that was available to participate. Seven of the eight businesses that participated were already in Turkey, with one business traveling from Afghanistan through Uzbekistan to participate.



Potential buyers discuss products with Zemarai Rasouli and AMP's Trade Office Specialist



Potential buyers of Afghanistan Red Gold Saffron products discuss terms and conditions of purchase.

Each business was provided with approximately 18 sq m. of space together with shelving, tables, and chairs. Company logos were also printed and displayed. Each of the businesses was responsible for paying for their own visa fees, COVID-19 PCR tests, quarantine costs, lodging, flights, marketing materials and other incidental costs.

As the lead implementing partner for the trade show, AMP was responsible for coordinating with trade show organizers, allocating booths/space for the Afghan agribusinesses, managing trade show registration and profile uploading, deal tracking, coordinating promotion of the Afghan Trade Office social media activities, trade

magazine advertising, and undertaking sector promotion to Turkish businesses.

AMP was represented by its Export Facilitation Director and Trade Office Specialist (Turkey). A short-term Afghan consultant living in Istanbul (who supported trade events last year) was hired to assist in the organization and implementation of the event as no AMP personnel from Afghanistan were able to participate due to the lack of international flights from Afghanistan.

Three of the participating businesses signed deals valued at \$1,918,890. AMP-supported businesses signed deals for \$1,278,090 of products. Buyers hailed from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Sweden.

Online Events

Virtual B2B for Afghan Fresh Fruits. Five AMP partner agribusinesses participated in a virtual fresh fruit B2B networking event, held on June 28, 2020, organized by **CLDP** and the Afghan Commercial

Attaché in Mumbai. More than 80 Afghan and Indian businesses participated in the event. Following the speeches and presentations, participants broke out into B2B meeting rooms to discuss trade in fresh fruit, particularly apples and grapes. There were some challenges experienced in the break-out meeting rooms, but overall the participants made some potentially useful contacts and suggested that additional events be held in the future.

Fresh Produce India was moved to an online platform and took place on April 23, 2020, for a period of five hours (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LTDaszTDHQ>). AMP agribusiness partners, other IPs and AMP personnel were encouraged to register and participate in the free-of-charge event. No deals were generated at the event, which was designed more for information sharing. Other trade show organizers followed suit, developing online information sharing webinars. AMP agribusinesses, other IPs and AMP personnel participated in three other online webinars organized by Gulfood (<https://www.gulfood.com/Gulfood.Virtual>). The first webinar focused on the impact of the pandemic on supply chains, the second examined positive changes resulting in consumer and business behavior, and the third on future food security. The organizers of the Saudi International Agriculture, Aquaculture and Agro-Industry Show hosted a webinar on the Saudi Food Supply Chain post-COVID-19 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxS_sPs1mQQ). FruitNet Media International organized a webinar on China’s fruit and vegetable market (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGAQ6BJJEVU>)

SIAL Middle East. AMP had planned to participate in the SIAL Middle East trade show, scheduled September 8-10, 2020, in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Although the event was cancelled, the organizers did host a virtual event online November 23-29. This was the first foray into virtual events for AMP and its agribusiness partners. Although most were offered the opportunity, only four AMP agribusinesses accepted. AMP supported them in uploading business and product information, identifying potential buyers and requesting online meetings. The limited number of Afghan businesses that agreed to participate indicated an overall reluctance to engage in new marketing technology.

Afghan Saffron Promotion Virtual Conference. AMP's client agribusinesses participated in the one-day Afghan Saffron Promotion Virtual Conference in April 2021, organized by the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Mumbai, in association with USAID and the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP). AMP facilitated an online orientation program in advance of the event to prepare all virtual exhibitors for the event.

Trade Deal Execution

During Phase I, AMP monitored the execution of deals signed at its international trade shows. This took place regularly during the fiscal year until the final quarter when no deal execution data was collected owing to the Taliban takeover and the deteriorating security situation. Additionally, AMP-supported businesses proved reluctant to provide deal execution data once AMP was no longer supporting trade show participation. Actual execution rates thus may have been higher than shown in the table below. With planned changes to AMP, this indicator was later removed.

Table 4: Trade Deal Execution

Event	Contract Value (USD)	Execution Value (USD)	% of Execution	Contract Volume (Kg)	Execution Volume (Kg)	% of Volume Execution
WFI 2020	3,931,950	2,441,942	62%	1,692,268	1,037,625	61%
Gulfood 2020	13,206,433	12,527,570	95%	2,569,642	2,668,913	104%
UzFOOD 2021	306,231	336,350	110%	230,608	270,368	117%
Gulfood 2021	66,601,246	5,291,367	8%	13,441,768	2,042,438	15%
WFI 2021	3,559,390	N/A	0%	1,248,720	N/A	0%
CNR 2021	1,278,090	N/A	0%	113,310	N/A	0%
Total	88,883,304	20,597,229	23%	19,296,316	6,019,344	31%

Digital Marketing

AMP was engaged in digital marketing efforts to provide complimentary support to the participation of Afghan businesses at international trade shows, particularly those in Turkey. The digital marketing activities consistently used the "Afghan... Naturally" logo.

CNR Food Istanbul

To encourage visitors to the Afghan pavilion at CNR Food Istanbul trade show, AMP published ten posts on the Turkish Trade Office (Türk-Afgan Tarım Ticaret Ofisi) social media accounts – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The posts featured pictures of the Afghan pavilion and products at CNR, as well as details of where to find the pavilion within the exhibition. Combined, the social media efforts reached 3,904 individuals.

Additionally four emails were sent to 406 Turkish contacts in the food and beverage sector compiled by the Turkish Trade Office Specialist, including importers and wholesalers. Similarly, emails sent prior to and during the event invited recipients to visit the Afghan pavilion.



World Food Istanbul

Similar to CNR Food Istanbul, eight social media postings through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram encouraged followers of the Turkish Trade Office (Türk-Afgan Tarım Ticaret Ofisi) to visit the Afghan booths at World Food Istanbul. Three invitations were also sent by email to 403 Turkish contacts in the database prior to and during the event. During both events, AMP's Digital Marketing Specialist and Turkish Trade Office Specialist engaged with social media users, particularly on Facebook.

Turkish Magazine Advertising

In a further effort to attract visitors to the Afghan Pavilion at CNR Food Istanbul and booths at World Food Istanbul, AMP took out print and online advertisements with two of Turkey's most prominent F&B publications: International Food & Ingredients and Food Sektör. Food Sektör is published in Turkish mainly for the domestic food market, whereas International Food and Ingredients is in English and Turkish, addressing a more international readership. AMP provided a visual featuring the "Afghan... Naturally" brand in English and Turkish (Afghan Doğal Ürünler) to create awareness of Afghan participation and encourage visitation. The advertisements were printed in two editions of International Food and Ingredients and one edition of Food Sektör. Adverts were also printed on their websites.

Market Guides

During Phase I, AMP developed Market Guides to provide greater access to market information by Afghan agribusinesses. AMP recruited students from the University of Manchester in the UK to undertake research for the guides. The Market Guides included information on market size, market growth, import demand, domestic production (where information is readily available), market requirements, prices and competing export destinations for products that Afghanistan currently exports.

AMP completed market guides for India, Turkey, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kazakhstan. The Executive Summaries of each Market Guide were translated into Dari and Pashto. Guides for China and Ukraine were underway when AMP was instructed to cease export promotion activities during the final quarter. No further action was taken with respect to the Market Guides.

Import Guides

Lack of knowledge on import regulations, policies and procedures is an obstacle for increasing

exports to overseas markets. To complement its Market Guides, AMP commenced development of Import Guides for India, the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan to help agribusinesses understand general and product-specific regulations and standards for those countries. Similar to the Market Guides, AMP recruited students from the University of Manchester in the UK to undertake the studies with inputs from AMP's Gulf Region Trade Office Specialist and Indian Marketing and Trade Facilitation Specialist. The Import Guides were at various stages of development but were eventually shelved owing to changes in program objectives resulting from the Taliban takeover.

Afghan Horticultural Catalog

Many potential buyers at overseas trade shows at which Afghan exporters participated were unfamiliar with the full range of agricultural products available from Afghanistan. AMP began work on an Afghan Horticultural Catalog to promote the wide variety of products available from Afghan



Abjosh raisins from Kandahar are unique in the region with a high potential export value, but actual awareness of these raisins in other countries is low.

traders. The catalog included photographs, physical descriptions, harvest periods, uses, nutritional value and reported medicinal qualities or health benefits of each product.

AMP's regional personnel contacted agribusinesses and academics to compile a preliminary list of more than 60 products available from Afghanistan (including fresh fruit, vegetables, dried fruit, nuts, spices, seeds and oil seeds, gums and resins, and medicinal plants). Lists included different varieties for each of these products, the provinces where they are grown, months of harvest and information on where they are currently being exported.

During Phase I, the list of Afghan products was reduced and finalized based on anticipated commercial and export viability (including fresh fruit, vegetables, dried fruit, nuts, spices, seeds and oil

seeds, gums and resins, and medicinal plants). **Draft profiles were also developed for three products.**

AMP had completed the layout and finished product photoshoots and individual product profile designs for 17 products. Sample pages from the catalog were developed, but the catalogue would eventually be suspended owing to the cessation of export promotion activities.

Export Facilitation

Under Strategy 1, AMP recorded the exports facilitated to Afghanistan's traditional export markets of India, the UAE and Kazakhstan (for exports facilitated to other international markets, see Strategy 3). During Phase I, AMP recorded 1,748 MT of exports valued at \$87,056,427 to India and the UAE. Goods included raisins, almonds, mulberries, cumin, watermelon seeds, figs, dried apricots, saffron, cherries, figs, and other products.

Under Strategy 3, AMP facilitated the export of Afghan agricultural products to markets that do not typically import from Afghanistan but were seen as promising new markets for Afghan exporters. During Phase I, AMP facilitated the export of 1,277 MT valued at \$44,115,459 to countries in Europe, North America, Turkey, and the Middle East. For a breakdown by importing country and product, see Annexes 6 and 7.

Air Export Program

In Phase I, the coronavirus pandemic had a significant impact on the ability of Afghan agribusinesses to export high value and perishable products to existing and new markets. A reduction in air traffic (particularly passenger flights able to carry cargo), frequent border closures (for political and safety

reasons) and increased demand on trucks meant that agribusinesses struggled to find ways of getting their products out of the country.

In responding to these challenges, AMP implemented an air cargo initiative to ensure a quick remedy for exporters seeking to enter the UAE and Indian markets. The program also enabled AMP to examine the commercial feasibility of operating charter cargo flights from a technical and financial perspective and assess lessons learned for future cargo flights.

Four shipments took place during late 2020—one to Mumbai, India, and three to Sharjah, UAE. A total of 102.2 MT of fresh and dried fruit, nuts and spices was shipped, valued at \$289,717. Ten Afghan exporters benefitted from the program.



Dried fruits are shown being prepared for loading and shipment via air AMP's air cargo initiative.

Table 5: Air Cargo Program Summary

Date	Destination	Total weight (MT)	Value (MT)
Sept. 27, 2020	Sharjah, UAE	37.0	\$74,365
Oct. 18, 2020	Mumbai, India	14.1	\$41,705
Oct. 20, 2020	Sharjah, UAE	35.2	\$136,608
Oct. 25, 2020	Sharjah, UAE	15.9	\$37,039
Total		102.2	\$289,717

The charter costs ranged from \$2.04 to \$5.25 per kg and averaged \$2.96 per kg. The program required a copayment from participating exporters of \$0.15 per kg to Sharjah and \$0.20 per kg to Mumbai. The remaining amount, accounting for 92-96% of the total charter cost was financially supported by AMP. The unit value of cargo carried was \$2.67 per kg.

In executing the air cargo program, AMP liaised with the Deputy Minister of Policy at the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority, Director General of Customs, Director of Private Sector Development at MAIL, HKIA Customs Head and the Director of Export Promotion and Investment at ACCI. AMP also supported exporters with the customs clearance process.

Trade Offices

In Phase I, AMP was tasked with re-establishing and maintaining trade offices set up under CHAMP in India, the UAE and Kazakhstan, as well as establishing trade offices in new markets. Trade offices would ensure that Afghan traders were able to engage in those markets with the best possible commercial terms. This would provide a sustainable basis for growth in the value of exports by facilitating linkages between traders and buyers, promoting Afghan exports at exhibitions, and seeking new buyers for Afghan products.

India Trade Office

At the outset of the program, AMP undertook activities in preparation for the re-establishment of the India Trade Office and anticipated establishing it in Mumbai. The Consul General and Commercial Attaché expressed interest in hosting the trade office at the consulate building in Mumbai, if permission were obtained by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul. AMP hired a Marketing and Trade Facilitation Specialist during the second quarter to assist with information gathering on the

status of the India market during the pandemic.

Ultimately, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in India, re-establishment of the India Trade Office did not take place. Despite the lack of a functioning trade office, the Marketing and Trade Facilitation Specialist was able to provide critical project support. These activities included updates on market prices in Delhi and Mumbai, updates on border activities relevant for exporters, updates on new government legislation, providing information for AMP's Market Guides and Import Guides and engagement with Indian supermarkets for the promotion of Afghan products. With the cessation of export activities, the trade office was suspended.

Gulf Region Trade Office

Unlike CHAMP's Dubai Trade Office, AMP envisioned a UAE-based trade office that would extend the reach of Afghan exports into the entire Gulf region. Early on, AMP recruited a Trade Office Specialist for the Gulf Region who previously worked in a similar role on CHAMP. In his first two weeks of employment, the specialist met with the Consul General of Afghanistan to Dubai, started working on the UAE Import Guide and met with representatives of two air cargo companies with the resources to export Afghan products from Kabul and Kandahar. Establishment of the Gulf Trade Office was anticipated for the third fiscal quarter of 2020. This was delayed during the pandemic and eventually shelved with the discontinuance of export activities.

Turkish Trade Office

Turkey represented a strong opportunity for Afghan horticultural exports. Preliminary results from the Turkish Market Guide and a road trip undertaken to major cities within the country further reinforced the need to open an AMP trade office in Istanbul. However, final conclusions awaited initial results from the World Food Istanbul trade fair. The Passage to Prosperity Trade & Investment Show, scheduled for March, was cancelled, which further delayed the decision on opening a trade office in Istanbul.

AMP retained a consultant in Istanbul beginning at the start of the project to act as a Turkish Trade Office Specialist. The consultant was initially hired to assist primarily with trade events, but his role expanded to address issues related to the pandemic. AMP continued to follow developments in Turkey and assess the feasibility of opening a Turkish Trade Office but eventually shelved it when trade office activities were halted.

Exporter Survey

During the first operational quarter, AMP surveyed agribusinesses on their training needs and plans for value addition. A total of 67 AMP clients had responded to the survey by the end of the quarter, with 62 expressing interest in value-addition. Most were interested in making upgrades into automation in processing and packaging, with others showing interest in branding activities such as improved design and print for their packaging/labeling. A total of 16 companies asked AMP to organize study tours of food processing equipment manufacturers and 49 companies expressed a need for better packaging.

The training needs expressed by the respondents varied widely, from management to food production and processing. To meet these needs, AMP began channeling efforts into end market research (i.e. the Market and Import Guides mentioned above), improved agility in the business incubation/acceleration programming, and assessing additional program support to agribusinesses.

Trade Impediment Mitigation

Kabul Packaging Companies

During the first quarter, AMP's Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist visited Kabul Packages Company to assess progress in implementing recommendations made by CHAMP's packaging consultant at the end of 2019. Many of the recommendations relating to new procedures in setting up the processing equipment had already been implemented. The short assessment was shared with the

consultant to ascertain whether additional assistance was necessary to further improve product quality and production techniques. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, a similar visit to Baheer Group, the other Kabul-based packaging company that received technical assistance, could not be undertaken.

Indian Export Impediments

During Phase I, AMP took action on a number of trade impediments relating to agricultural exports to India.

Saffron Re-evaluation. Several Afghan agribusinesses informed AMP that upon arrival at Delhi airport, Indian customs officials were re-evaluating the value of Afghan saffron shipments. There was no clear understanding why the re-evaluation was taking place specifically on this product. AMP immediately raised the issue with the Delhi-based Afghan Commercial Attaché, Herat Saffron Association, Head of Customs Valuation Department, ACCI and colleagues at MAIL. The Afghanistan National Saffron Union sent a letter to ACCI, requesting them to send a letter to MOIC to formally raise the issue with the Indian Customs authorities and Indian Embassy in Kabul (via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The letter (which was sent from MOIC to MOFA) requested an end to the re-evaluation. The impact of the re-evaluation and higher value placed on the product was an increase in GST paid to the Indian authorities. AMP supported all involved organizations in getting the procedure of re-evaluation overturned.

Crop Contaminants. On August 26, 2020, FSSAI proposed amendments in the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011, to update tolerance limits for various crop contaminants, veterinary drugs and naturally occurring toxic substances. The draft regulation invited comments from World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries. The proposed amendments related to various fresh fruit (grapes, watermelons, apples, pomegranates) and vegetables (okra, cabbages, cucumbers potatoes, cauliflowers, tomatoes, onions) and other horticultural products (pomegranate arils, bitter gourd, cumin). AMP shared the proposed legislation with MAIL.

Food Standards. On September 3, 2020, FSSAI proposed amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, and invited WTO member countries to offer their comments on the amendments. Major amendments related to new standards for certain food products and modified standards for others. The affected products included walnut kernels, oils (includes peanut, flaxseed, rapeseed, poppy seed, safflower seed, sesame, soybean, maize, watermelon seed, sunflower seed, avocado, grapeseed), and caffeinated and non-alcoholic beverages. Walnuts were given new guidelines relating to certain minimum requirements. AMP shared the proposed legislation with MAIL.

Bank Guarantees. On September 29, 2020, the Government of India's Ministry of Finance amended the Customs (Provisional Duty Assessment) Regulations 2011 to enable the Central Board of Excise and Customs to obtain bank guarantees equal to the total value of exempted duty from importers for goods imported into the country when there is suspicion that the origin of goods may have been mis-declared to avoid payment of duties. It was felt that this amended legislation specifically targeted Afghanistan, which had been accused in the past of exporting apples, asafetida and saffron from neighboring countries but recording them as Afghan on the Country-of-Origin certificate. If the products proved to be non-Afghanistan in origin, then the bank guarantee would be submitted to Indian Customs as a penalty. AMP shared this revised legislation with the Export Promotion and Investment Director at ACCI to disseminate among the trading community.

Asafetida Documentation. Early in Phase I, 38 MT of asafetida was held up at Delhi Customs due to incorrect documentation being submitted (the documentation needed to be for raw asafetida rather than processed). Following testing in Delhi, the shipments were gradually released. It is possible that the shipment was mis-declared as processed spice to avoid testing requirements.

Botanical Names on Phytosanitary Certificates. During the World Food Istanbul trade show in

November 2020, several traders raised the issue of botanical names on phytosanitary certificates being spelled incorrectly. AMP followed up regularly with the head of MAIL's Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (PPQD) to try and resolve this issue. AMP worked with the PPQD to come up with a list of botanical names in Latin, English, Dari and, Pashto, which was adopted by MAIL, ACCI and Afghan Customs Department.

Watermelon Seed Testing. Following World Food Istanbul, AMP was asked to help resolve a delay in the shipment of watermelon seeds from Afghanistan to Turkey. An exporter was unaware that the seeds required testing by the Turkish authorities, a process that took far longer than anticipated. AMP contacted MOIC for further information and was told the Commercial Attaché in Istanbul was attempting to resolve the delay with the Turkish authorities. With the help of the Afghan Embassy in Ankara, an online meeting was held with the Turkish Quarantine Department, although the problem could not be satisfactorily resolved. When the MAIL Minister visited Turkey, AMP suggested he address the issue with the Turkish Minister of Agriculture and parliament members. AMP also raised the issue with the Deputy Commercial Attaché and suggested that he bring this up with the MAIL Minister.

Fumigation. India requires that horticultural imports be fumigated with methyl bromide before entering the country to prevent nematode growth. However, methyl bromide is banned or restricted by most countries, including Afghanistan, owing to its adverse effects on the ozone layer. AMP supported MAIL in issuing an official letter to the PPQD in India asking for a waiver on the use of methyl bromide as a fumigant in Afghanistan, as well as a possible alternative chemical.

GM-Free Certification. In August 2020, India's FSSAI modified Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, requiring specific food imports (fruit, vegetables, and grains) to be accompanied by a certificate stating that the product is of non-GM origin, does not contain genetically modified organisms and is not genetically modified, to be issued by competent authority from the exporting country. On AMP's suggestion, the MAIL Minister sent a letter to the Indian government through MOFA informing them that Afghanistan does not produce GMO products, does not have a laboratory or technology to perform GM testing, and requesting exemption until such time that such a laboratory is established. Based on a general response issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) inferring that a certificate can be issued without testing, AMP supported MAIL to create a GM-Free Certificate, which is now in use.

PPQD drafted the GMO guidelines and finalized the GMO certificate sample, which was submitted to the Ministry of Finance to print the GMO certificate in the government's public print house. AMP, on MAIL's request started to translate the guidelines from English to Dari when the change of regime took place.

Trade Credit

AMP's Trade Credit Specialist assisted companies to access financial products during Phase I. Technical assistance was provided to the companies in financial data preparation, financial planning, loan application writing, understanding repayment mechanisms, guidance to connect with international banks through opening letters of credit and bill collection.

AMP assisted five agribusinesses secure bank loans totaling \$724,420. The loans, processed through either Ghazanfar Bank or the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), were utilized for working capital and business expansion.

4. Gender and Youth Integration

AMP integrated women and youth into all areas of program implementation. AMP's gender integration team supported AMP's five primary strategies to bring more women and youth into the agribusiness sector, enable more start-ups to succeed, and incentivize existing agribusinesses (both male and female) to employ youth, particularly young female entrepreneurs. The activities focused on trade

credit programs for women and youth, B2B meetings, food quality and safety courses, FFS training, packaging improvements, and expanding domestic sales through market diversification and integration into supply chain networks.

Business Development

AMP conducted a comprehensive survey of new women-owned/managed agribusinesses in key production areas as a means of selecting new client agribusinesses. From this group AMP selected 14 women agribusiness (1 in Balkh, 7 in Herat, 1 in Daikundi, 4 in Kabul and 1 in Kunduz) and signed MOUs with them for ongoing support.

The business development team provided technical assistance to two women-owned and -managed businesses on branding and improving their company image to grow their businesses. Nikaan Saadat Trading Company received a full branding makeover including product and business photoshoot and packaging design. Zafarani Insaf Ahmadi Food Production company received a product photoshoot as part of the new professional company profile being developed.

By the end of FY2020, AMP had begun processing four incentive applications from women-owned agribusiness partners. AMP assessed the companies' size, market share, types/numbers of products produced, targeted market and competition in that market to weigh the feasibility of the application. Moreover, the team was able to guide the businesses in choosing the machinery appropriate for their budget and steps necessary in standardizing their production methods.

Mentorship Program

AMP facilitated a two-month mentorship program on “Standards of Dried Fruits Process Center”. Nikan Saadat Trading Company in Kabul was selected to receive training on dried fruit processing and business procedures under the auspices of Zemarai Rasooli (a male-owned company). The



Representatives from two women-owned businesses are shown with their mentors at a processing company in Balkh Province.

mentorship enabled the employees of Nikan Saadat to observe the way business operations were conducted in terms of packing and processing dried fruits to overseas markets, and learn fundamental business skills relevant to their own field of specialization.

Later in Phase I, AMP facilitated a two-month mentorship on processing and packaging of dried fruits and nuts. Women Council Products, a newly identified start-up company in Kunduz, was selected to receive training on dried fruit processing, packaging, sorting, and business skills under the auspices of a well-established business in the sector (Omid Zaland, a woman-owned company). The mentorship program enabled the employees of Women Council

Products to observe how business operations were conducted in terms of packing, grading, sorting, storing, and processing dried fruits/nuts to the local market and to learn fundamental business skills relevant to their own field of specialization.

In late FY2021, AMP facilitated a two-month mentorship program for three women-owned/managed agribusinesses. Drukshsham Shamal, Roshanzada and Ainoor Trading Co. received training on business procedures and saffron, vegetable, and dried fruit processing under the mentorship of Bukhdi Bami Ltd (a male-owned company). The mentorship enabled the employees to observe business operations and packing and processing methods for reaching national and international markets. The three women were able to learn first-hand the fundamental business skills relevant to their own field of specialization.



A representative from Maleka Jami Food Processing Co. is shown at her booth at the Spring AgFair.

As part of the mentorship program, AMP arranged for the women to visit Jamshid Ramin Ltd and Bukhdi Bami Trading Company processing centers in Balkh Province to see their high-quality production and processing techniques. The visits were arranged in four sessions so that the women could gain a full understanding of the processing systems and understand the requirements needed to access higher-value markets, including food safety and personal hygiene, packaging options, machinery operation and storage requirements.

Trade Show Participation

AMP helped woman-owned agribusinesses and young entrepreneurs to attend national

agricultural events, with an emphasis on value added products and product promotion. The aim was to increase exports and create new jobs for women from expansion into potential markets.

AMP supported one woman-owned export firm at Gulfood in February 2021. Setara Dry Fruit and Nut Company built on their participation last year and signed MOUs valued at \$17 million for its bulk and packaged dried fruit and nuts.

AMP supported six women-owned/managed agribusinesses from Kabul, Herat, and Balkh at the 25th Spring Agricultural Fair held by MAIL on March 22-26, 2021. This was the largest domestic agricultural trade show in Afghanistan and was focused on increasing trade opportunities for Afghan agribusinesses. AMP utilized the exhibition as a platform to facilitate market linkages for farmers and allow government officials to directly interact with agribusinesses. AMP also facilitated the participation of six newly identified women-owned agribusinesses at the Balkh Ag-Fair/Farmer's Day festival. The three-day event helped women start-ups build brand awareness and boost domestic sales.

AMP supported eight women-owned/managed agribusinesses from Herat at the Eid Bazaar tradeshow, held by the Afghan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) on May 8-10, 2021. This was one of the largest seasonal domestic agricultural trade shows in the region focusing on increasing trade opportunities for Afghan agribusinesses. AMP utilized the exhibition as a platform to facilitate market linkages for farmers and allow government officials to directly interact with female agribusinesses. The event helped boost sales through product showcasing and marketing, resulting in direct and future contracts totaling more than \$11,000 for dried fruits, nuts, honey, saffron and dried vegetables.

AMP supported eight women-owned/managed agribusinesses from Kabul and Herat provinces at the Peace and Self Sufficiency Exhibition, held by the Herat Chamber of Industries and Mines on July 1-8, 2021. This was one of the largest domestic agricultural trade shows in the western region. The exhibition provided opportunities for domestic traders to meet new customers and suppliers from all over the country. AMP utilized the exhibition as a platform to facilitate market linkages for farmers and allow government officials to directly interact with female agribusinesses. The event helped boost sales through product showcasing and marketing, resulting in direct and potential contracts totaling \$41,154 for dried fruits, nuts, honey, saffron and dried vegetables.

Access to Finance

By its nature, the export business requires agribusinesses to have sufficient working capital to meet buyers' requirements and provide a consistent supply of goods throughout the trading season. But exporters have difficulty obtaining bank financing due to the lack of land titling for collateral and the

absence of a reliable and affordable microfinance system. This is true especially for Afghan women. AMP worked with Afghan banks to facilitate short-term loan packages at low interest rates. Rozhan Trading Company was awarded a \$9,000, three-year loan at 5% interest to enable the company to purchase processing machinery that would significantly increase output and ramp up production so that it could participate in overseas trade shows.

AMP worked with Zafarani Insaf Ahmadi Food Production Company, which received a \$25,000, three-year loan with an initial 5% interest rate to enable it to purchase raw materials to increase production and help the company ramp up its processing and productivity so that it could participate in overseas trade shows.

Branding Assistance

Graphic support was extended to three woman-owned companies to improve their brand image. AMP provided logo and packaging designs for Mumtaz Yousofzai, Benazir Yakta Trading Company and Queen Marjan Trading Co. AMP also designed special packages for domestic markets as requested by some of the agribusinesses.



Women farmers from Balkh Province participate in an FFS training in lime sulfur application.

Farmer Field Schools

As noted earlier, the FFS was a learning process whereby farmers were presented with new technologies, new ideas, new situations and new ways of responding to agricultural challenges. The knowledge acquired during the learning process built on existing knowledge, enabling female farmers to adapt existing technologies to become more productive, more profitable, and more responsive to changing conditions with the best use of limited resources.

During Phase I, a total of 470 women from Kunduz and Balkh provinces participated in FFS trainings. The trainings focused on irrigation management, nutrient management, IPM, pruning, mulching, fruit thinning, weed control, canopy management and related techniques.



Women agribusiness owners from Herat meet with supermarket buyers at an AMP B2B meeting.

B2B Linkages

AMP opened new business opportunities for agribusinesses owned/managed by Afghan women/youth in targeted areas. B2B meetings linked women agribusinesses, suppliers/processors, local and domestic supermarkets to establish business relationships and product supply.

In early 2021, AMP arranged a B2B meeting in Herat to introduce 16 women-owned agribusinesses to local merchants. The meeting provided a platform for the women to showcase their dried fruit, nuts and saffron. Three businesses made deals with Qalb Asia chain of

supermarkets as a result of the meeting. Initial sales from the B2B event were \$5,717 with a volume of 2 MT of dried fruits, nuts, jam, pickles, honey, saffron, lemon juice, oil seeds (including sunflower) and spices.

Later, AMP arranged a B2B meeting in Kunduz Province. This meeting provided a platform for six

farmers, four supermarkets and several government extension agents to review products by four women-owned/managed agribusiness. All four women-owned businesses signed contracts with local supermarkets as a result of the meeting.

Business Summit

In early 2021, AMP facilitated the participation of 12 women agribusinesses at the 3rd Women's National Entrepreneurship Summit in Kabul. The summit provided opportunities for women business owners to network and engage in matchmaking events as well as education in laws, regulations, reforms, and opportunities for newly formed women-owned agribusinesses. The participants included representatives from Barge Badam, Gul Maryam, Khaharan Hajizada and Zaland Omid trading companies from Balkh, Herat, Kunduz and Daikundi provinces.

AMP Phase II



AMP Phase II

This second phase of AMP operations began with the launch of the Pivot Plan on February 1, 2022. During Phase II, AMP officially shut down all export facilitation and participation in international trade shows. The Taliban takeover brought a halt to many gender integration activities, as women business owners went into hiding or fled the country. All trade promotion activities were halted by USAID. Despite these and other challenges, AMP was able to outperform most of its program indicators.

This phase was characterized by political insecurity, humanitarian conflict and a food security and economic crisis. It saw a complete program makeover as AMP pivoted to more farm-based production work and domestic sales. AMP continued to seek ways of improving livelihoods by providing farm technology, building horticultural skills, and assisting women as home income providers.

Phase II activities comprised three strategies:

- Connecting Farmers to Domestic Markets
- Increasing Value-Add and Shelf Life
- Support for Remote Rural Farmers

During this period, all activities related to export facilitation were abandoned in lieu of activities that stressed domestic sales and linkages. The move toward more online training platforms due to the pandemic in Phase I helped facilitate the continuation of training during Phase II.

Phase II ended on January 27, 2023, when USAID signed a no-cost extension to AMP's cooperative agreement.

I. Connecting Farmers to Domestic Markets

AMP worked to strengthen market linkages and promote value addition from AMP client farmers, especially those producing staple crops, with the goal of connecting remote areas to high-value, domestic markets. In doing so, AMP sought to provide new opportunities for farmers to increase their income, create jobs and increase food availability throughout the year within the Afghanistan domestic market.

Beneficiary selection

AMP contacted agribusinesses to assess whether they were still in operation following the Taliban takeover, which resulted in 72 agribusiness MOUs being signed. AMP facilitated linkages between those clients and partners including farmers, intermediaries, and wholesalers.

Having received USAID approval to launch its Grant and Incentive Program, AMP began approaching client agribusinesses to explore interventions that would utilize co-investment opportunities offered through the program. These activities were aimed at improving the agribusinesses' ability to adapt processing techniques to extend the viable shelf life of products and prolong their market windows, thus improving food security in the country. AMP assisted many of these agribusinesses in completing applications to become eligible for project support.

Youth

AMP's new scope of work favored activities that emphasized youth engagement. Out of AMP's 72 male and female agribusiness partners, 14 were businesses owned by youth consisting of 5 female youth and 9 male youth-owned companies operating in agriculture production and processing.

Women

AMP conducted a broad survey of women-owned/managed agribusinesses in key production areas to support throughout the project pivot. As a result, AMP selected a total of 23 women and youth agribusinesses, comprising 10 in Kabul, 11 in Herat, one in Balkh and one in Kunduz province.

Sales Facilitation

AMP worked with a total of 191 client agribusinesses, providing them with market data, supporting them at linkage events with farmers, supporting them at domestic trade shows and other activities aimed at helping them increase domestic sales. This number included 72 new domestic agribusinesses (5 of which were women-owned or managed and three were owned or managed by youth).

During Phase II, AMP recorded sales of over \$41,405,338 million by client agribusinesses to domestic markets. The products included fresh fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, nuts, cereals, and other agricultural products. For a complete list of sales facilitated, see Annex 8.

Market Linkage Events

AMP organized a total of 1,488 Business to Farmer (B2F) events to facilitate linkages between agribusinesses, farmers, processors, middlemen or agents, and wholesalers. The attendees made a total of 2,560 linkages (sales commitments) resulting in sales of \$2,237,162. The majority of these deals were signed in Balkh Province followed by Herat and Nangarhar. A total of 52 (2%) of these linkages took place with female-owned businesses.

Table 6: B2F Market Linkages by Gender

Province	Male	Female	Total
Balkh	1,253	0	1,253
Herat	1,057	36	1,093
Kabul	62	4	66
Kandahar	48	0	48
Kunduz	0	12	12
Nangarhar	88	0	88
Total	2,508	52	2,560



AMP-supported agribusinesses participate in an almond B2F event, Uruzgan Province.

Domestic Trade Show Facilitation

Under the Phase II pivot, AMP shifted its focus from export promotion events to domestic events. AMP supported 103 agribusinesses to attend domestic shows noted below.

AMP's Response to Food Security Crisis

Program pivot put short-term interventions at the forefront



Greenhouses extend the growing season for vegetables.



Kitchen gardens enable families to grow their own vegetables at home.

In early 2022, AMP modified its work plan to address the immediate challenges raised by the growing food security crisis in Afghanistan.

Maintaining a vigorous **supply chain** was deemed crucial for feeding the Afghan population. AMP's Phase II activities were therefore aimed at ensuring that farms produced at capacity, growing core staple crops (such as soy and beans) as well as high-value fruit crops to bring added household income. AMP identified **cold storage** solutions so that crops can move from field to market with a minimum of spoilage. AMP **grants and incentives** provided much-needed equipment and infrastructure to add value and shelf life to products.

At the farm level, AMP continued **orchard establishment** activities, including high-density trellised crops with a short maturity time. AMP also provided training and inputs for **intercropping** to provide farm families with nutritious vegetables while trees were maturing. **Greenhouses** allowed farmers to grow crops beyond the traditional seasons. AMP addressed drought concerns with **irrigation** activities rehabilitating canals and karezes as well as installing drip irrigation systems.

AMP worked with women and youth to develop **kitchen gardens** so that families have a ready source of food at hand.

A robust supply chain needs competent **agribusinesses** with the tools and know-how to get food into local markets. AMP identified more than **100 agribusinesses** that received a wide range of interventions from training in food handling to accounting, as well as linkages with producers and retailers.

AMP's value chain approach gave it the flexibility to respond to market changes and address the root causes of food instability. These interventions had both a short-term impact on farmers' ability to feed their families and a longer-term effect on how Afghanistan feeds its future.

Spring Agricultural Fair

AMP supported 43 agribusinesses from Kabul, Balkh, Kunduz, Herat, Kandahar and Nangahar provinces at the Spring Agricultural Fair (AgFair) which was held at the Badam Bagh exhibition area in Kabul from March 26-29, 2022. The participants included 16 women-owned or managed agribusinesses and 27 male-owned agribusinesses. Three of the female-owned businesses were also youth-owned. AMP supported travel costs from the provinces, hotel accommodations in Kabul and assisted with designing and decorating booths. Exhibitors were required to pay for booth rentals.

The event resulted in creating 23 market linkages between exhibitors supported by AMP and potential buyers. While the purpose of the event was to negotiate linkages for future deals rather than generate on-site sales, the participants generated sales valued at around \$23,000. Female-owned businesses made potential deals (market linkages) valued AFN 1.9 million (\$22,000) while male-owned businesses secured AFN 19.9 million (\$229,000) in potential deals.



Bukhdy Bami generated \$26,000 in saffron sales at the Kabul AgFair.

Autumn Agricultural Fair

AMP supported the participation of 41 partner agribusinesses in the Autumn Agricultural Fair held by the MAIL at Badam Bagh, Kabul, on October 19-22. Most of the agribusinesses came from Herat (21), followed by Balkh (6), Nangarhar (5), Kandahar (4), Kabul (3), Kunduz and Ghazni (1 each). Among the 12 women-owned businesses that participated, six were first-time exhibitors. AMP assisted with the creation of promotional materials and booth design for all 41 exhibitors. For the 38 firms arriving from outside of Kabul, AMP provided financial support for air or ground transportation and hotel accommodations. The exhibitors were responsible for paying for booth space. The four-day event yielded sales of \$411,516, of which 14% was generated by female-owned businesses.



AMP supported 14 agribusinesses at the Akhtar Bazar Exhibition, Continental Hotel, Kabul, July 6-8.

Herat Fair

The Herat Fair took place on April 26-29, 2022, and was organized by the Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI). The five female participants were all women-owned or managed agribusinesses from Herat Province. AMP assisted with booth design and printing of promotional media (wall banners and stand banners) for the event. The event was the first exhibition organized in Herat for women since the Taliban takeover.

Akhtar Bazar Exhibition

AMP supported 14 agribusinesses at the Akhtar Bazar Exhibition, held at the Continental Hotel, Kabul, on July 6-8, and organized by SIAM Business, a local event management company in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC). Seven of the participants were women-owned businesses. AMP paid for the booths and assisted with booth design and printing promotional wall and stand banners. In addition to a limited number of consumer sales, the event enabled the exhibitors to promote their brands. A major deal for

\$103,000 for almonds and pistachios was signed at the event.

Market Price Dissemination and Analysis

Market intelligence is critical for agricultural businesses, allowing for better decision making based on facts and projections. Utilizing current seasonal pricing along with historical pricing trends can assist farmers and agribusinesses in making investment decisions that can lead to higher profitability and better food security for Afghanistan.

During Phase II, AMP collected domestic market prices for fresh fruits, dry fruits, nuts, staple crops, and vegetables every week at the wholesale level. Priority was given to staple commodities, vegetables, and fresh fruits due to the significant price fluctuations. The weekly prices assisted farmers and traders to decide which region or province may be targeted for improved profitability.

As an illustrative example, by tracking Nangarhar onions, AMP research showed that the price was lowest during harvest time (around \$0.25/kg at the start of May 2022), while by June the price had increased 11% to \$0.30/kg due to large quantities being exported to Tajikistan, Pakistan, and Kazakhstan. Farmers able to store their onions until September were able to take advantage of these higher domestic market prices since, in other provinces (including Kabul), harvest began in the month of October.

Improved Product Handling

Sales of horticulture products in Afghanistan are often impeded by the lack of available storage, poor packaging, inattention to proper food processing techniques and a broken cold chain. AMP worked to build the wholesale sector through capacity building activities aimed at food safety and post-harvest management training, and better market linkages between farmers, wholesalers, and third-party buyers. AMP's Grant and Incentive Program was in part aimed at rehabilitating inadequate commercial cold storage facilities. Similar activities targeted improvements to commercial warehouses to improve sanitation and efficiency. Other grants and incentives sought to make improvements in product packaging to reduce spoilage and damage.

Product Handling Training

On May 23-24, 2021, AMP conducted two days of in-classroom training on "Post-harvest Management, Good Manufacturing Practices, Food Safety and Agronomic Principles" for Kabul-based processors and wholesalers. The training was attended by 17 representatives of the wholesale, processing, cold storage, and producer sectors.



Post-harvest management training delivered to agribusinesses, Herat Province.

On July 3-4, 2021, AMP provided processors and wholesalers in Herat with two days of classroom instruction on "Post-harvest Management, Good Manufacturing Practices, Food Safety, and Agronomic Principles." A total of 26 representatives from wholesale markets, processing companies, and cold stores participated and were encouraged to share their knowledge and experience with the rural communities they work with.

The same training was repeated on August 24–25 to 16 Nangarhar-based businesses, and on September 21-22 to 22 Balkh-based businesses (including six female participants).

Warehouse, Storage & Processing Center Improvements

AMP's Grant & Incentive Program supported businesses to make renovations and improvements to their processing centers, warehouses, and wholesale markets. A total of 49 businesses received Incentive payments for renovation, improvements, operationalization, repair, maintenance, capacity increase or upgrading of facilities.



Before and after photos show refurbishments completed at Faisal Fahim Trading Co. as a result of an AMP incentive.

Packaging

The lack of appropriate packaging was found to be one of the main challenges faced by farmers and traders in the domestic market. Improper packaging affects product safety and shelf life and leads to accelerated food spoilage. Packaging used by farmers and wholesalers includes plastic bags, plastic crates, and cardboard cartons, although the most common were plastic bags which were inexpensive and readily available. Plastic bags significantly reduce shelf life as they trap perspiration and ethylene, which accelerate the ripening process, resulting in spoilage. Plastic also traps heat and moisture leading to the growth of pathogens, unless kept in refrigerated conditions.

AMP supported wholesalers/traders and farmers of fresh fruit and vegetables with improved packaging materials including plastic crates, PICS bags, and cardboard cartons. During Phase II, 56 fresh fruit wholesalers received incentive agreements for improved packaging for fresh grapes and apples.

Product Handling, Processing & Transportation Incentives

AMP worked to build the wholesale sector through capacity building activities aimed at food safety and post-harvest management training and better market linkages between farmers, wholesalers, and third-party buyers. Under AMP's Grant & Incentive Program, agribusinesses were provided with financial support to improve product handling and packaging, undertake third-party processing and transport products throughout the country. During Phase II a total of 77 product handling, processing and transportation incentive agreements were completed valued at \$563,844.

Introduction of Nutritionally Dense Crops

In response to deteriorating food insecurity, AMP began piloting interventions to improve food security to meet potential shortfalls caused by seasonal conditions, increasing costs of inputs and the disruption of supply chains. The team worked to support a number of businesses to provide farmers with correct information, variety selection, tools, discounted inputs (such as fertilizers) and post-harvest handling training to expand staple crops, promote off-season supply and expand models for contract farming.

Nine grants were implemented during Phase II in the areas of input distribution and capacity building

to expand access to nutritionally dense crops. These supported 6,755 farmers (of which 1,379 were female). These activities included distribution of home gardening kits and training, grants supporting the cultivation of soybeans in Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar provinces, a grant supporting the cultivation of red beans, and others.

2. Increasing Value-Add and Shelf Life

This strategy focused on activities aimed at preserving agricultural products for as long as possible, adding value and reducing the amount of food that goes to waste. Focus was placed on upgrades to cold storage facilities, packaging that will extend product shelf life and training courses to increase the knowledge and capacity of agribusinesses.

Grant & Incentive Program

AMP's Grant and Incentive Program was created to address many of the challenges and obstacles experienced by agribusinesses under the prevailing economic crisis, including the rising costs of global inputs due to global energy costs and supply chain issues caused by the pandemic, increased fuel and energy costs, limited liquidity due to the lack of a fully functioning domestic banking system, and lower purchasing power among Afghan population reducing demand for certain agricultural products.

The Grant & Incentive Program supported agribusinesses to:

- Increase production and yields of agricultural products, particularly staple food crops.
- Increase value of agricultural products through improved sorting/grading, processing, storage, and transportation/distribution.
- Expand agricultural product shelf-life through improved storage, processing and handling, and reduction in food spoilage.
- Increase or sustain employment.
- Increase or sustain agricultural sales in the domestic market.

Grants and incentives were awarded to enterprises, NGOs/associations, and community groups in AMP's key provinces, specifically activities that support food security for the domestic market and enable fair competition with imports. AMP utilized a combination of fixed amount awards, in-kind grants, simplified grants, and incentives to meet the objectives above. Recipients were required to make a financial contribution toward the cost of any activity of more than 25% (or 10% for women owned/managed/focused businesses).

Under the Grant & Incentive Program, AMP supported the following activities (although other activities were considered):

- **Agricultural Inputs** – the procurement and distribution of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, and tools for use by farmers growing any plant-based agricultural products. The activity was aimed at increasing production, extending the production season, increasing yields, and/or diversity in the range of agricultural products available in the domestic market. Priority was given to the production of staple crops.
- **Agricultural Production and Processing** – improvements to the system of agricultural production and processing through technical training and support, introduction of contract farming models, and establishment of demonstration plots.
- **Consumables** – the procurement and use of products designed to increase the shelf life of agricultural products. Such products included ethylene absorbers, PICS bags, sulfur pads, vacuum packaging, hermetic sealing, clamshells, plastic crates, water-resistant cartons, and pallets.

- **Agricultural Equipment** – used in agricultural production, processing, or packaging, and resulting in increased production, extension of production season, increased yields, value addition, and expansion of shelf life. Equipment included sorting/grading equipment, packaging machines, drying/waxing equipment, and mobile cold storage facilities.
- **Infrastructure** – used in agricultural production, processing, and (cold) storage to support increased production, value addition, expansion of product shelf-life and reduction in product spoilage. AMP supported establishment, expansion, renovation and repair of ambient temperature storage facilities, warehouses, wholesale markets, cold storage facilities, and reefers.

Incentives were cost-reimbursable contributions paid to businesses upon full completion of an activity supporting project objectives, upon submission of all required documentation. Nine incentive packages were offered to agribusinesses:

- Purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, tools) to be used by farmers.
- Transportation/distribution of agricultural products among different provinces.
- Third-party processing/packaging.
- Adoption/utilization of shelf-life prolongation technologies.
- Utilization of cold storage facilities by agricultural enterprises.
- Introduction of new or improved processing, packaging, packing or storage technologies and equipment.
- Renovation, or repair of wholesale markets, ambient temperature storage facilities and/or cold storage facilities.
- Company or product marketing (e.g. advertising, social media marketing, billboards, packaging design).
- Access to Islamic Loans – cost of property evaluation, financial audit or administration fee.

Following USAID approval of AMP's Grant & Incentive Manual, Requests for Applications (RFA) were formally released through ACBAR and directly to AMP partners. The program would continue through the end of Phase III. Final figures are provided on Table 10, page 71. Full details of individual grants and incentives is provided under Annex 9.

Upgrading Cold Storage Facilities

A significant proportion of agricultural produce grown in Afghanistan is lost to spoilage – some estimates in the past suggest up to 30% of food grown ends up rotting in the fields. By far the most significant losses are caused by the inability to preserve shelf life through cold/cool or controlled atmosphere storage during peak harvest period. Given that many smallholder farmers in Afghanistan live on the margins of food insecurity, a reduction in food losses could have an immediate and significant impact on their livelihoods and income.

Cold Storage Assessments

In 2020, soon after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, AMP conducted an assessment to determine the operational status of 32 cold storage facilities in eight provinces (Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh, Kunduz, Wardak, Laghman). At the beginning of Phase II, AMP personnel started revisiting some of the privately-owned cold storage facilities in key provinces to examine the impact of the pandemic and regime change on their operations.

The assessments demonstrated that AMP's pivot plan clearly aligned with industry needs and interests. Cold storage owners were interested in expanding their facilities, changing their facilities and refrigeration equipment to store different products, adding pre-cooling facilities, upgrading storage systems (racking, pallets), and integrating additional equipment, such as generators, plastic curtains, and humidifiers. A few companies needed support to renovate or repair their facilities and many were interested in introducing solar power systems to reduce their reliance on the inconsistent

power grid and generators, particularly given the increase in fuel prices. A few companies suggested that they would like to integrate basic processing (sorting, washing, and grading) to their activities.

Interest was also expressed by three Kandahar companies and one Herat company in constructing new cold storage facilities with AMP assistance. AMP's Cold Storage Engineer began providing support to these companies by creating architectural designs for a 500MT, 750MT and 1,000MT cold storage facility. AMP was not able to support these activities owing to budget shortfalls in Phase III.

There was also significant demand for technical assistance and training, which fell into five key areas:

- Cold Chain Basics for Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- New Cold Chain Technology Trends
- Managing a Cold Storage Facility
- Technical Aspects of Cold Storage Operation & Maintenance
- Solar Power Options for Cold Storage Facilities

Training material for five online courses was developed by AMP's expatriate Cold Chain Consultant and launched during the final two quarters of Phase II. Presentations were created in Dari, Pashto, and English. A total of 96 trainees enrolled in the five courses, of which 73 were **unique individuals** (representing 36 businesses, six NGO representatives and 31 students). These were posted at amp-hub.com.

Cold Storage Grants

AMP issued grants to upgrade cold storage facilities, providing equipment (such as forklifts), solar power generators, pallets, pre-cooling, new equipment (such as condensing units on reefers), replacement of broken refrigeration and automated loading/unloading equipment. In support of some of these applications, AMP's Cold Storage Engineer designed architectural plans to assist in putting together equipment needs and budgets. By the end of Phase II, two grants had been implemented, valued at \$289,217.

The Ripple Effect of AMP Grants



Women rely on jobs such as raisin sorting for much-needed household income. An AMP grant led to more than 100 new jobs at Noor Ahmad's facility.

Previously, only 80 women worked at Noor Ahmad's raisin processing facility. But building upgrades and equipment provided through an AMP grant created a more professional workplace that enabled him to more than double his workforce and revenue.

"AMP revamped this building so that we could add staff and conduct our work in a hygienic environment," he said.

The women who worked for Noor Ahmad came from the poorest of the poor. Many were widows or single women whose husbands died or abandoned them. While their salary might seem paltry by Western standards, for some of the women it helped them hold their families together.

Pilot Small-Scale, Low-Cost Cold Storage Solutions

Afghanistan, particularly the south of the country, is ideally suited for solar power. Under the CHAMP project, ROP trialed two 12m³ (3 MT) solar powered mobile cold storage facilities. One used a standard compressor while the other utilized Coolbot technology, which modifies an air conditioner to produce cooler temperatures. Both solutions were manufactured by Afghan Wind and Solar and cost approximately \$12,500.

Early in Phase II, AMP began investigating opportunities for expanding small-scale and mobile cold storage facility use in Afghanistan. AMP received a total of 50 applications, which were evaluated by AMP personnel and a shortlist of 20 businesses compiled. In mid-August 2022 an RFQ was also released to request quotations from vendors able to manufacture small-scale solar powered cold rooms. A total of five quotations were received and evaluated, which resulted in the selection of two vendors offering different solutions, an Indian company specializing in the production of solar powered cold rooms, and an Afghan company that had recently designed and tested their own solution in Kandahar. This activity would be continued under Phase III, as USAID vetting had not yet been finalized by the end of Phase II.

Value Addition & Shelf-Life Expansion

Capacity Building to Prolong Shelf-Life

AMP held a variety of training courses/mini conferences on grape post-harvest handling and raisin processing for fresh fruit businesses in Herat, Kabul, Balkh and Kandahar. The activities were designed to encourage discussion on tangible and realistic improvements that could be made to the post-harvest handling of grapes. Topics included horticultural maturity, sorting and grading, packaging, cold storage, quality characteristics, respiration rates, and physiological and pathological disorders. Participants were also introduced to refractometers to test Total Soluble Solids.



Kandahar and Zabul fresh fruit businesses received training in grape post-harvest handling.

Women Led & Women Focused Food Processing Activities

AMP provided dedicated support to women owned or managed businesses in developing and implementing grant and incentive applications, or businesses/organization supporting activities creating or strengthening employment opportunities for women.

By the end Phase II, AMP had signed incentive agreements with 26 women owned or managed enterprises (more than a quarter of all incentive agreements received). Incentives supported purchase of agricultural inputs, domestic transportation of agricultural products, third-party processing, improved packaging, processing/packaging equipment, renovations to processing centers and marketing. Five grants directly focused on women or were implemented by women-owned businesses/community groups.

Agribusiness Capacity Building

Practical Business Training

To complement the technical and financial support being provided to AMP partner agribusinesses, AMP provided in-person and online training in various business management topics to maximize the impact of grants and incentives, and strengthen technical and organizational capacity of client

organizations. Ten courses were devised and split into two tracks:

Track One

- Business Communication & Negotiation
- Promotion & Branding
- Product Development
- Basics of Accounting & Bookkeeping
- Customer Retention

Track Two

- Human Resource Management
- Inventory & Warehouse Management
- Business Ethics & Intellectual Property Rights
- Digital Marketing
- Banking & Access to Finance

The courses were developed and delivered by AMP's national personnel, based on their own expertise and experience, to focus specifically on the new domestically focused client base. Each course was designed to enable participants to apply practical skills to their business. Pre and post-test questions were also developed for evaluation purposes.

During Phase II, AMP completed delivery of Track 1 and Track 2 in-person business trainings for 281 individuals representing AMP partner agribusinesses (including 91 women) in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar and Kandahar.

All in-person training was devised and delivered by AMP national employees who had relevant experience in each field. Two of AMP's female staff members delivered training on marketing and management subjects to male and female participants in Kabul, Balkh, and Herat. At the conclusion of each training topic, participants completed pre- and post-tests to assess their learning. They also completed a feedback form to provide comments and suggestions for the program.



Female business owners participate in two days of business training in Herat province.

As well as delivering in-person training, AMP also made the trainings available online, in Dari and Pashto, to its database of more than 1,000 business representatives, NGO representatives and students. Each trainer recorded a narrative to accompany the slides, which were made available on the Microsoft Sway platform. These were completed by a total of 167 unique individuals.

Company & Product Marketing

AMP supported agribusinesses to undertake product and company promotion through a combination of technical and financial assistance. Under the existing economic conditions, it was difficult for many traders and processors to compete with imports, underscoring the need for greater brand identity at home to compete with imports. Many of AMP's clients lacked the necessary branding needed to compete in the increasingly sophisticated market. Those with basic corporate logos typically lack a branding manual to help them maintain uniform graphics in their marketing collateral (such as color use, fonts, and logo variations). Many also lack professional branding and graphics on their packaging designs.

During Phase II, AMP continued to help agribusiness clients to redevelop their corporate image,

develop marketing collateral, and product labelling and packaging designs. During this phase, AMP assisted 63 agribusinesses. See Annex 4 for a table of cumulative branding assistance.

Access to Finance

Despite the economic and banking crisis, Afghanistan's banking sector continued to remain resilient under the Taliban, even though banks had to transition commercial loans to Islamic loans. During Phase II, contact was maintained with many of the major banks on a weekly basis in hopes of increasing access to finance for client agribusinesses. Unfortunately, owing to the economic crisis and challenges within the financial sector, AMP was not able to support access to finance activities following the Taliban takeover. However, contact with many of the major banks continued on a regular basis in hopes of increasing access to finance for client agribusinesses in the future.

Export Trade Incentives

During Phase II, AMP continued to process documentation for export trade incentives incurred under Phase I. A total of 10 incentive agreements were processed, valued at \$115,365.

Collaboration

AMP's gender team conducted meetings with AWCCI and MAIL's Home Economic Development agents in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, and Kunduz provinces to provide a briefing on AMP's new implementation scheme and further coordination and collaboration. The expectations were to continue expanding AMP's outreach and enhance cooperation between stakeholders.

3. Support for Remote Rural Farmers

AMP worked in contested areas that were formerly on the frontlines of war, where there had been no development to provide immediate, visible impact and hope to Afghan farmers. Because agriculture is the primary source of income in these remote rural areas, AMP assistance focused on providing skills training and business opportunities to improve the lives of farmers in those areas.

Training of Trainers

AMP provided technical assistance to rural farmers in areas such as orchard management, winter pruning, post-harvest care and winter pest management. AMP accomplished this by training lead farmers and AMP extension personnel in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), improved methods, and the use of new technology.

During Phase II, AMP held TOT sessions in Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Logar, Ghazni, Kunduz and Wardak Provinces to strengthen the technical capabilities of the AMP extension team and lead farmers. The AMP training team taught harvest and post-harvest management skills to 1,093 participants (130 AMP extension officers, 931 lead farmers and 32 traders).



A TOT session on apricot harvest and post-harvest management is given at the AMP field office in Wardak Province.

Farmer Field Schools

As a part of its quality improvement program, AMP enhanced the capacity of farmers to improve their product quality, introduce advanced orchard/vineyard management and improve harvesting methods

through Farmer Field School (FFS) training sessions, which began under Phase I

During Phase II, 623 FFS training sessions were held in 10 provinces for 8,687 farmers (279 of whom were female). The trainings focused on irrigation management, nutrient management, mulching, fruit thinning, green pruning, weed control, canopy management, and other related techniques. For a breakdown of FFS trainings in Phase II, see table below.

To further assist farmers, the AMP technical team created seven technical brochures in the local language and distributed them to farmers for crop pest control using environmentally friendly management practices. These brochures were aimed at controlling codling moth, powdery mildew, downy mildew, aphids, mites, brown rot, and leaf miner.

Table 8: FFS Facilitation

Province	# Of FFS	Number of Farmers	Topics
Ghazni	36	430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green pruning in fruit trees and vineyards. ▪ Irrigation management and Good Agricultural Practices. ▪ Compost preparation and application. ▪ Fruit thinning. ▪ Fertilization. ▪ Harvesting and post-harvest management. ▪ Mulching and weed control. ▪ Pest prevention and disease control. ▪ Pruning and canopy management. ▪ Irrigation management. ▪ Grape and apricot drying methods. ▪ Tree trunk whitewashing methods.
Kunduz	97	1,314	
Kandahar	53	748	
Paktia	221	3,378	
Balkh	35	441	
Helmand	53	663	
Nangarhar	27	328	
Zabul	46	603	
Logar	32	470	
Wardak	23	312	
Total	623	8,687	



Farmers are trained on the application of Bordeaux Mixture for preventative control of pests and disease, Kharwar District, Logar Province.

Orchard/Vineyard Establishment

AMP generated job opportunities and reduced poverty among rural Afghan farmers by helping them shift from relatively low-value annual crops, such as wheat, to relatively high-value perennial crops,

such as citrus, apples, pears, peaches, apricots, grapes, almonds, peaches, figs, pomegranates, and plums. AMP assisted farmers in designing a layout and provided saplings and necessary training to ensure plant survival.

During Phase II, AMP created 1,739 new orchards comprising 751.5 ha of land (3,757.5 jeribs) in 42 target districts of Nangarhar, Helmand, Kunduz, Kandahar, Zabul, Ghazni, Paktia, Logar, Wardak, and Balkh provinces. The orchards were designed in a way to allow farmers to implement field activities easily and allow space for intercropping with nutritionally rich vegetables while the orchards are maturing. The orchards were designed so as to minimize the risk of pests and diseases due to better sunlight penetration and air circulation among the trees.

Of the 1,739 orchards created, 1,621 were conventional and medium density orchards and 118 orchards were high density (apples and pears). The latter were introduced to AMP farmers in high altitude districts as demonstration orchards. High density orchards contribute to higher yield, bearing fruit in only 2-3 years and providing higher income to farmers. Farmers were required to make a copayment of 20-30% of the cost of inputs (saplings and fertilizer).

AMP field staff worked with Provincial Nursery Grower Associations to source the saplings and made arrangements for the farmers to deal directly with the local nurseries to obtain the trees and a guarantee to replace any trees that did not survive. This helped establish a working relationship between the farmers and the nurseries for future expansion of the nurseries in AMP target districts.

For a full breakdown of AMP orchard establishment activities, see Annex 1 and 2.



Kunduz orchard farmers are trained in applying mulch to avoid evaporation.



A farmer in Nangarhar Province is trained on irrigation and intercropping management.

Orchard Care Activities

As in Phase I, AMP's extension team worked closely with newly established orchards/vineyards to provide best management techniques to ensure the survival and optimum growth of young plants. Field staff visited farmers to help them understand and follow instructions on how to accelerate the growth of the plants through improving irrigation methods, use of mulch to reduce evaporation, control of weeds, use of fertilizer and IPM. AMP conducted over 8,000 farm visits during Phase II.

Trellising

As noted in Phase I, trellising vineyards significantly improves the harvest yield of grapes, both in quality and in quantity. T-trellising systems consist of concrete poles running parallel to the vines and steel wires fixed over the poles. This system, capable of supporting the load of the grapes, places the vines at a manageable height for the average sized adult. Trellised vines are exposed to more sunlight, which encourages growth and increases yields and quality. Trellising also protects plants from the effects of flooding and hail. The net result is a doubling of yields and a significant increase in

quality.

Trellising was undertaken in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Balkh, Kunduz, Ghazni, Maidan Wardak and Nangarhar for 214 ha of vineyards. This improved the vineyards of 487 farmers and resulted in the generation of 58 FTE jobs.

Improved Apricot Drying

As in Phase I, AMP provided training in the technique of drying apricots using sulfur to help farmers avoid losses; converting apricot harvests into high-value crops. Sulfur drying improves apricot shape, flavor, and color, resulting in a higher market value. Farmers learned to sort, grade, and clean apricots as part of their training, arranging them on wooden

trays in a wooden structure known as a sulfur-drying hut and fumigating them for four to six hours by the farmers. Following fumigation, the farmers remove the trays and place them in the sun to dry for three days. After removing the seeds and treating the apricots with paraffin oil, the apricots are sun-dried until the moisture content of the fruits reduces to 20%. After that, the dried apricots are ready to be packaged and sold.

During Phase II, AMP trained 416 farmers (24 of whom were women) in sulfur drying techniques in Zabul, Logar, Ghazni and Kunduz Provinces.

Greenhouses

The use of greenhouses enables farmers to extend the growing season for vegetables, thereby enabling them to sell their crops when prices are higher. Greenhouses are also ideal for high quality crops that are less prone to inclement weather and pests. AMP's greenhouse program utilized low-cost, low-maintenance structures 40 x 9 meters in size that were built using locally sourced materials. The goal of this activity was to increase farmers' income and maximize smaller landholdings by introducing vegetable cash crops during the winter season.



Trellis posts are loaded for delivery to Balkh vineyards.



A greenhouse owner from Nangarhar is trained on balanced leaf thinning.

AMP signed a contract with Ideal Choice to manufacture 30 greenhouses during the first phase of intervention. During Phase II, the manufacturer completed the construction of all 30 greenhouses in Nangarhar, Paktia, Kunduz, Balkh, and Ghazni provinces.

In addition, the extension team trained farmers in skills related to greenhouse management, such as land preparation, seedling production, irrigation management, fertilizer application, ventilation control, weed control, mulching and techniques for vertical growth.

Irrigation

Water is a critical yet scarce resource in Afghanistan's agricultural regions. Poorly maintained or damaged irrigation systems result in low agricultural yields, affecting rural communities that are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. As a result of climate change, it is anticipated that extreme weather events, including heat waves, floods, and droughts, will likely increase. Because the majority of Afghanistan's population relies directly or indirectly on available natural resources for their livelihoods, these climatic changes will have a direct impact on food security.

AMP began an integrated approach to address the abovementioned problems through the following activities:

- Recharging karezes and underground aquifers through construction of small-scale soil and water conservation measures
- Installation of high efficiency irrigation systems (drip irrigation) and irrigation channel lining
- Improved water management practices through rehabilitation of irrigation channels

Canal/Irrigation Channel Rehabilitation

Canal rehabilitation is crucial for the improvement of overall irrigation efficiency in areas of Afghanistan where water is in short supply. During Phase II, AMP implemented the rehabilitation of Kanni Kulaw canal in Zurmat District, Paktia Province. The completed rehabilitation consisted of a 3.5 km stone masonry canal lining with several drop structures. The canal has a coverage area of 2,500 ha of land, with around 50% under irrigation. The rehabilitation brought an additional 500 ha of land under irrigation and generated 15,771 man-days of employment for the local community.



The Kanni Kulaw canal in Paktia Province is shown nearing completion.

High Efficiency Irrigation Systems

Drip irrigation is an efficient means of irrigation and water conservation in areas where water is scarce. The process allows water to move through a network of pipes and tubes and drip directly on the roots of plants, either from above the soil surface or buried below the surface.

During Phase II, a total of 42 drip irrigation systems were installed in the provinces of Wardak, Logar, Paktia, Kandahar, Zabul and Helmand. The drip irrigation improved overall irrigation efficiency by up to 50% and increased crop yields by 10-15%. The activity generated 16,296 man-days of employment for the local community.

Karezes (qanats) are ancient systems of irrigation utilizing underground tunnels for routing water to local communities. They are vital sources of water in drought-prone areas of Afghanistan, but due to



A water reservoir is constructed for the installation of a drip irrigation system in Logar Province.

civil unrest and prolonged drought conditions, these karezes have deteriorated and are in need of rehabilitation.

During Phase II, 16 karezes reaching approximately 2,000 ha of farmland were surveyed for rehabilitation. The rehabilitation would include debris removal from tunnels, well protection and improvements in the conveyance channels. The karezes were selected in key districts of Paktia, Ghazni, Zabul and Kandahar Provinces in coordination with relevant community stakeholders. Selected karezes would be rehabilitated during Phase III.

Check Dams

During Phase II, AMP identified and surveyed 13 potential check dams for rehabilitation in Kandahar, Ghazni and Zabul provinces. Seven of the 13 locations were found to be suitable for the construction of check dams, and their final examination and evaluation were completed. Owing to a realignment of AMP budgetary priorities in Phase III, these projects were canceled.

Collaboration

During Phase II, AMP regional coordinators conducted meetings with PAIL directors in Paktia, Helmand, Balkh, Kandahar, Kunduz, Ghazni, Nangarhar, Zabul, Logar and Wardak Provinces for briefings on upcoming AMP activities. AMP also attended Provincial Development Council meetings led by provincial governors for creating synergy between the different donors and the government.

AMP regional coordinators met regularly with directors of the PAIL and economic directors in Paktia, Helmand, Balkh, Kandahar, Kunduz, Ghazni, Nangarhar, Logar, Wardak and Zabul provinces during the quarter to brief them on AMP's program implementation and coordination. In addition, AMP was represented at Provincial Development Council meetings, which were led by provincial governors to create synergy between various donors and Taliban line departments. AMP also met with the Deputy Technical MAIL Minister to ensure effective coordination.

AMP Phase III



AMP Phase III

AMP's third phase of operations began on January 28, 2023, with the signing of a No-Cost Extension that would continue program activities under the existing budget until September 30, 2023. This period of activity was motivated in large part by successive decrees by the Taliban limiting the rights, movement, and education of Afghan women. While women had always been integrated into AMP activities (comprising 5-9% of program beneficiaries), during Phase III AMP would realign its programming to ensure that women were at the forefront of programmatic design, particularly with regard to the Grant and Incentive Program.

During its final eight months of activities, AMP would continue many of the activities that were begun under the Phase II pivot. Rural farm activities such as orchard/vineyard establishment, trellising, intercropping training, quality improvement (FFS), greenhouses and irrigation would continue to be advanced. Business development, cold chain development, food processing and business strengthening would also be continued, though with a focus on ends that improved the livelihoods and capacity of women.

These activities were organized under three objectives in line with USAID development priorities:

- **New Technologies to Former High Conflict Zones** (orchard/vineyard establishment, quality improvement, high-density orchard establishment & off-season greenhouse vegetable production)
- **Protect Women's Gains** (grant support to agricultural inputs, agricultural production and processing, agricultural and food processing equipment, infrastructure and marketing, and business development support including online training and access to knowledge and resources).
- **Resilience** (rehabilitation of irrigation systems, soil and water conservation and drip irrigation).

AMP's area of operations focused on 12 key provinces (Kabul, Nangarhar, Helmand, Kunduz, Kandahar, Zabul, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika, Logar, Wardak and Balkh) comprising 54 districts.

During Phase III, AMP was able to meet targets that had remained unmet at the end of Phase II while implementing a new set of simplified quick-reaction grants with less onerous document requirements that would appeal to fledgling women-owned agribusinesses. Canal and karez irrigation projects were completed toward the end of Phase III, bringing hundreds of new farms within reach of precious water resources.

Phase III concluded on September 30, 2023, with the closeout of AMP.

I. New Technologies to Former Conflict Zones

AMP worked in newly accessible areas where little development had previously occurred. Under this objective, AMP expanded activities under the previous Strategy 1 to introduce new technologies with a visible impact and hope for these regions' farmers. Because agriculture is the primary source of income in these remote rural areas, AMP assistance was aimed at providing farmers with skills training and business opportunities to improve their standard of living.

Orchard/Vineyard Establishment

In Phase III, AMP continued to help Afghan farmers shift from relatively low-value annual crops, such as wheat, to relatively high-value perennial crops, such as fruits and nuts through the establishment of new orchards and vineyards. AMP assisted farmers in designing a field layout and provided saplings/cuttings and necessary training and infrastructure to ensure plant survival.

Orchard Layout

During Phase III, a total of 693 ha (3,465 jeribs) of land was laid out for the establishment of 1,510 orchards in 49 remote districts of Nangarhar, Helmand, Kunduz, Kandahar, Zabul, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika, Logar, Wardak and Balkh provinces. The layout gave farmers ample space to plant vegetable intercrops between the rows of saplings and generate regular income while the trees matured. The layout minimized the risk of pest and disease due to better sunlight penetration and air circulation among the trees. Farmers chose the type of fruit trees to be planted as well as the intercropping to be grown, with input from AMP on crop types that were suitable to the local environment. To ensure farmer commitment to the program, AMP required a copayment of 20-40% of the cost of the certified saplings and fertilizer.



An orchard is shown after being laid out by AMP's field team, with holes ready for the planting of new saplings, Paktika Province.

Planting of Saplings and Cuttings

Under this activity, AMP distributed and assisted with the planting of 417,134 fruit tree saplings and grape cuttings. Of this number, 373,836 constituted conventional and medium density orchard varieties (almond, pear, apple, apricot, fig, peach, plum, pomegranate, grape, and sweet orange) to establish 1,510 orchards on 693 ha. Of these orchards, 19 ha were established for female farmers who had land and met AMP criteria. 43,298 saplings were distributed to establish 79 high-density pear and apple orchards on 17 ha. These high-density orchards were introduced to AMP farmers located in high altitude districts as demonstration orchards. High density orchards obtain higher yields, bear fruit 2-3 years sooner than conventional orchards and bring higher income to farmers.

For a full breakdown of AMP orchard establishment activities, see Annex 1 and 2.



Farmers in Logar Province receive saplings in certified packaging.

Technical Assistance

AMP provided follow-up technical support to ensure the survival and growth of newly established orchards. In Phase III, more than 5,600 fruit growers in 11 provinces received technical assistance related to orchard maintenance.

Farmers were provided with advice on irrigation, IPM, mulching, fertilization, and related topics. In addition, the field team provided technical assistance on intercrop management, land preparation, seedling transplanting and nutrient management so that farmers could use all available space for food production and earn a higher income.



An AMP extension officer trains farmers on canopy management, Kunduz Province.

Farmer Field Schools

FFS training continued during Phase III, with the same emphasis on enhancing the capacity of farmers to improve their product quality, introduce advanced orchard/vineyard management and improve harvesting methods.

During Phase III, 698 FFS training sessions were held for 6,782 farmers. The trainings focused on irrigation management, nutrient management, pruning, and dormant spray (Bordeaux mixture and lime sulfur) which acts as a fungicide and pest killer. For a breakdown of FFS trainings in Phase III, see table below.

Table 9: FFS Facilitation

Province	# of FFS	# of Farmers	Topics
Ghazni	62	744	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IPM for prevention of pests and disease control.• Pruning and canopy management.• Irrigation management.• Good Agricultural Practices.• Nutrient management.• Weed control.• Vegetable Intercropping.• Whitewashing of fruit trunks.• Urea spray application.• Orchard hygiene.
Kunduz	109	992	
Kandahar	62	574	
Paktia	101	1,148	
Balkh	56	616	
Logar	57	525	
Wardak	63	596	
Helmand	48	424	
Nangarhar	77	636	
Zabul	63	527	
Total	698	6,782	

Off-Season Greenhouse Vegetable Production

A total of 30 greenhouses were constructed for Afghan farmers in 2022 under Phase II. These were engaged in vegetable production, which AMP monitored, during Phase III. AMP extension officers trained greenhouse recipients on seed selection through classroom instruction and site visits. Other training included soil preparation, bed preparation, plastic mulch usage, preparation of seedlings, weed control, sunlight management, nutrient deficiency recovery and control, removal of suckers, fruit thinning, fall and winter crop management and others.



An AMP extension officer trains a farmer on vertical training of cucumber plants, Kunduz Province.

2. Protect Women's Gains

USAID promoted women's roles in Afghanistan for more than 20 years. However, in 2023, those hard-fought gains were at risk due to restrictions being placed by the Taliban on the economic and social freedoms of Afghan women. During the eight-month extension period, AMP worked to support women's opportunities, employment and incomes while operating within the changing laws and edicts from the interim government authorities. AMP worked to sustain women's roles in the economy, acknowledging that the agricultural sector, including food processing, provides some of the most significant economic and employment opportunities. Under this objective, AMP supported agricultural production, food processing and packaging, small-scale infrastructure improvements and company marketing.

Grant & Incentive Program

During Phase III, AMP shifted its grant and incentive focus to support female farmers, women-owned agribusinesses, female entrepreneurs, and women-focused NGOs by issuing a new RFA for simplified grants. Grants and incentives approved under the two previous RFAs continued to be monitored and supported, but new applications were accepted only under the new RFA.

The new stage of the Grant and Incentive Program provided a fast-track to agribusinesses seeking support under \$10,000 to ensure that AMP could respond quickly to application requests, assist applicants with putting the application package together and process in a timely fashion. AMP also reviewed applications from women-owned businesses that were rejected under the more stringent requirements of the previous RFAs, inviting some to resubmit simplified grant applications.

The Grant and Incentive Manual was revised and re-submitted to USAID for approval, and the new

RFA was issued on February 28 focusing on female economic empowerment, livelihoods, and employment generation. New applications were accepted until April 30.

Of the 230 simplified applications that were submitted to AMP during Phase III, 52 resulted in signed agreements (directly benefiting 5,022 women), and 178 were rejected. See table below for a full breakdown.

In total, AMP received a total of 607 applications since the inception of the Grant & Incentive Program: 185 were completed, 6 were cancelled at agreement stage, and 416 were rejected.

Table 10: AMP Grant and Incentive Applications

	Applications Cancelled or Rejected	Agreements Cancelled	Agreements Completed	Total
RFA #1: Grant Applications	134	2	24	160
RFA #2: Incentive Applications	104	4	109	217
RFA # 3: Simplified Grant Applications	178	0	52	230
Total	416	6	185	607

Kitchen Garden Grants Provided Backyard Source of Food and Household Income



Adela is shown in her backyard garden, Herat Province, where she grows vegetables to feed her family of 11 and sell the surplus in the local market.

Forty-year-old Adela raised nine children, all of whom were daughters. As such, most of the household income depends on the women of the family.

She was one of 1,000 farmers (more than half women) who received kitchen garden training, seed, fertilizer and tools under an AMP grant, enabling her to raise vegetables at home.

Her husband was a construction worker who turned to farming when jobs in the home-building market became scarce. But the family owned no land and so her husband hired out to work at neighboring farms.

"Until now, no one distributed aid in our village," she said. "With this training I can grow vegetables in my garden. I can do it myself and meet the needs of our family."

Application Development

AMP identified numerous women-owned businesses, female entrepreneurs, women-focused NGOs and enterprises that employ a significant number of women for potential grant support. Many of these potential grant recipients were illiterate or lacked the ability to assemble a complete application. AMP assisted 76 applicants, upon request, in developing applications.

Solar Powered Cold Rooms

During Phase II, AMP received more than 50 applications under their Request for Expression of Interest in Small Scale Solar Powered Cold Rooms. These applications were reviewed again given the change in focus of AMP activities to specifically identify potential female beneficiaries. AMP staff visited applicants in Balkh, Nangarhar and Kabul to determine their suitability for the proposed solar power cold rooms. Nine women-owned businesses from the 50 applicants were initially selected for further assessment. Once the nine women-owned businesses' pre-award site surveys (PASS) were successfully completed, AMP chose two of them—Noor Azar Trading in Kabul and Jahed Development and Capacity Building Development Organization in Balkh—to receive small-scale solar-powered cold rooms. Owing to significant delays in procurement and delivery, the cold rooms were to be delivered shortly after program closeout. With USAID approval, the cold rooms were handed over to USAID's Afghanistan Value Chains Program.

Business Strengthening

Marketing And Business Development

During Phase III, Afghanistan was in the midst of an economic and humanitarian crisis. As a result of sanctions, the Afghan central bank was cut off from the international banking system, the banking sector continued to struggle with liquidity, international wire transfers were constrained, and cash withdrawals were problematic. Unemployment was as high as 25%, more than 80% of Afghan households had experienced significant decreases in income or had lost their source of income, and food and energy prices soared.

During this period, economic development was key to increasing employment, reducing poverty, decreasing outward migration, improving security, and promoting peace. However, Afghanistan's formal education system afforded few business management and administrative skills necessary to establish and operate a business. The restrictions on women attending schools and universities, and gathering in public, meant that it would be difficult for AMP to offer them skills and knowledge necessary in business using conventional training models.

To address these challenges, AMP created the Enterprise Development Platform (EDP). This would provide online knowledge, networking opportunities, and resources to Afghan businesses and entrepreneurs, particularly youth, women, and those interested or engaged in the agricultural sector. The EDP provided recipients with the knowledge, practical skills, capacity, and confidence to establish or become more successful in running a small business in Afghanistan. Online services were delivered in Dari and Pashto primarily through Facebook, Instagram, and a website for online training courses.



EDP logo Designs (in English, Pashto, and Dari).

The EDP published some 320 posts, the majority of them focusing on marketing, agriculture, and personal development. These included posts related to business marketing, graphic design, kitchen

gardening, leadership, food safety, CV development, basics of photography and organizational skills. Many of the videos were posted on the EDP YouTube channel: (<https://www.youtube.com/@amp-edp>)

By the end of Phase III, the EDP social media accounts had around 20,000 followers on its Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/amp.edp>) and Instagram pages (<https://www.instagram.com/amp.edp/>), 81% of whom were female and primarily active in Kabul Province. Overall, 1.2 million people were reached through the EDP, which received more than 16,000 post engagements.

Branding and Graphic Design Support

As in previous AMP phases, in Phase III AMP continued to support women-owned agribusiness owners with professional branding and graphics in logo design, packaging designs and marketing collateral. During Phase III, AMP worked with women-owned agribusiness clients to redevelop their corporate image, develop marketing collateral, and product labelling and packaging designs. These are shown in Annex 4.

Domestic Trade Events

Under Phase III, AMP focused on supporting women-owned or -managed agribusinesses at domestic trade events. These would provide them with a platform for interacting with potential buyers and the general public and would provide vital linkages for future sales.

Spring Agricultural Fair

AMP supported 10 female-owned agribusinesses at the Spring Agricultural Fair, which took place at Badam Bagh from March 15-18. Three agribusinesses participated from Kandahar, three from Kabul, two from Balkh and two from Nangarhar. Of the ten women-owned businesses supported by AMP, eight were first-time participants.

While one of the main purposes of the event was to introduce agribusinesses to new buyers, the participants sold goods valued at \$8,960 and signed agreements worth \$44,207 for processed foods, agricultural products, and other products. AMP assisted the exhibitors with the printing of a wall banner, hotel accommodation and the cost of their flight or ground transportation. The exhibitors were responsible for paying for booth space.

Afghanistan International Exhibition

AMP supported 10 women-owned agribusinesses at the first Afghanistan International Exhibition, organized by Kabul Nafis Ltd, a Kabul-based company. It was hosted at the Afghanistan International Expo Center in Kabul and ran for five days (May 11-15). Exhibitors representing different industries from 15 provinces showcased their products at 550 booths. Around 150,000 visitors attended.

The 10 AMP-supported food processing and production agribusinesses participating at the event hailed from Kabul, Balkh, and Kandahar. Support included booth rental, lodging, round-trip tickets, business promotion through EDP's social media channels, and marketing materials.

Other donors provided support for the participation of female-owned businesses.

AMP exhibitors generated \$17,223 in sales and nearly \$41,000 in a potential deal for processed foods and horticulture products that will be executed in the coming months. For six businesses, the event was their first time exhibiting at a trade event.



A visitor to the Afghanistan International Exhibition meets with an AMP-supported agribusinesses.

Domestic Sales

A total of 57 partner agribusinesses were assisted by AMP during Phase III, either through incentives meant to boost domestic sales or through support at domestic trade events. These partner agribusinesses generated domestic sales of \$748,529. Products sold included dried fruit, nuts, and spices. For a full breakdown, see Annex 10.

3. Resilience

Afghanistan is one of the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases, but among the top ten countries most vulnerable to climate change. While climate change would not impact Afghanistan by rising ocean water levels or increased hurricanes, it impacts rainfall patterns and glacial melting. This puts rain-fed wheat farmers in jeopardy. Rainwater is becoming unreliable, leaving effective water management more critical than ever. AMP activities supported resilience in irrigation through the rehabilitation of large canals, installation of high efficiency drip irrigation systems and karez rehabilitation and refurbishment.

Irrigation Management

In Phase III, AMP expanded its activities to improve irrigation for farm families through rehabilitating canals and karezes. AMP also completed drip irrigation activities begun under Phase II.

Canal/Irrigation Channel Rehabilitation

Canal rehabilitation is crucial for the improvement of overall irrigation efficiency in water stressed and water scarce areas of Afghanistan. Three irrigation canals (in Ghazni, Logar and Kandahar) were located, surveyed, and designed under Phase III. Together, the canal rehabilitations total 3,350m in length and support the irrigation of 777 ha. A 10-15% increase in irrigation coverage and a 10-15% improvement in agricultural output are expected as a result of canal repair. Additionally, the local community received 12,081-man days (46.4 FTE) of new employment.

Kareze Rehabilitation

A kareze (*qanat*) is an underground channel through which water flows from an aquifer from mountains to open fields. These are vital sources of drinking water and irrigation in drought-prone areas of Afghanistan. Due to civil unrest and prolonged drought conditions, these karezes had deteriorated and needed rehabilitation.

Two karezes were rehabilitated in Zabul and Kandahar provinces during Phase III. The renovation work included restoring the kareze outlets, cleaning the associated tunnels, restoring the branch takeoffs, safeguarding the wells, and enhancing the conveyance channels.

Through the restoration, 10-15% more land was placed under irrigation, and the agricultural yield and water transportation efficiency was expected to rise by 10-15% and 20–30%, respectively. The project created 2,050 man-days (8 FTE) for the local community.

High Efficiency Irrigation Systems

Drip irrigation is an efficient means of irrigation and water conservation in areas where water is scarce. The process allows water to move through a network of pipes and tubes and drip directly on the roots of plants, either from above the soil surface or buried below the surface.

The 42 drip irrigation systems begun in 2022 were all completed in Phase III. Each system serviced a one-hectare orchard. The systems will contribute significantly to improving overall irrigation efficiency by up to 50% and increasing crop yields by 10-15%.



The AMP engineering team monitors installation of a drip irrigation system in Shahjoy district of Zabul Province.

Irrigation Training

In Phase III, AMP trained 1,258 client farmers on effective surface irrigation techniques to enhance their ability to manage water resources efficiently, reduce water wastage and optimize crop yields.

Collaboration

AMP regional coordinators conducted meetings with PAIL directors in Paktia, Helmand, Balkh, Kandahar, Kunduz, Ghazni, Nangarhar, Paktika, Wardak, Logar and Zabul provinces for briefings on AMP's program implementation and coordination. AMP regional coordinators also attended Provincial Development Council meetings led by the provincial governors for creating synergy between different donors and line ministries.

Intercropping Provided Vital Source of Food and Income



Intercropping is shown in a mature Afghan orchard. The practice helps retain ground moisture while providing a secondary crop for sale or home consumption.

AMP's orchard establishment activities included training and inputs to help participating farmers grow nutrition-rich vegetables while waiting for their saplings to mature.

High density orchards bear fruit in 2-3 years, while conventional orchards mature in 4-5 years. Intercropping utilizes the land between the maturing trees, which can feed farm families or be sold in the local market.

In addition to providing a food and income source, intercropping helped retain ground moisture and minimize erosion in new orchards. AMP's technical teams also provided farmers with fertilizer and trained them in best practices.

Program Management



Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

AMP Performance Indicators by Phase

AMP's success was measured by indicators that changed in tandem with each USAID-approved phase of the program. As AMP's operational context evolved with new priorities on the ground, the Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMELP) was modified accordingly, with indicators added or dropped as needed.

Phase I

During Phase I, AMP's five strategies were measured by 22 indicators. During the first six months of the program, as assessments were conducted and while long-term planning was underway, progress was recorded for 10 indicators.

During FY2020, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed or halted progress of many AMP activities. But during its second year, AMP accelerated implementation of program activities. As shown in Annex 11, out of 22 indicators AMP recorded progress for 18, with 11 indicators reporting over-achievements in FTE job creation, training, youth/female participation, hectares of new orchards established, loan facilitation and sales.

With the Taliban takeover of August 2021, AMP pivoted its activities away from an export focus to a domestic food-security and humanitarian focus. AMP's Phase I indicators remained in place until December 31. During this final quarter (October-December), AMP recorded progress on only 11 indicators due to the shifting of resources and the halting of some Phase I activities.

Cumulatively, AMP recorded progress for 18 indicators under Phase I. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, four indicators related to trade office establishment and investment in value added products recorded no achievements. Seven of the 18 indicators over-achieved the targets and the other 11 indicators achieved more 50% of targets.

Overall, AMP achieved an average progress of 58% for all 22 indicators during this period. Some indicators would be achieved during the third and final year of the program, which was not possible in Phase I owing to the pandemic and the political events of August 2021. Also, delays in obtaining vetting approvals by USAID slowed progress in some instances. Some of these indicators were therefore eliminated at the end of Phase I or extended into later phases.

Phase II

Under Phase II, AMP indicators reflected the pivot to supply driven activities aimed at impacting food security and livelihoods by improving domestic market systems. Activities focused on increasing agricultural production, improving domestic market linkages, and extending the shelf life of agricultural products, particularly through improved storage and processing.

Phase II indicators were revised in consultation with USAID and focused on measuring results of the implementation related to three strategies. The performance indicator change log in Annex 12 highlights all the changes and amendments brought due to this shift in project scope. To meet the new priorities, five new indicators were added, five indicators were amended to align with the new scope and context, seven indicators were deemed irrelevant and removed, and nine indicators remained in place.

During Phase II, AMP tracked a total of 19 indicators, whose targets and achievements are set forth in Annex 13. By the end of Phase II, 16 of those indicators recorded over-achievements. The average progress for all indicators was 169% owing to a significantly higher than expected ability by AMP to achieve results in the new political context.

Indicators that were below target were extended into Phase III for completion. These included improved the irrigation systems target, which would be completed toward the end of the program.

Data collection for the number of farmers growing high value crop and the number of farmers applying newly learned skills was postponed until Phase III.

Phase III

The 19 indicators in place under Phase II were carried over into Phase III. No new indicators were introduced for this period, though the life of project (LOP) targets were extended as AMP had achieved nearly 95% of its LOP targets by the end of Phase II. Under Phase III, AMP gave priority to female beneficiaries resulting in an increase in the target for female engagement from 5% to 25%.

Due to the complex and evolving operational context, AMP did not set targets for indicators related to business development and staple crop support. AMP grant activities related to agribusiness support, processing, cold storage, and kitchen gardens were supported with an emphasis on female beneficiaries. Results for these activities were measured, documented, and reported under the relevant indicators without setting targets for measuring those achievements.

As shown in Annex 14, out of 19 indicators, AMP set targets for 12 indicators during Phase III, while LOP targets were already achieved for the remaining 7 indicators. Out of the 12 indicators that recorded achievements, 7 indicators exceeded targets and 5 indicators recorded an average 82% achievement. Indicators related to technical support to agribusinesses, productivity and business trainings, youth/female participation, farmers growing high value crops, farmers applying newly learned skills and number of households all exceeded targets.

Cumulative Project Indicators

The following table lists all AMP performance indicators which were used to measure the program's accomplishments. A rationale is given for achievements that were +/- 10% of target.

Table 11: AMP Performance Indicators (2020 – 2023)

No	Indicator	Target	Actual	% Achieved
1	Total Value of sales (export + domestic) of targeted commodities as a result of USG assistance (USD)	500,000,000	183,641,617	37%
	Export sales	447,000,000	131,171,891	29%
	Domestic sales	53,000,000	52,469,725	99%
	The target for export sales was not achieved owing to the cessation of export-related activities.			
2	EG.2.2-1 Number of firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance to export	210	245	117%
	This indicator exceeded its target owing to increased demand from agribusinesses for AMP technical support.			
3	EG.3-9 Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created with USG assistance	6,200	6,181	100%
	This indicator was within target.			
4	Number of individuals trained in agriculture sector productivity, business performance improvement or food security training	26,347	30,361	115%
	This indicator was within target.			
5	Percentage of participants in U.S. Government-assisted projects designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (age 15–29)	20%	22%	110%
	This indicator exceeded its target owing to unexpectedly large participation by youth beneficiaries in different AMP activities.			
6	9.2e-1. Proportion of female participation in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credits, income or employment)	5%	12%	220%
	This indicator exceeded its target owing to the shift to female beneficiaries in Phase III.			
7	Number of hectares with increased high value crop production as a result of USG programs	2,258	2,291	101%
	This indicator exceeded its target due to greater than expected demand for orchard establishment by farmers in target provinces.			
8	5.1.1c. Number of farmers growing high-value crops as a result of USG assistance	7,592	6,280	83%

No	Indicator	Target	Actual	% Achieved
	This indicator fell short of target owing to a lower than anticipated number of farmers participating in orchard establishment activities.			
9	EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance.	12,727	8,138	64%
	Results for this indicator must be verified through a survey conducted by MEL with training participants. MEL was not able to conduct the survey with the complete target population due to budgetary constraints, therefore limiting the number of individuals who could be verified.			
10	Value of new loans to agribusinesses facilitated by USG interventions (USD)	500,000	724,420	145%
	This target was underestimated in light of the demand by agribusinesses for bank loan facilitation.			
11	Number of households benefited by agriculture and alternative development interventions in targeted areas	26,425	44,826	170%
	The target exceeded its target due to greater than expected participation in AMP activities such as kitchen gardening, canal rehabilitation and food security activities.			
12	Volume of exports of targeted agriculture commodities as a result of USG assistance (MT)	180,000	46,472	26%
	The target for export volume was not achieved owing to the cessation of export-related activities.			
13	Number of Farmers Field Schools established as a result of USG assistance	2,000	2,023	101%
	This indicator was within target.			
14	Number of Afghan firms or Afghan institutions attending international trade and investment events supported by USG	80	51	64%
	This target was not achieved owing to COVID-19 and the cessation of export-related activities. This indicator was later removed.			
15	Value of deals made by Afghan firms or Afghan institutions at international trade and investment events promoted by USG.	250,000,000	75,676,907	30%
	This target was not achieved owing to the cessation of export-related activities. This indicator was later removed.			
16	Percentage of sales completed by the Afghan firms or Afghan institutions against the deals made at international trade and investment events promoted or supported by USG.	20%	28%	140%
	This target was not achieved owing to the cessation of export-related activities. This indicator was later removed.			
17	Number of Afghan and foreign businesses declaring to have received positive assistance from AMP overseas trade offices	30	-	-
	This target was not achieved owing to the cessation of export-related activities. This indicator was later removed.			
18	Number of Afghan agribusinesses paying a Trade Office directly for services or through a membership program	15	-	-
	This target was not achieved owing to the cessation of export-related activities. This indicator was later removed.			
19	Number of domestic traders/businesses invested in agribusiness development (processing and packaging, cool storage, transportation, new technology and etc.)	40	113	283%
	This indicator exceeded its target owing to greater than expected interest by agribusiness participants.			
20	Value of new investment leveraged by the agribusinesses for value added products as a result of USG activities	150,000	447,450	298%
	This indicator exceeded its target owing to greater than expected interest by agribusiness participants and increased requirements of the grant and incentive program.			
21	Number of new agriculture products identified and selected for export promotion as a result of USG assistance	24	15	63%
	This target was not achieved owing to the cessation of export-related activities. This indicator was later removed.			
22	Number of MSMEs (including small holder farmers, lead farmers) linked to larger-scale firms as a result of USG assistance to the value chain.	2,000	2,560	128%
	This indicator exceeded its target owing to a greater than expected number of market linkage workshops and domestic trade exhibitions.			
23	Number of individuals (beneficiaries) directly benefiting from improving agricultural staple crops production	2,000	6,755	338%
	This indicator exceeded its target owing to greater than expected participation in the Grant and Incentive Program.			
24	# of storage / cold storage / wholesale market facilities supported (through training, operationalization, repairs, maintenance, capacity increase or upgrade)	20	52	260%
	See above.			

No	Indicator	Target	Actual	% Achieved
25	Additional volume of storage / cold storage / wholesale market space functional as a result of AMP assistance (Cubic Meters)	4,000	41,862	1,047%
	This indicator dramatically exceeded its target owing to participation in grants and incentives providing repair, upgrading and rehabilitation activities for storage, cold storage and wholesale market facilities.			
26	Number of farmers benefiting from improved irrigation system	3,000	2,833	94%
	This indicator was within an acceptable range.			

Results and Invoice Verification

MEL verified all AMP activities as part of its monitoring process for accurate data capture and to ensure that the quality and quantity of delivered assets were compliant with the agreed specifications. Real-time online verification surveys were conducted to verify and confirm the delivery, establishment, and completion of activities. MEL's involvement in invoice verification and activity monitoring was crucial in ensuring quality implementation of grants and incentives.

Training Application Assessment

Agribusinesses and farmer capacity building was a substantial component of AMP activities throughout its three phases. These activities were carried out based on needs assessments. The effectiveness of horticulture and business training programs was evaluated based on pre- and post-test assessments. The FFS training outcomes were assessed via an online training application survey. Out of all FFS beneficiaries, 24% were included in the survey which was conducted by phone. All survey beneficiaries confirmed that they had applied the agricultural best practices learned in the program.

Environmental Monitoring

As shown in Annex 15, MEL prepared environmental monitoring reports for AMP grants, incentive activities and canal rehabilitation projects. The purpose of these reports was to record environmental impacts resulting from the project activities and to ensure implementation of mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts and enhance positive impacts. The reporting also addressed any unforeseen environmental impacts that arose during the project's construction and operation phases. Environmental indicators such as water availability and quality, dust and air pollution, solid waste, wastewater, public health and safety, occupational health and safety, sanitation, and hygiene, HSE training and COVID-19 were considered. The reporting was shared with AMP beneficiaries for remedial action when necessary.

Human Resources

AMP employed a total of 242 local staff members (219 male, 23 female) during its programmatic lifetime. This included staff who were based at the main office in Kabul or in sub-offices located in Nangarhar, Balkh, Kunduz, Kandahar, Logar, Paktia, Helmand and Ghazni provinces. This also included female staff who worked from home beginning in Phase II. Staffing levels were fairly steady throughout much of the program. During the first quarter of implementation, 71 local nationals were hired, with staffing reaching a Phase I peak of 135 before a drop in numbers during the Taliban takeover. Phase II was marked by a sharp upturn in local staff hirings, reaching a peak of 183 before falling off in Phase III.

Local Staff - Quarterly Totals



A total of 36 expatriate staff positions were filled during the lifetime of the program. These included long-term positions such as Chief of Party, Deputy Chief of Party, Director of Compliance, Director of Communications and Export Facilitation Director, remote regional consultants (such as trade show specialists in India and Turkey), and a number of short-term technical assistants such as technical English editors, researchers and other consultants.

Financial Statement

AMP's financial data was not completed at the time of initial submission of this report but will be submitted within 90 days of program closeout.

Reporting

Under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, AMP was required to submit quarterly reports (as well as this final report). AMP submitted quarterly reports no more than 30 days after the conclusion of the reporting period. AMP submitted a total of 15 quarterly reports to USAID, many with resubmissions following AOR input.

Table 12: Quarterly Report Submissions

Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-June 2020	July-Sept 2020	Oct-Dec 2020
Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-June 2021	July-Sept 2021	Oct-Dec 2021
Jan-Mar 2022	Apr-June 2022	July-Sept 2022	Oct-Dec 2022
Jan-Mar 2023	Apr-June 2023	July-Sept 2023	

While annual reports were not required under the Cooperative Agreement, AMP submitted a FY2020 and FY2021 Annual Report and thereafter an annual annex to the fourth-quarter quarterly reports. AMP also submitted weekly updates to the AOR every Monday.

Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned

Program Challenges

COVID-19

From the outset of program implementation, AMP activities were severely curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. AMP expatriate staff were evacuated in mid-March 2020 and the AMP offices were closed, with local staff working from their homes until the final fiscal quarter. With the closure of the office, AMP encountered challenges in paying staff members and vendors, who in the past had been paid by paper check. AMP resolved this problem by setting up an online banking system to transfer salaries and vendor payments.

The pandemic led to the postponement or cancellation of Afghan exports across the board, due to land border closures, reduced number of passenger flights and therefore belly cargo availability, wholesale market closures in end markets, cancelled orders, deterioration of stored products (color and taste of dried fruit), inability to store products in cooler temperatures as summer commenced and increased transportation costs (due to limited passenger flights and increased demand on trucks). The launch of AMP's Incubation and Acceleration Hubs, classroom trainings, and equipment assessments were all put on hold due to the pandemic and led to delays in the fulfillment of AMP's work plan.

Trade Show Postponements, Cancellations and Online Platforms

Shortly after program startup, AMP prepared a list of trade shows it anticipated supporting in existing and new markets during 2020, in conjunction with other USAID implementing partners (IPs). AMP put together a proposal outlining the selection criteria and proposed level of support each IP would provide to participating agribusinesses at each trade show. AMP received concurrence with the other IPs and received approval from USAID on July 1. AMP prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by each IP outlining the obligations, roles, and responsibilities of each project. At the request of USAID, AMP also provided written feedback on USAID's Export Promotion Guidance and suggested a number of amendments relating to the selection of participants for US Government-funded trade events.

These preparations were derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the cancellation or postponement of all planned trade shows for FY2020 after Gulfood. Although the events did not take place as planned, AMP personnel remained engaged in preparations until the last moment, following the selection criteria and agreed level of support. The marketing team also continued to prepare for events in the next fiscal year, such as Gulfood 2021.

World Food Moscow took place as planned but AMP was unable to support the participation of Afghan agribusinesses as the Russian Embassy was not issuing visas for Afghan citizens. World Food Istanbul was scheduled to take place in early FY2021, although flights were cancelled between Kabul and Turkey, as well as the UAE and Turkey, making it extremely difficult for Afghan citizens to get to Turkey even with valid visas. AMP planned to organize a small Turkish Trade Mission to Mersin and Izmir to meet with Turkish importers that had been identified by AMP's Turkish Trade Office Specialist. Unfortunately, the trade mission had to be cancelled. AMP, together with CBARD, was planning to support the participation of eight Afghan agribusinesses at Iraq Agrofood Trade Show in September 2020 but the event was cancelled in the middle of August. AMP planned a Ukrainian Trade Mission in August 2021 to include technical seminars, B2B meetings and visits to the wholesale market and supermarkets. Due to the regime change a week before the event, the trade mission had to be cancelled due to limited Afghan participation.

Lack of electrical power

Kabul's electricity supply experienced frequent shutdowns owing to Taliban attacks on the main power lines and electricity cut-offs from outside the country. This hindered agribusinesses in conducting

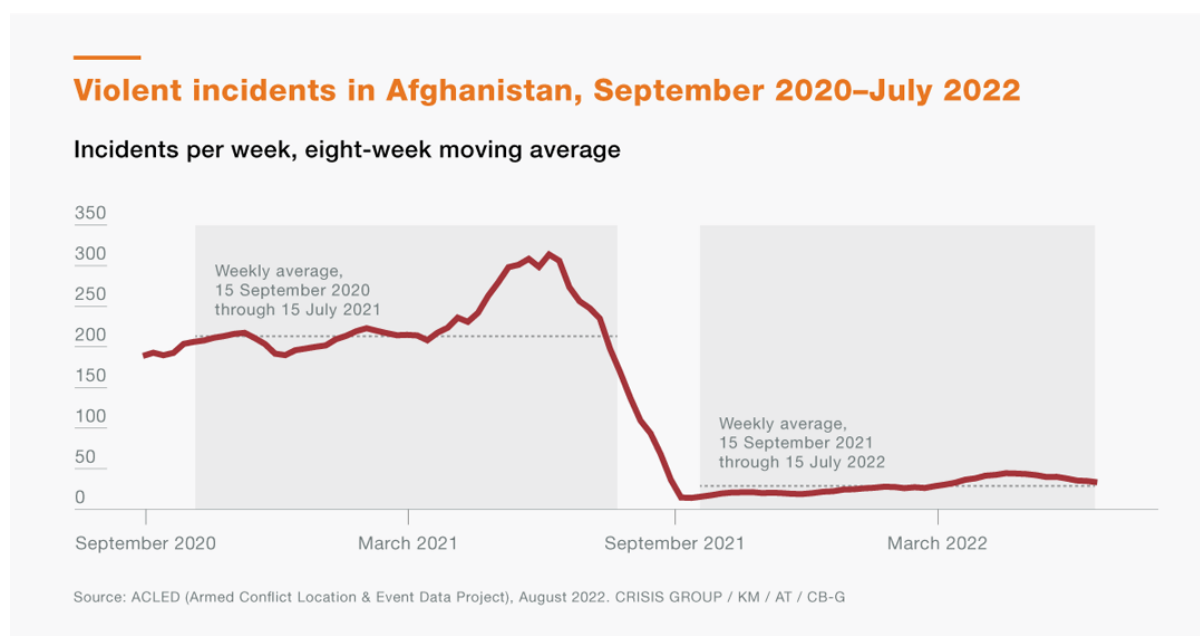
business and made it difficult for processors to fulfill orders at full capacity. Generators provided some relief, but in order to run large processing machinery the generator must be large, expensive and costly to operate on a continuous basis, further reducing margins.

Pakistan-India Border Issues

During the first phase, Indian customs officials in Mumbai confiscated nearly \$135 million in Iranian heroin shipped via Afghanistan. The drugs were concealed in plastic pipes painted to look like bamboo and declared to be ayurvedic medicine. The seizure was one of the largest narcotics haul in the city's history and resulted in increased scrutiny of Afghan products at the Wagah/Atari border and changes to legislation relating to country-of-origin declarations.

Security

Security was a challenge to efficient program implementation during the first two phases of the program. AMP field employees were frequently subject to threats and unable to visit certain villages to promote project activities and deliver training to AMP clients. These challenges were reduced substantially following the Taliban takeover, with only marginal security threats posed by foreign militants such as Islamic State-Khorasan Province in the eastern and northern parts of the country.



Regime Change

The regime change that began on August 15, 2021, completely altered AMP's operating environment, and impacted all areas of project implementation. It resulted in the temporary closure of all AMP offices, the exodus of some local staff to other countries and the halting of all export facilitation activities. AMP's female staff, unsure of their status under the new government, fled to remote locations where they worked remotely in self-imposed exile under threat of uncertain punishment by the new Taliban leaders. Many staff received threatening messages and, fearing security repercussions, remained working from home when the AMP office reopened.

Afghanistan's financial sector essentially shut down on August 29, 2021. Financial activities were halted, the relationships with corresponding banks ceased, and \$9.5 billion in reserves of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the central bank that regulates all banking and money handling operations in Afghanistan, were frozen. After two weeks, commercial banks partially opened some of their branches in Kabul and other provinces, allowing individual customers access to \$200 or AFN 20,000 per week. However, U.S. dollars soon disappeared from the market and all transactions took place in AFN.

On September 16, 2021, USAID instructed AMP to cease all export promotion activities, including support at overseas trade shows. Significant time was expended on cancelling the many trade shows that were in the pipeline for the fall, resulting in forfeited deposits and payments due. This placed a financial hardship on client exporters who had made financial investments toward the trade shows. All AMP trade office activities ceased.

Some of the challenges affecting AMP client businesses included the inability for many women to return to work, the lack of a fully functioning domestic banking system, lack of commercial flights, border closures, constraints with international bank transfers, security checking of shipments, economic uncertainty, weak diplomatic relationships, and uncertainty concerning the future of the country.

By the end of 2021, most of the initial problems encountered from the regime change were resolved. Staff (aside from female personnel and staff in the provinces) were again working in AMP offices. AMP personnel were now paid through mobile money systems. Expat AMP personnel began returning to Afghanistan in March 2022. When the Taliban issued an edict forbidding female staff from working with foreign NGOs in December 2022, AMP's female staff worked from home.

AMP was unable to access a considerable amount of IT equipment at its MAIL office. These items were reported to USAID as "confiscated".

Status of Women Employees and Clients

Following the regime change, Afghan women underwent successive restrictions on movement and employment. Women were initially barred from traveling more than 70km without being accompanied by a close male relative. They were prohibited from pursuing education beyond sixth grade, including university education, and were later prohibited from working for foreign NGOs.

With the regime change in August 2021, AMP's female staff went into lockdown and began working from home. AMP remained in communication with women lead farmers to continue the facilitation of FFS and other trainings, but it became increasingly difficult to incorporate women into live training activities and many of these activities were thus undertaken remotely by phone. Restrictions on women's movement became increasingly stringent, though AMP found workarounds by using male family members to act as *mahrms* for its female employees, or by providing inputs to male representatives of female family members (as noted elsewhere in this section). With the online trainings created during the pandemic, AMP was able to move many of its trainings for women to online platforms.

Despite these prohibitions, women continued to own and operate businesses, although often in tandem with male representatives, usually family members. In Kunduz province, where AMP grantee Mobin Tawhid Agricultural and Livestock was not allowed to carry on a training for female farmers by the interim government, AMP management decided to train male family members of the farmers who would then transfer the knowledge to their female family members. By such means, AMP was able to extend more interventions to women and circumvent edicts on women's participation.

Women also continued to be employed in occupations traditionally undertaken by women, such as manually sorting and processing raisins and saffron. During its third iteration, AMP focused on these areas where women continued to have some freedom of action, designing interventions specifically for women-owned enterprises or male-owned businesses that provided jobs for women.

Climate change

The effects of climate change showed significant effects on the Afghan agricultural sector during AMP's period of implementation. Farmers lacked knowledge of new production techniques that would improve production under these changing circumstances. Input supply businesses (suppliers of seeds, fertilizers, chemicals), agricultural service providers (agronomy, irrigation management, production and harvesting technology) and contracting services (ground preparation, planting, harvesting, sorting, storage, transport) were largely inaccessible to ordinary farmers. In previous

times, farmers' primary source of information and extension was via MAIL, PAIL, and DAIL extension teams. Since the Taliban takeover, those services were drastically reduced.

USAID Vetting

Project implementation was delayed by the prolonged USAID vetting process, not just for AMP partner agribusinesses but also vendors. This particularly impacted the AMP's in-kind grants as the total period for vetting grant applicants and potential vendors at times approached six months.

Fraud

AMP encountered significant fraud attempts in the incentive program by partner agribusinesses, particularly in western Afghanistan. Businesses submitted invoices for vendors that did not exist, submitted fake invoices and invoices with inflated prices. AMP quickly identified the challenge and recruited additional staff to engage in a thorough verification process.

During the process of verifying grant and incentive packages, AMP found that some awardees purchased used equipment or equipment made in Iran, in violation of agreement regulations. Awardees were advised by AMP management that the equipment should be changed, or it would not be reimbursed by AMP.

Interim Government Challenges

The Taliban's limitations on women's movement created perhaps the greatest challenge to AMP operations, affecting the ability of female staff to carry out the performance of their jobs and the ability of women to participate in program activities. Several grantees faced challenges in rolling out kitchen gardening training for women owing to prohibitions on public gatherings by women trainees instigated by local authorities in Kandahar and Kunduz provinces. The grantees were required to recruit male trainers to train male representatives who would then pass on the knowledge to the female beneficiaries along with the inputs of seeds, fertilizer, and toolkits. While the grantee received confirmation from the village leaders that the women would receive the inputs, this potentially opened up opportunities for corruption and reduced the effectiveness of the skills training. In a similar instance, authorities from the Helmand DAIL and Ministry of Economy did not allow the grantee to implement activities with female trainers and beneficiaries or male trainers with male representatives of female beneficiaries, requiring the grantee to move the activity to Zabul Province.

Some losses were likely encountered in terms of knowledge transfer and the transfer of inputs.

Capacity of Agribusinesses

With AMP's deliberate move in Phase III to support female entrepreneurs, women-owned businesses and women-focused NGOs, AMP began working with businesses and individuals that had previously seen little donor engagement. Grantees had difficulty complying with grant documentation requirements owing to the low capacity of grantees to follow formal business practices. This required time-consuming efforts by AMP staff to support the beneficiaries in providing the required documentation to remain in compliance with the grant process. This resulted in a backlog of paperwork and commensurate delays in payment transfers.

Payment challenges

Many women agribusiness owners struggle with unduly strenuous bank requirements. The bank restricts transfers if the business license has expired, imposes restrictions on transfers to personal accounts and requires extensive documentation that many women are unable to provide. Additionally, the Mobile Money payment alternative faced a setback after the Taliban reduced the AFN 500,000 payment threshold to only AFN 50,000.

Opportunities

Online communication platforms

With the lingering effects of the pandemic on traditional in-person marketing models, and later as Taliban restrictions severely limited women's freedom of movement, AMP adopted online models for its training programs, particularly in the area of business development.

Online communications became a fixture of AMP operations. Because of the requirement to work from home, AMP's marketing, trade facilitation and overseas colleagues developed effective online communication techniques using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or Skype. AMP's marketing and trade facilitation team in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Delhi, Istanbul and Dubai met online as a group every week to discuss the impact of the pandemic on their businesses, update each other on activities and share knowledge and ideas on how to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Despite initial program slowdowns during the pandemic, COVID-19 essentially sped the adoption of new technologies and displaced less-effective ones. Many live trainings shifted to online platforms, with AMP creating a webpage (www.amp-hub.com) to consolidate a wide variety of training modules. This would later expand under the Enterprise Development Platform (www.amp-edp.com) with the dissemination of materials on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube accounts/channels. These proved invaluable for bringing new skills to women in the privacy of the home. The EDP not only brought training to women who otherwise would not have been able to participate, it also created a collaborative virtual environment for sharing insights with other women business owners.

AMP took advantage of this surge in online interest by helping businesses improve their online marketing presence. Agribusiness firms were surveyed early in the program and showed great interest in AMP assistance in the development of alternative virtual methods to reach new buyers, including:

- The use of social media as marketing tools
- Training on Zoom and other communication methods
- Creating websites and Facebook pages.
- Developing videos which showcase products and processing facilities and then sharing the links with buyers and posting them on their web sites and other social media platforms.

As a result, AMP created staff positions that would provide direct support in web design/direct marketing as well as support in improving the graphic appeal of business logos and product packaging.

New Markets

Early in the program, AMP completed a market research study on Turkey's horticulture imports. This report provided key information on high value horticulture products, market demands and fluctuations, growth rates, key market actors, and Afghanistan exports to Turkey. Turkey was found to be an attractive market for Afghanistan high value horticulture commodities. Most of Turkey's imported horticulture products were being supplied by the U.S., Chile, Iran, Italy, Germany, and Spain. AMP would later hire a Turkish trade representative to increase the market for Afghan products. AMP stepped up its exports to Turkey and its involvement in Turkish trade shows until the pandemic and then the Taliban takeover brought those activities to a halt. If trade is again normalized with Turkey, these inroads may again be able to bear fruit down the road.

Focus on Domestic Processing

The Taliban takeover halted AMP's export activities as the program pivoted to food security. This included a greater focus on domestic processing as a means of import substitution, areas that were not previously a priority for the project. This included activities aimed at improving input supplies, domestic market linkages, transportation, packaging, food storage and cold storage. The deteriorating economy was ripe for domestic processors, provided they could offer a product that met the high

standards of imports. AMP's later activities provided grants and training that would bolster domestic food processing. AMP would step up its B2B linkage activities and explore new opportunities for domestic trade show exhibition.

AMP's pivot to the domestic market and food security enabled the project to focus on several issues that previously hindered growth of the agricultural sector when the project was targeting export promotion. This included returning to examine the country's cold chain infrastructure and improving post-harvest processing, storage, packaging, and transportation. AMP grants and incentives supported agricultural inputs, production and processing, shelf-life extension, agricultural equipment, infrastructure, transportation, storage, marketing, and access to Islamic finance.

Improved Movement

Although the immediate effect of the Taliban takeover was a pause on AMP activities, as those activities resumed, Kabul and regional staff were able to move freely throughout Afghanistan, as were many agribusiness staff. This allowed for the facilitation of better market linkages for farmers and agribusinesses alike. While crime remained high in urban areas, the security situation in rural areas improved dramatically, opening up areas that were previously off limits to development programs.

The improved security situation has opened areas that had not yet been reached by development programs. This included farmers as well as many businesses that are eager to learn new methods and invest in new technologies. The number of businesses working with AMP and interested in AMP's grant and incentive program considerably increased. This led to opportunities to expand AMP interventions to businesses that so far had not received donor support.

Simplified Grant Applications

AMP's Grant and Incentive Program was designed to be flexible to the growing needs of Afghanistan's agriculture and agribusiness sectors. With greater demand for grants in the third phase of the program and a narrow implementation timeline, under its third RFA the program simplified its application process and groomed applicants so that their applications would meet project requirements.

The simplified grants mechanism, which was launched during the extension period, enabled AMP to reach out to more vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as women and youth, providing them with tailored support and empowerment in a wide range of areas. Many of these beneficiaries would not have been eligible to participate during the previous iteration of the grant program owing to the lengthy documentation requirements.

Kitchen Gardening

When AMP shifted its focus to working with women entrepreneurs and farmers, kitchen gardening became one of the most important mechanisms for bringing training and inputs to a significant number of beneficiaries. The activity was overwhelmingly well received. Grantees offered guidance on irrigation techniques, proper application of fertilizers, effective weed control and appropriate harvesting techniques. The participants received certified vegetable seeds, fertilizers, and gardening tools to increase their productivity and improve their household access to healthy food. Many were able to sell surplus vegetables in the local markets, earning money to support their families.

Lessons Learned

Grants and incentives

Early in the program, AMP piloted several interventions aimed at linking farmers to the market for input suppliers through the grants and incentives program. This proved to be an intervention that farmers and agribusinesses embraced and toward which they showed a willingness to provide a cost contribution. These grants and incentives to input suppliers and market actors expanded access of farmers to agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, tools), improved agricultural production and market systems and improved access to technologies that extend shelf life, including storage and

packaging techniques.

However, many of the grants were for amounts under \$25,000. Because the process involved in grants administration is largely the same whether the application is for \$10,000 or \$150,000, the workload was underestimated. In response, AMP added three new positions to focus on verification of grant and incentive administration, documentation and activity verification and environmental monitoring.

Linkages vs Trade Shows

Targeted linkage events like AMP's B2F and B2B activities between buyers and lead farmers were found to be more productive than organized exhibitions. Exhibitions are better suited to small and women-owned businesses, except for the large Badam Bagh Annual Fair organized by MAIL in Kabul each year. The B2F events also enabled farmers to deal directly with businesses, enabling them to develop longer-term relationships and achieve higher returns on their sales.

Small and women-owned agribusinesses were found to be well suited to local exhibitions, where they can promote their products and connect with direct consumers or supply retail shops who deal in smaller quantities. These businesses were also better suited to source their raw products from local wholesale markets rather than from middlemen, commercial farmers, and agribusinesses.

Relations with the Taliban

AMP prioritized upholding healthy, long-term connections with DAIL and MAIL, particularly after the Taliban takeover. These connections allowed AMP to keep implementing horticultural activities directly with farmers and avoided potential shutdowns by provincial Taliban representatives. AMP's nationwide success was largely attributable to its "boots on the ground" strategy, using personnel from the locations where the program is active.

AMP prioritized upholding healthy, long-term connections with DAIL and MAIL, particularly after the Taliban takeover. These connections have allowed us to keep implementing AMP's horticultural activities directly with farmers. AMP's nationwide success has been largely attributed to a "boots on the ground" strategy, using personnel from the locations where the program is active.

Flexible Female Strategy

Prohibitions on women are not uniformly enforced in all parts of the country. As mentioned earlier, some districts refused to allow women to gather in groups to receive kitchen gardening training and inputs but allowed male representatives to stand in for female family members. In one instance, the activity was disallowed altogether. AMP found that some districts were generally more lenient than others. In Khiwa District of Nangarhar Province, for example, AMP encountered no restrictions on female participation by local authorities. Future USAID programming would benefit from evaluating the gender attitudes of a given district prior to implementation and focusing on areas where such activities are not subject to ad hoc prohibitions.

Prior Consultation

AMP found thorough consultations with grantees and their beneficiaries before designing and implementing simplified grants helped ensure that the activity was relevant, appropriate, and responsive to the needs and priorities of the female beneficiaries. Moreover, it was critically important for a successful grants program to provide consistent monitoring, mentoring and feedback to its grantees, as well as facilitating peer-to-peer learning and exchange among different grantees, to improve the effectiveness of the grants program overall.

Annexes



Annex 1: Orchard Establishment (Regular Density) - 2020-2023

Province	District	Coverage (ha)	# Saplings
Balkh	Dawlat Abad	71	48,188
	Marmul	15	8,224
	Nahar e Shahi	35	27,493
	Shulgarah	36	20,425
Subtotal		157	104,330
Ghazni	Ander	63	25,465
	Center	45	18,115
	Dehyak	73	28,400
	Maqur	60	65,746
	Qarabagh	27	10,380
Subtotal		268	148,106
Helmand	Garm Ser	55	49,136
	Nad Ali	7	4,522
	Nahre Seraj	58	41,793
	Nawa	44	24,258
Subtotal		163	119,709
Kandahar	Arghistan	53	35,215
	Chorak	15	9,950
	Khakrez	65	34,688
	Maroof	15	12,960
	Nad Ali	17	13,729
	Nahre Seraj	18	14,476
	Nesh	70	49,990
	Shah Wali Kot	40	22,640
	Shawalikot	15	9,810
Subtotal		307	203,458
Kunduz	Ali Abad	52	33,124
	Archi	1	275
	Center	2	880
	Chardara	67	35,316
	Dashti Archi	15	6,993
	Gol Tapa	4	1,445
	Imam Sahib	33	16,996
	Imam Sahib	30	10,200
	Khan Abad	48	27,432
Subtotal		252	132,661
Logar	Charkh	37	19,481
	Kharwar	24	10,708
	Mohammad Agha	23	10,590
	Pul E Alam	25	11,381
Subtotal		109	52,160
Maidan Wardak	Jalriz	18	8,120

Province	District	Coverage (ha)	# Saplings
	Maidan shar	17	7,596
	Nerkh	23	10,960
	Said Abad	24	3,136
Subtotal		81	29,812
Nangarhar	Batikot	52	25,978
	Haska Mena	46	19,582
	Pachir Wagam	44	20,169
	Shinwari	79	42,956
Subtotal		220	108,685
Paktia	Ahmad Aba	52	22,125
	Gardez	32	12,960
	Jaji Aryub	24	9,440
	Qarabagh	22	8,430
	Sayed Karam	40	17,325
	Syed Karam	13	5,120
	Zurmat	54	22,765
Subtotal		237	98,165
Paktika	Metta Khan	21	8,240
	Naka	9	3,520
	Sharana	21	8,400
	Yousaf Khil	14	5,680
Subtotal		65	25,840
Zabul	Arghandab	54	18,334
	Khaki Afghan	29	9,761
	Mezana	27	16,104
	Shahjoy	50	41,645
	Shar E Safa	55	41,265
Subtotal		215	127,109
Total		2,073	1,150,034

Annex 2: Orchard Establishment (High Density) 2020-2023

Province	District	Coverage (ha)	# Saplings
Balkh	Dawlatabad	3	6660
	Marmul	1	2664
	Nahr E Shahi	1	2220
	Sholgara	0.6	1332
	Shulgar	0.6	1332
Subtotal		6	14,208
Ghazni	Ander	2	4884
	Center	2	4218
	Dehyak	2	4662
	Maqur	0.8	1998
	Maur	0.6	1776
	Qarabagh	1	3996
Subtotal		8	21,534
Kunduz	Ali Abad	2	3996
	Chardara	7	15984
	Imam Sahib	2	5550
	Khan Abad	1.8	3996
Subtotal		13	29,526
Logar	Charkh	0.8	1998
	Kharwar	0.8	2664
	Moh- Agha	1	2886
	Pul E Alam	2	4662
Subtotal		5	12,210
Maidan Wardak	Center	0.8	2442
	Jalrez	0.4	1332
	Narkh	1	3108
	Said Abad	1	4218
Subtotal		4	11,100
Nangarhar	Batikot	0.2	444
	Haska Meena	0.6	1332
	Pacher Wa Agam	1	2664
	Shinwari	0.2	444
Subtotal		2	4,884
Paktia	Ahmad Aba	1.6	4440
	Center	0.4	1332
	Gardez	0	666
	Sayed Karam	1.8	5106
	Zurmat	4	10656
Subtotal		8	22,200
Paktika	Sharana	0.4	888
	Yousuf Khail	0.4	888
Subtotal		1	1,776

Wardak	Jalrez	0.2	666
	Maidan Shahr	0.4	1110
	Narkh	1	2664
Subtotal		2	4,440
Total		48	121,878

Annex 3: Farmer Field Schools

Province	# of FFS	Number of Farmers
Ghazni	110	1083
Kunduz	117	1095
Kandahar	98	1062
Zabul	79	819
Balkh	83	659
Paktia	151	1631
Nangarhar	17	160
Helmand	46	467
Total	701	6,976












Annex 4: AMP Branding Assistance (all phases)













Logo Development

Company Name	Type of Branding Assistance	Original Logo	AMP Developed Logo
Ahmad Tamim Ltd	Logo modification, Facebook cover photo, packaging labels, company invoice design		
Afghan Organic Trading Company	Defining corporate identity and company logo design		
Jabarkhail Ahmadi Trading Ltd.	Logo design, corporate branding package design	None	
Haider Rafat Ltd	Logo design, corporate branding package design		
Kabul Saffron	Defining corporate identity and company logo design	None	
Afghanistan Red Gold Saffron Company	Defining corporate identity and company logo design		
Mumtaz Yousofzai	Logo design, stationery and packaging		

Company Name	Type of Branding Assistance	Original Logo	AMP Developed Logo
Benazir Yakta Trading Company	Logo design, stationery and packaging		
Queen Marjan Trading Co	Logo design, stationery and packaging		
Tak Dana Dry & Fresh Fruit Process Co.	Logo design		
Dehdai Co Ltd	Logo design, stationery and packaging	None	
Khalid Walid Ghalibi	Logo design & stationery	None	
Wali Dry Fruits	Logo design		
Faiz Gulab CO Ltd	Logo design, stationery		

Company Name	Type of Branding Assistance	Original Logo	AMP Developed Logo
King Khan Ltd	Logo design		
New Yaqoubi Ltd	Logo design, stationery		
Sadullah Trading Company	Logo design, marketing collateral	None	
Telai Sorkh Jahan	Logo design and stationery		
Parsa Zabihi Ltd	Logo design and stationery	None	
Ikram Ezat Ltd	Logo design and stationery	None	
Nasrat Sharif	Logo design and stationery	None	
Noorullah Lodin	Logo design	None	

Company Name	Type of Branding Assistance	Original Logo	AMP Developed Logo
Bradaran Itfaq Noorzai Ltd	Logo design, stationery and packaging		
Queen Marjan Trading Company	Logo modification, Facebook cover photo, packaging labels, company invoice design	None	
Mubarak Noori Ltd	Defining corporate identity and company logo design	None	
Nikan Saadat Trading Company	Logo design, defining corporate identity, and marketing stationery design		
Akorkhail Trading Co.	Defining corporate identity and company logo design	None	
Noorullah S/O Khan (Sole Proprietorship)	Defining corporate identity and company logo design	None	
Abobaker Haseb Ltd	Company logo, brand identity	None	
Brotheran Altay Bolak Ltd	Company logo, brand identity, exhibition banners		

Company Name	Type of Branding Assistance	Original Logo	AMP Developed Logo
Mamoon Emran Ltd	Logo design, corporate branding package design	None	
Zemara Rasouli Ltd	Logo design, branding support for tradeshows		
Drukshsham Shamal	Company logo and banner design		
Armaghan Dehqan Agriculture Services Co.	Company logo and corporate package design		 شرکت خدمات زراعتی و مالداری ارمغان دهقان Armaghan Dehqan Agricultural Services Company
Tela Sorkh Jahan	Saffron Label Design	n.a.	(see below)
Delbakhah	Logo design Corporate Package Design and Packaging Design		
Salar Saffron	Logo Design and Packaging Design		
New Landstar	Logo Design	N/A	

Company Name	Type of Branding Assistance	Original Logo	AMP Developed Logo
Bukhdy Bami Ltd	Logo Design and Corporate Package		
Karwan Saffron	Logo Design, Business Corporate Package Design, and Packaging Design		
Banowan Damparwar	Logo Design, Business Corporate Package Design, and Packaging Design		
Ayoub Dry Fruit	Logo Design and Business Corporate Package		
Fatima Akbari Pickle and Jam	Logo Design, Banner Design	N/A	
Khpulwak Watani Pickle and Jam	Logo Design, Banner Design	N/A	
Khalid Fizan Ltd	Second Option Logo Design		
Agricultural Jam & Pickle	Logo Design, Banner Design, and Business Corporate Package	N/A	

Company Name	Type of Branding Assistance	Original Logo	AMP Developed Logo
Sunbol Food Processing Co.	Logo Design, Banner Design	N/A	
Ash Boreda Panja Chenar Co.	Logo Design, Banner Design	N/A	
Mastoraat Food Materials Processing and Production Group	Logo, Banner, Label Designs, Product Mockup, Business Card, Letterhead, Envelope A4/A6, & Cover Photo	N/A	
Special Khanagi	Logo & Banner Designs, Business Card, Letterhead, Envelope A4/A6, & Cover Photo		
Kawsar Food Processing & Production Co.	Logo Design, Business Card, Letterhead, Envelope A4/A6, & Cover Photo	N/A	
Sahar Food Processing & Production Co.	Logo, Banner, Label and Stand Banner Designs		
Green Nature Food Processing Co.	Logo & Banner Designs	N/A	
Ash Boreda Panja Chenar Co.	Logo Design, Banner Design	N/A	

Packaging Samples







Product Photoshoot Samples



Stationery Samples



Booth Design Samples

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Hada Milk and Jam Distribution Company
2705481330

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Annex 5: Executed Trade Show Deals by Country (through Dec. 31, 2021)

Country	Value (USD)
India	66,304,439
Turkey	7,836,106
UAE	7,232,930
Iraq	1,473,680
Saudi Arabia	1,035,300
Jordan	937,725
Indonesia	684,030
Bangladesh	668,360
Libya	450,000
Russia	315,060
Egypt	274,680
USA	216,832
Lebanon	192,160
Yemen	173,950
Italy	165,000
Sweden	159,660
Japan	118,000
Kuwait	112,250
Egypt	92,500
Vietnam	89,700
Qatar	88,000
Kazakhstan	74,813
UK	56,500
Uzbekistan	52,500
Netherlands	46,436
Germany	23,000
Oman	9,729
Total	\$88,883,339

Annex 6: Export to Existing Markets (Phase I)

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
India	Almond Kernel	23	552,931
	Almond Kernel Grade 1	1	21,314
	Almonds	8	187,330
	Almonds (Satarbai)	1	15,776
	Almonds (Soft Shell)	2	27,225
	Almonds (with shell)	6	48,860
	Almonds Soft Shell	1	9,454
	Almonds	3	59,441
	Apples	12	236,860
	Apricot	19	72,789
	Asafetida	3	1,744,063
	Asafetida (Red)	1	466,254
	Asafetida (White)	9	5,213,912
	Asafetida RASH (solid)	1	6,962
	Asafetida SAP (liquid)	1	5,893
	Basil Seeds	14	505,350
	Black Raisins	169	4,902,029
	Broken Pistachio Kernels	3	16,450
	Caraway Seed	55	2,782,545
	Caraway Seeds Asal	21	1,106,773
	Cherries	5	21,959
	Cumin Seed	37	2,886,052
	Dried Apricots	32	981,565
	Dried Figs	84	8,208,488
	Dried Figs	8	310,558
	Dried Figs Grade 2	2	21,793
	Dried Sour Cherries	6	1,576,403
	Dry Apricots	4	229,650
	Dry Figs	4	636,660
	Dry Figs	130	12,909,795
	Figs	1	8,250
	Fresh Apricot	5	10,397
	Fresh Grapes	35	351,877
	Fresh Onion	1	9,841
	Fresh Onion Grade 1	3	15,272
	Fresh Red Onion Grade 1	4	33,431
	Glue (Musle)	1	1,008
	Golden Raisins	7	293,734
	Golden Raisins	144	5,257,615
	Golden Raisins (Abjosh)	5	89,036
	Green Mung Beans	5	170,000
Green Raisins	108	3,101,901	
Hard Almonds	18	307,080	

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
	Harmala	1	8,000
	Herbs	1	6,728
	Honey	2	38,986
	Licorice (shirin boya)	1	84,000
	Licorice Roots	29	511,285
	Majith	2	23,849
	Melons	6	18,809
	Miswak	2	18,432
	Mixed Dried Fruit and Nuts	2	22,304
	Munnaka Raisins	1	1,566
	Musk Melon Seeds	6	137,045
	Musle	1	2,490
	Onions	1	8,625
	Peganum Harmala	1	20,470
	Pine Nuts	1	23,000
	Pine Nuts	1	31,350
	Pine Nuts	1	26,000
	Pine Nuts Grade 2	1	3,305
	Pine Nuts Kernel Roasted	2	74,500
	Pine Nuts Roasted	12	466,230
	Pistachio Kernels	23	1,704,704
	Pomegranate Seeds	1	25,500
	Pomegranate Seeds	11	246,450
	Raisin	32	1,901,811
	Raisins Abjosh	2	34,970
	Ratan Jhot (Alkanet)	1	4,420
	Rathan Jot	1	2,129
	Saffron	19	1,371,091
	Saffron	17	1,993,900
	Saffron Grade 1	1	9,200
	Saffron Grade 3	1	6,000
	Seeds	2	34,128
	Walnut	4	73,162
	Walnuts Kernel	10	1,445,781
	Walnuts Kernel Grade1	2	35,531
	Watermelon Seed	2	125,000
	Yarilang (Rathan Jot)	1	7,200
	Yarlang	1	11,880
	Subtotal	1,207	65,974,403
UAE	Almond Kernel	26	1,443,953
	Almond (Roasted and Salted)	2	3,561
	Almond Kernel Grade 2	1	7,752
	Almond Kernel Grade 3	2	184,355
	Almond Shell Grade 2	1	22,878
	Almond with shell Grade 3	1	16,236
	Almond with shell Grade 3	1	2,579

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
	Almonds	9	148,316
	Almonds (Roasted and Salted)	1	584
	Almonds (with shell)	1	3,540
	Almonds Soft Shell	1	600
	Almonds Sweet (Nuqul)	1	1,215
	Apricot	3	4,882
	Apricot Kernels	2	12,740
	Apricot Kernels (Roasted and Salted)	3	2,166
	Asafoetida	3	199,900
	Basil Seeds	1	75,000
	Bitter Apricot	2	37,170
	Bitter Gourd	1	3,100
	Black Mulberry Grade 3	1	596
	Black Raisins	9	255,994
	Coriander	1	400
	Cumin	16	1,426,120
	Cumin Seed	45	3,079,530
	Dried Apricot Nuts Grade 3	1	1,785
	Dried Apricots	7	194,804
	Dried Cherries	1	1,100
	Dried Figs	19	1,782,386
	Dried Figs Grade 3	2	58,680
	Dried Jujube	1	324
	Dried Mulberries	3	4,400
	Dried Mulberries (Black)	1	22,880
	Dried Mulberries (White)	1	60,400
	Dried Plums	3	6,355
	Dried White Mulberries	1	462
	Dry Mulberry	1	4,545
	Ferula asafetida	1	65,000
	Figs	4	120,655
	Fresh Apricot	5	13,208
	Fresh Bitter Gourd	2	630
	Fresh Cherry	1	846
	Fresh Grapes	2	11,366
	Fresh Juice	1	398
	Green Raisins	17	663,818
	Juices	2	90,000
	Mixed Dried Fruit and Nuts	1	31,409
	Mulberries	1	188
	Mung Beans	153	3,144,600
	Okra	3	4,870
	Peganum Harmala	12	282,390
	Pine Nuts	4	131,520
	Pine Nuts (shelled) Roasted	1	240,800
	Pistachio Kernels	8	625,740
	Pistachios	3	360,900

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
	Pistachios Kernel Grade 3	2	29,208
	Raisin	17	824,812
	Red Raisin Grade 3	2	5,001
	Red Raisins	6	86,552
	Saffron	3	170,300
	Saffron	6	581,958
	Sesame seed (Hulled)	1	44,400
	Sesame Seeds	6	208,020
	Soap Root	15	348,630
	Sour Cherries	1	2,200
	Sweet Apricot Kernel Grade 3	2	8,268
	Walnut	1	1,800
	Walnuts Kernel	1	480
	Watermelon Seed	76	3,894,650
	White Mulberries	4	10,431
	White Mulberry Grade 3	2	5,689
Subtotal		541	21,082,025
Total		1,748	\$87,056,427

Annex 7: Exports to New Markets (Phase I)

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
Australia	Raisin	8	256,632
	Red Raisins	6	124,362
	Saffron	1	30,000
	Prunes	1	15,625
	Dried Plums	1	15,625
	Dried Apricots	1	4,011
	Apricot with seed	1	4,011
	Rice Afghani	1	3,500
	Afghani Rice	1	3,500
	Green Raisins	2	3,234
	Black Berries	1	1,548
	Dried Black Berries	1	1,548
	Dried Figs	1	1,505
	Figs	1	1,505
	Dried Apricots (Rolled)	1	1,103
	Rolled Apricot	1	1,103
	Sesame Halwa	2	1,050
	Chickpeas (Roasted)	1	990
	Roasted Chickpea	1	990
Subtotal		33	471,841
Bangladesh	Cumin	1	87,500
	Cumin Seed	1	86,250
Subtotal		2	173,750
Canada	Dried Figs	2	97,825
	Dried Apricots	3	54,408
	Black Raisins	3	35,746
	Dried Berries	1	28,000
	Raisin	1	25,600
	Almonds with shell (Skokurbayi)	2	22,991
	Red Raisins	2	21,582
	Green Raisins	1	8,190
	Almond Kernel	1	6,110
	Chickpeas	2	5,991
	Almonds (with shell)	1	5,824
	Dried Plums	1	4,095
	Dried prune (Golden)	1	3,541
	Dried apricot seedless	1	2,244
	Black Mulberry	1	2,218
	Dried prune (Black)	1	1,838
	Dark Candy (Gur)	1	1,036
White Candy (Gur)	1	555	
Subtotal		26	327,794
China	Pine Nuts	16	1,191,826
	Raisin	2	33,292

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
	Pine Nuts (Unshelled)	1	18,000
	Raw Pine Nuts	1	9,100
	Alkanet		
Subtotal		20	1,252,218
Egypt	Cumin Seed	3	251,850
	Black Watermelon Seed	1	62,500
	Watermelon Seed	1	51,700
	Soap Root	1	21,850
	Mung Beans	1	21,600
Subtotal		7	409,500
Kurdistan	Sesame seed (Hulled)	1	48,000
Subtotal		1	48,000
Finland	Saffron	1	4,500
Subtotal		1	4,500
France	Mixed Dried Fruit and Nuts	1	9,095
Subtotal		1	9,095
Germany	Red Raisins	32	874,527
	Bitter Apricot Kernel	14	853,360
	Pistachio Kernels	1	575,000
	Raisin	11	477,695
	Almond Kernel	2	232,184
	Saffron	1	45,109
	Dried Apricot Balls	2	11,691
	Black Mulberries (Dried)	2	9,288
	Pine Nuts Roasted	1	8,300
	Black Raisins	2	6,224
	Dried Apricot Rolls	1	5,700
	Dried Mulberries	1	3,808
	Dried Mulberries (Black)	1	3,645
	Almonds (Satarbaye)	1	3,390
	Almonds (Qambari)	1	3,358
	Dried Figs	1	2,318
	Dried Apricots	1	1,989
	Oleaster	1	1,262
	Green Raisins	1	1,040
	Dried Apricot Halves	1	1,029
Apricot Kernels (Roasted and Salted)	1	700	
Cherries	1	576	
Dried Plums	1	567	
Subtotal		81	3,122,760
Hungary	Red Raisins	1	31,388
Subtotal		1	31,388
Indonesia	Saffron	1	69,623
	Basil Seeds	2	36,100
	Saffron	2	29,001
	Raisin	3	26,100

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
	Almond Kernel	2	17,400
	Walnut Kernel	1	5,300
	Almonds	1	2,800
Subtotal		12	186,324
Iraq	Sesame seed (Hulled)	104	4,824,223
	Sesame Seeds	63	2,111,390
	Dried Apricots	23	716,645
	Broom Seeds	37	519,211
	Grass pea	22	455,030
	Sesame Seeds (Un-hulled)	13	428,934
	Apricot Dried	9	341,800
	Alfalfa Seeds	7	299,245
	Sesame Seeds	4	144,000
	Pistachio Kernels	1	140,000
	Apricot Dried	3	115,811
	Basil	2	112,120
	Mung Beans	5	106,850
	Cumin Seed	1	79,350
	Millet	8	72,405
	Sorghum Vulgare Var (Broom Seeds)	8	69,020
	Red Watermelon Seed	1	62,500
	Raisin	1	49,770
	Dried Plums	1	43,200
	Rue Seeds (Esfand)	3	42,400
	Red Raisins	1	27,900
	Dried Apricots (Barga)	1	24,288
	Sesame Seeds	1	23,962
	Soap Root	1	22,800
Millet Seeds	1	17,500	
Grass Pea	1	16,250	
Peganum Harmala	1	12,500	
Wild Rue Seeds	1	8,000	
Subtotal		324	10,887,104
Jamaica	Red Raisins	2	58,800
Subtotal		2	58,800
Japan	Licorice Roots	1	119,180
Subtotal		1	119,180
Jordan	Watermelon Seed	14	762,050
	Cumin Seed	1	75,000
	Soap Root	2	36,000
Subtotal		17	873050
Kuwait	Saffron	4	66,700
Subtotal		4	66,700
Latvia	Red Raisins	3	71,745
Subtotal		3	71,745
Lebanon	Watermelon Seed	8	422,400

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
Subtotal		8	422,400
Lithuania	Raisin	1	32,063
Subtotal		1	32,063
London	Fresh Melons	2	13,728
Subtotal		2	13,728
Morocco	Bitter Almond Kernels	1	110,000
Total Subtotal		1	110,000
Netherland	Red Raisins	49	1,379,725
	Green Raisins	3	40,619
	Raisin	1	28,500
	Black Raisins	2	12,624
	Almonds	1	8,142
	Dried Apricots (Chapanamik)	1	6,440
	Bitter Apricot Kernel	1	5,440
	Almond Kernels (Satarbai)	1	3,840
	Dried Apricots (Shakar Parah)	1	2,574
	White Mulberries	1	2,208
	Almond Kernels (Ghorbandi)	1	1,952
	Twisted dried Apricot-Chapa Namak	1	1,950
	Dried Pum-Alo Bukhara	1	1,944
	Mixed Dried Fruits	2	1,374
Chickpeas	2	1,368	
Subtotal		68	1,498,700
Pakistan	Fresh Grapes	6	540,083
	Pomegranates	20	337,150
	Pomegranates	11	164,950
Subtotal		37	1,042,183
Russia	Raisin	3	237,900
	Red Raisins	2	37,800
Subtotal		5	275,700
Saudi Arabia	Saffron	8	1,726,720
	Saffron	3	865,200
	Almond Kernel	2	88,950
	Almonds (with shell)	3	62,650
	Cumin Seed	1	62,500
	Red Raisins	1	5,704
Subtotal		18	2,811,724
Spain	Bitter Apricot Kernel	1	61,000
Subtotal		1	61,000
Sweden	Saffron	3	16,650
Subtotal		3	16,650
Switzerland	Mixed Dried Fruit and Nuts	1	8,953
	Afghan Candy (Gur)	1	801
Subtotal		2	9,754
Tajikistan	Dry Apricots	3	60,000
Subtotal		3	60,000

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
Turkey	Cumin Seed	105	7,467,667
	Watermelon Seed	65	3,309,200
	Red Raisins	67	1,776,716
	Pistachio Kernels	5	1,148,020
	Raisin	29	1,016,560
	Sesame Seeds	28	942,390
	Licorice Roots	18	402,777
	Alfalfa Seeds	9	368,185
	cumin	3	262,500
	Sesame seed (Hulled)	5	228,000
	Soap Root	11	208,447
	Dried Apricots	6	153,159
	Almond Kernel	2	146,700
	Saffron	8	141,691
	Bitter Almond Kernels	1	120,000
	Sesame Seeds	3	90,000
	Almonds	4	82,224
	Apricot Dried	2	72,000
	Mung Beans	2	41,600
	Sesame Seeds	1	36,000
	Clover	1	35,983
	Apricot Kernels	2	25,000
	Dried Mulberries (White)	1	23,598
	Dried Apricot Halves	1	20,412
	Dry Apricots	1	17,750
	Peganum Harmala	1	16,250
	Fennel Seeds	1	7,000
	Black Cumin Seeds	1	6,500
	Saffron	1	2,013
	Millet Seeds	2	800
Dried Plums	2	378	
Millet	1	350	
Subtotal		389	18,169,869
UK	Dried Apricot Grade 2	1	70,785
	Red Raisins	5	62,196
	Green Raisins	3	13,647
	Fresh Melons	2	12,763
	Raisin	3	12,274
	Pomegranates	1	11,164
	Almond Kernel	2	5,923
	Apricot	1	5,835
	Pine Nuts	1	5,300
	Dried Mulberries	2	5,143
	Roasted Pine Nuts	1	3,240
	Pine Nuts	1	2,854
	Dried Apricots	3	2,428
	Dried Plums	2	2,187

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
	Black Raisins	2	2,112
	Dried Figs	1	1,800
	Almonds	1	1,497
	Walnuts Kernel	2	1,393
	Oleaster	1	1,269
	Roasted Black Pine Nuts Grad 2	1	1,225
	Grade Raisin Grade 2	1	1,140
	Black Mulberry	1	1,134
	Saffron	1	1,100
	White Mulberries	1	1,071
	Afghan Candy (Gur)	1	760
	Roasted Peas	1	735
	Saffron (Super Negin)	1	700
	Almonds Satarbai	1	615
	Dried Plums Grade 2	1	596
	Black Mulberries (Dried)	1	540
	Almond Kernel Grade 2	1	525
	Dried Apricot Nuts Grade 2	1	518
	Red Raisin Grade 2	1	504
	Black Raisin Grade 2	1	504
	Black Mulberry Grade 2	1	435
	Apricot Kernels	1	397
	Dried Apricots (Chapanamik)	1	370
	Dried Figs Grade 2	1	283
Subtotal		54	236,962
USA	Saffron	15	356,807
	Dried Mulberries (White)	4	127,464
	Soft Plum	4	112,756
	White Mulberries	4	102,574
	Saffron	14	76,080
	Dried Apricots	7	53,415
	Black Mulberry	5	50,612
	Green Raisins	4	29,861
	Pistachios (roasted & salted)	1	27,311
	Almond Kernel	2	25,852
	Prunes	2	24,614
	Sweet Apricot Kernel (Roasted & Salted)	1	23,185
	Pine Nuts	3	22,450
	Almonds Kernel (Salted)	1	21,850
	Dried Mulberries (Black)	3	21,249
	Dry Figs	1	19,030
	Red Raisins	3	18,848
	Pistachio Kernels	2	10,398
	Cumin Seed	2	9,859
	Raisin	3	9,264
Dried Plums - Aloo Bukhara	2	7,834	
Figs	2	7,422	

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
	Cumin	1	7,200
	Chickpeas	1	6,935
	Apricot with pit	2	6,186
	Fig -Baghlan	1	3,993
	Dried Plums	2	3,805
	Wild Rue Seeds	3	3,761
	Almond (Roasted and Salted)	1	3,561
	Oleaster	1	3,168
	Absus Seeds	2	3,167
	Walnuts Kernel	2	2,855
	Dried Apricot Halves	1	2,077
	Black Cardamon	1	2,000
	Apricot Kernels (Roasted and Salted)	1	1,583
	Zareshk	1	1,301
	Mixed Dried Fruits	1	1,296
	Black Seeds	1	1,229
	Almonds Soft Shell	2	1,128
	Moshong	1	1,127
	Dry Apricot (with seed)	1	1,104
	Broad Beans	1	1,023
	Chive Seeds	1	1,011
	Coriander Seeds	1	994
	Rue Seeds	1	948
	Plantain Seeds	1	881
	Yellow Cardamon	1	843
	Hogweed	2	821
	Fennel	1	806
	Henbane Herbal	2	800
	Plantain Weed	1	745
	Quassia Bitter Spice	1	672
	Dried Sour Cherries	1	658
	Black Berries	1	614
	Saffron (Super Negin)	1	600
	Raisins Shindulkhani	1	526
	Oat Herbal	1	474
	Spearmint	1	457
	Khak Shir	1	451
	Afghan Sweets	1	435
	Molasses White Fruit	1	408
	Peas	1	383
	Gil Sarshoi	1	367
	Stick Candy	1	328
	Barberry Roots	2	308
	Gul Khatmi	1	302
	Fig Powder	1	302
	Orange Peel	1	260
	Sesame Halwa	1	118

Countries	Products	MT	Sales (USD)
	Green Tea Badakhshan	2	100
	Carrot Halwa	1	84
	Dried Figs	1	82
	Green Tea	1	44
Subtotal		147	1,233,057
Uzbekistan	Saffron	1	645
Subtotal		1	645
Vietnam	Saffron	1	7,277
Subtotal		1	7,277
Total		1,277	\$44,115,459

Annex 8: Phase II Domestic Sales

Province	Products	MT	Sales Value (USD)
Balkh	Almond (Kaghzi)	9.00	38,426
	Almond (Qambari)	16.07	72,956
	Almond (Satarbai)	4.00	30,112
	Almonds	14.00	49,777
	Almonds (Qambari)	12.00	75,600
	Apricot	12.00	4,437
	Asafoetida	0.02	4,091
	Asafoetida Sapling	17.00	5,329
	Asafoetida Seeds	0.12	16,903
	Bitter almond kernels	0.00	91
	Bitter Almond Oil	0.02	345
	Black Oil Seeds	0.01	300
	Black Raisins	785.90	1,642,295
	Black Raisins (Qaisari)	37.50	100,974
	Black Seed Oil	0.07	1,722
	Cardamom	0.01	109
	Carrot Jam	0.02	34
	Carrots	900.00	111,625
	Cheery	2.00	1,685
	Chutney	0.16	121
	Chutney (green pepper)	0.41	383
	Chutney (red pepper)	0.05	57
	cucumber seeds	0.03	1,079
	Cumin Seeds	15.82	66,960
	Dried Mulberries (Black)	4.50	6,145
	Dried Mulberries (White)	7.50	20,473
	Dried Pepper	0.01	137
	Dried white mulberry	32.00	161,269
	Flax oils	1.23	2,475
	Grapes	59.50	13,385
	Honey	0.12	1,091
	Jam	0.06	142
	Jam (Apple)	0.03	35
	Jam (Carrot)	0.12	168
	Jam (Cherry)	0.04	72
	Jam (Kiwi)	0.04	55
	Jam (Pumpkin)	0.05	65
	Jam (Quench)	0.00	7
	Jam (Tangerine)	0.04	63
	Jam (Tomato)	0.01	9
	Jam (Watermelon)	0.02	34
	Jama (Banana)	0.01	9
	Licorice Roots	233.57	160,937
	Melon	33.65	7,831
	Melon Seeds	100.00	65,000
	Mixed dry fruits (red raisins, black raisins and almonds)	3.15	6,022
	Mixed Pickle	0.08	64
	Moshong	1.20	1,100
	Mustard Oil	0.01	85
	Olive Oil	0.02	335
Onions	116.00	19,839	
Peach	14.50	5,028	
Pickle (Awree)	1.54	536	
Pickle (Eggplant)	0.08	36	
Pickle (Mixed)	0.25	228	
Pickles	0.17	220	
Pistachio (In-shell)	2.98	18,225	

Province	Products	MT	Sales Value (USD)
	Pistachio Kernels	304.77	4,935,440
	Pistachio with Shell	1.10	6,250
	Pistachios	3.00	21,420
	Pumkin Jam	0.03	57
	Raisins (Black)	63.20	133,104
	Raisins (Red)	189.00	358,900
	Red beans	1.12	1,386
	Red Raisins	30.67	22,467
	Saffron	0.07	58,545
	Saffron bulb	81.10	38,308
	Seeds Oil	0.35	1,300
	Sesame oils	0.38	1,468
	Sesame Seeds	4.00	6,000
	Sesame seeds (hulled)	24.00	30,600
	Sesame seeds (Un-hulled)	2.00	3,550
	Tomato seeds	0.00	31
Watermelon	287.45	28,479	
Wheat	144.00	76,835	
Subtotal		3,575	8,440,668
Ghazni	Wheat	129.37	69,032
	Wheat Flour	924.98	497,874
Subtotal		1,054	566,906
Herat	Almond Kernels	7.30	51,254
	Almonds	139.30	966,938
	Apples	373.80	127,472
	Apricot	18.60	24,150
	Basil Seeds	38.50	87,004
	Berley	1.60	640
	Black Cumin	1.12	16,800
	Black cumin seed	1.80	27,000
	Black Raisins	2.00	4,426
	Broom seeds	38.00	12,820
	Chips	411.32	884,644
	Cucumber	14.60	2,482
	Cumin Seeds	292.20	870,963
	Dried Apricot	130.74	195,571
	Dried vegetable	0.88	3,250
	Dry berry	0.20	460
	Figs	31.40	210,375
	Fruits Majoon	0.01	130
	Gold Raisin	14.71	37,680
	Grapes	19.00	7,520
	Green Cumin	8.50	20,238
	Green Raisins	13.50	28,979
	Herbal Juice	0.09	72
	Honey	0.06	720
	Jam	1.56	1,862
	Mung Beans	960.50	788,400
	Nigella sativa	0.12	624
	Okra	4.85	2,037
	Palawi Raisins	2.38	3,406
	Peach	18.50	6,918
	Pickles	13.74	3,048
	Pistachio Kernels	1.62	16,017
	Pistachios	18.75	206,637
	Plum	37.97	22,693
Raisins	157.70	714,935	
Saffron	0.75	758,267	
Saffron (Round Saffron)	0.02	2,417	
Saffron bulb	28.50	24,345	
Sattarbay Almonds	0.96	4,763	
Seeds Oil	0.67	2,594	




Province	Products	MT	Sales Value (USD)
	Sesame	117.75	177,175
	Sesame scum	0.17	50
	Sesame Seeds	612.50	849,000
	Spices	0.15	2,026
	Tomato	16.80	5,578
	Tomato paste	0.62	620
	Tomato Soup	1.18	1,180
	Vinegar	2.00	600
	Walnut	15.50	64,867
	Watermelon	69.00	11,218
	Watermelon seed	23.65	47,300
	Wheat	1,076.15	627,658
Subtotal		4,743	7,927,825
Kabul	Almond Kernel (Ghorbandi)	2.50	22,472
	Almond Kernel (Satarbai)	4.00	67,416
	Almond Kernel (Tajqurghani)	3.50	39,326
	Almond kernels (Grade C)	12.00	56,580
	Almond kernels (Grade D)	3.00	10,656
	Almond with Shell	3.00	37,079
	Almonds	10.70	17,117
	Almonds kernels	20.00	112,000
	Apples	4,679.48	1,450,965
	Apricot	2,261.42	988,604
	Apricot (Chapanamak)	0.02	91
	Apricot kernels	8.00	33,360
	Apricot Nuts	3.00	20,225
	Bell Pepper	0.14	33
	Black Mulberries	4.00	15,730
	Black Raisins	4.11	16,120
	Bunching Onoin	1.94	305
	Cauliflower	35.19	8,329
	Cheery	81.49	108,688
	Cucumber	107.00	14,521
	Dried Apricot	0.05	245
	Dried Apricot (Ashtaq)	2.00	8,989
	Dried Apricot (Chapanamak)	4.02	27,064
	Dried Dill	0.02	30
	Dried fruit	0.32	1,340
	Dried Onion	0.16	343
	Dried Pepper	0.10	87
	Dried Plum	0.32	1,280
	Dried Raisin	0.20	184
	Dried Red Papper	0.10	157
	Dried Tomato	0.22	2,473
	Dry fruits	0.35	1,343
	Flour	176.23	95,400
	Flour (Locally produced wheat)	545.72	289,126
	Fresh Apricot	191.45	96,205
	Grapes	5,597.32	2,266,212
	Green Raisin (Gerdak, Goli)	3.00	15,169
	Green Raisin (Gerdak, Qaisar)	2.00	7,865
	Green Raisin (Middle size)	3.00	18,539
	Green Raisins	0.08	487
Green Raisins (Big size)	2.00	21,348	
Green Raisins (Kandahari)	4.00	26,966	
Juices	120.00	80,000	
Lemon Masala	0.69	2,312	
Medlar	7.51	3,452	




Province	Products	MT	Sales Value (USD)
	Melon	27.06	5,096
	Okra	9.60	4,766
	Onions	1,463.41	411,737
	Palaw Masala	0.06	306
	Pea (Mazary)	2.00	5,618
	Peach	24.78	7,720
	Pistachio Kernels	2.50	56,180
	Pistachios	2.12	27,848
	Pistachios kernels (Grade C)	1.80	16,200
	Pistacios kernels	15.00	250,500
	Plum	13.62	4,768
	Pomegranate	2,261.29	1,068,445
	Potato	4,401.76	896,449
	Pulaw Masala	0.12	472
	Pumpkin	9.81	2,585
	Qorma Masala	1.80	4,041
	Qurma Masala (Vegetable Food Spices)	2.00	4,498
	Raisins	8.00	4,080
	Raisins (Red)	77.28	84,605
	Red Raisin (Big size)	2.00	6,742
	Red Raisin (Palawi)	4.00	8,090
	Red Raisins	92.80	105,229
	Red Raisins (Grade A)	54.03	63,210
	Roasted Pea	5.00	16,854
	Saffron	0.01	7,563
	Sour Cherry	0.05	27
	Spinach	7.44	913
	Strawberry	0.20	205
	Tomato	4,403.34	1,523,786
	Turmeric	0.15	253
	Walnut	0.00	33
Wheat Flour	100.99	54,583	
White Mulberries	4.00	26,966	
Zucchini	6.67	1,061	
Subtotal		26,910	10,657,665
Kandahar	2nd grade Peas	47.05	24,000
	3rd grade processed grains	35.63	10,963
	Al Shifa	0.02	235
	Almond oil	0.14	238
	Almonds	416.49	790,523
	Alovera Oil	0.10	169
	Amla Oil	0.13	211
	Basil Seeds	103.00	213,980
	Black and White Cumin	20.50	73,390
	Black Cumin	91.50	321,513
	Black Raisins	472.45	1,399,546
	Black Seed Oil	0.34	766
	Brain Natural Powder	0.09	50
	Caraway seeds	332.51	1,255,332
	Chickpeas	144.90	189,502
	Constipation Powder	0.13	73
	Cumin	81.65	287,222
	Cumin Seeds	109.83	359,875
	Dried Apricot	102.71	263,642
	Dry Figs	5.32	47,846
	Figs	142.52	1,242,846
Garlic Oil	0.11	186	
Golden Raisins	225.05	1,166,426	
Grapes	1,215.85	608,109	
Grapes Vinegar	18.00	10,800	




Province	Products	MT	Sales Value (USD)
	Green and Red Raisin	18.00	21,780
	Green Raisins	381.20	557,813
	Hard Almonds	39.92	79,840
	Herati Abjoshi	0.13	682
	Honey	0.13	1,234
	Juices	301.20	248,960
	Melon	966.90	255,070
	Mong Pulse	45.72	43,043
	Mung Beans	96.87	91,669
	Natural energy powder	0.06	867
	Oil	42.76	61,073
	Olive Oil	0.14	237
	Onion Oil	0.10	169
	Peas Pulse	11.32	10,788
	Pistachios	0.12	1,636
	Pomegranate Oil	0.09	152
	Pomegranate	590.39	284,578
	Poppyseed oil	0.01	8
	Processed Beans	1.02	847
	Pulse	49.35	53,192
	Raisins	290.51	335,194
	Red Raisins	224.50	170,347
	Seeds Oil	0.16	223
	Sesame seed oil	0.14	153
	Shifa	0.08	84
	Soya Souce	0.43	243
	Stomach Natural Powder	0.10	169
	Talbina	34.09	39,460
3rd grade processed grains	20.45	3,885	
Vinegar	120.16	66,460	
Watermelon	1,141.60	252,592	
White Cumin	9.30	38,316	
White Vinegar	0.31	84	
Subtotal		7,953	10,888,292
Kunduz	Asafoetida Seeds	0.24	44,702
	Hing Seeds	0.01	1,111
	Rice	69.12	49,387
	Saffron	0.00	2,415
Subtotal		69	97,615
Logar	Onions	7.00	1,586
	Tomato	10.25	3,190
Subtotal		17	4,776
Nangarhar	Slanty	13.02	24,121
	Almonds	3.30	20,700
	Apples	201.64	83,858
	Apricot	38.21	9,338
	Bunching Onoin	1.41	183
	Cauliflower	165.81	31,408
	Dried Apricot	3.37	9,471
	Fried gram	4.12	8,454
	Fungicide	0.07	255
	Grapes	121.20	31,307
	Harbicide	0.05	213
	Honey	22.79	86,715
	Jam	18.50	17,181
	Juices	13.44	5,069
	Ketchup	6.05	4,717
	Mango	5.60	1,904
	Melon	56.87	10,476
	Mint	3.65	353
	NPK	0.50	280
Okra	6.10	1,232	




Province	Products	MT	Sales Value (USD)
	Onions	436.40	92,156
	Peach	29.24	8,952
	Peanuts	6.87	13,452
	Pickles	1.56	929
	Pine Nuts	190.44	2,156,574
	Pistachios	2.53	21,658
	Plum	11.99	3,206
	Pomegranate	74.69	33,908
	Potato chips	8.77	35,306
	Pumpkin	6.40	1,216
	Raisins	4.17	17,148
	Seed	0.10	317
	Spices	5.28	13,760
	Spinach	1.85	166
	Tomato paste	37.35	31,048
	Vinegar	21.58	9,318
	Walnut	9.61	17,313
Watermelon	102.20	17,641	
Subtotal		1,637	2,821,302
Paktia	Carrots	1.23	257
	Cucumber	0.05	34
Subtotal		1	291
Total		45,960	\$41,405,339





Annex 9: Grant and Incentive Program - Cumulative




Contract No.	Description	Photo
Product Handling, Processing, Transportation, Warehouse, Storage, Processing Center Improvements, Agricultural Product, Equipment, Third-party Processing, & Marketing Incentives		
1001	<p>Alam Gul Sole Proprietor, a trader in Ghazni, was given AMP incentive support to transport 100 MT wheat from Kunduz to the provinces of Ghazni, considerably increasing its sales.</p>	
1002	<p>Kabura Saffron Agricultural Processing and Packaging Company benefited from AMP's support to advertise its products on social media platforms in Afghanistan. This included designing and printing standard retail packages, consumer guides, and paper-based promotional materials, as well as using photos and graphics in advertisements. Because of the challenges in exporting saffron internationally since the Taliban takeover, the company took the decision to focus more on the domestic market and with AMP's support started trading saffron and black cumin nationwide in retail packs. Under the processing/packaging equipment incentive, the company also procured a vacuum packaging machine and ultraviolet disinfection equipment to extend the shelf life of its products.</p>	
1003	<p>Balkh-based Mouhamad Nabi S/O Said Qul Company, a horticultural wholesaler, completed renovations to its warehouse to store and process premium dry fruits and nuts, including raisins, almonds, and pistachios for off-season sale. Its warehouse faced high temperatures and humidity, resulting in the products getting moist and damaged. With AMP incentive support, the floor and walls were epoxy-coated, and a 7kW on-grid solar system was purchased and installed.</p>	


Contract No.	Description	Photo
I005	<p>Afghan Red Pomegranate specializes in processing locally grown fruit into juices and concentrates, predominantly for the export market. However, due to various challenges, they made a determined switch to focus more on the domestic market and with AMP's support, was able to introduce its juices to new areas of the country. Taking advantage of the transport and marketing incentives, they were able to expand its sales to Herat and Kabul while also promoting its products to the new markets through local TV channels. The company also procured a steam boiler, doubling pasteurizing capacity.</p>	
I006	<p>Nikan Saadat Trading Company, a Kabul-based woman-owned enterprise, made improvements to its processing facility to improve the quality of its dried fruit and nut products, reduce spoilage and ensure products are processed under sanitary conditions. The incentive enabled the company to install a partition (to separate processing and sorting from storage), PVC windows, air conditioning, health and safety equipment and shelving. Additionally, the company transported potatoes from Bamyan to Kabul province, increasing its sales significantly.</p>	
I007	<p>Faisal Fahim Ltd, a Herat-based dried fruit and nut trading company, utilized AMP's incentive program to renovate its 1,745m³ processing facility and thereby improve the sanitary conditions of the facility. The company tiled the walls and floors, installed PVC doors and windows, and added air conditioning. They also procured a vacuum packaging machine, shrink wrap packaging machine and conveyor to add to its existing processing line to help prolong the shelf life of its dried fruit products. The improvements provided a safe working environment for 40 women to process and pack the dried fruit and nuts.</p>	
I009	<p>Abdul Samad Firoz Amiri Trading Company, a Kabul-based business, also received AMP incentive support, to transport 102 MT of apples from Ghazni to Balkh, 72 MT to Takhar, and 57 MT to Kunduz. The awardee supplied the wholesale market in provinces with 231 MT of apples valued at \$351,525. The business targeted new regional markets after engaging with AMP's incentive program. Additionally, the company received AMP incentive support to purchase plastic crates for shelf-life prolongation of the fresh fruits.</p>	<p>No Photo Available.</p>




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I011	<p>Bukhdy Bami Agriculture and Livestock Services, a Balkh-based agribusiness, grew wheat, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers, strawberries, melons, watermelons, and leafy vegetables in its greenhouses for selling to domestic markets. The company obtained AMP support to renovate its processing facility which included tiling, PVC doors & windows, electric supplies, exhaust fans metal piping, nails and anti-oxide colors, epoxy painting, plastering, and adoption of solar power system.</p>	
I014	<p>Sayed Yaqoob Majab Agricultural Services Company received incentive support for the distribution of fertilizers to potato growers in Bamiyan. AMP also provided the awardee with an incentive to transport 143 MT of seed potato from Kabul to Bamiyan. The awardee supplied the wholesale market in Kabul with 3,354 MT of fresh potatoes, valued at \$351,525. Incentive support enabled the company to increase production and sales by 78% compared to last year in partnership with 24 local farmers in Bamiyan Province. Additionally, the company supported 24 potato farmers in Yakawlang district of Bamiyan Province to increase its potato yields. Each farmer received fertilizer, enabling them to harvest on average 2.5 metric tons per jerib, compared with just 1.4 metric tons per jerib for those that were not supported. The participating farms harvested approximately 500 metric tons of potatoes worth \$120,000.</p>	
I015	<p>Juma Khan S/O of Ahmad Khan Sole Proprietor, a Ghazni-based agribusiness, sourced high-quality Afghan-produced wheat from Helmand and Farah farmers and transported to Ghazni for processing. The business took advantage of both a transport incentive to get the wheat to Ghazni and a third-party processing incentive to have the wheat milled into flour. AMP's support assisted the company to sell more than 1,500 MT of flour from Afghan wheat, valued at US\$ 700,000.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I020	<p>Alokozay Saffron an agricultural company based in Herat that produces and sells saffron in the northwest was given two incentives by AMP: the first involved transporting 850 kg of saffron from Herat to the provinces of Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar, and Nangahar, and the second involved renovating its processing facility, which included installing air conditioners, tiling, and PVC doors and windows.</p>	
I021	<p>Ahmad Tamim Co Ltd. distributed 240 bags of DAP and 260 bags of Urea to 30 fresh grape producers in three provinces, supporting an increase in grape yields of up to 200%. The activity's main objective was to distribute (240 bags DAP) and (260 bags Urea) fertilizers to 30 fresh grapes producers, each with a capacity of 50Kg. The assistance resulted in a nearly 200% increase in fresh grape yield and production. Farmers typically harvest 3.3 metric MT of grapes from one jerib of land, while farmers using fertilizer are able to harvest up to 6.5 metric MT of grapes from the same amount of land.</p>	
I023	<p>New Yaqoubi Ltd, improved the handling and production of golden raisins, black raisins, and fresh grapes with AMP Incentive support to procure more than 4500 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers. As a result, the businesses saw reduced product waste, improved the quality of its products, and increased sales. Additionally, the business benefited from a transportation Incentive to supply fresh and dried produce to Kabul, Balkh, Nangarhar and Paktia provinces.</p>	
I025	<p>Bilal Saeed Ltd Kandahar-based major dried fruit processor, benefited from AMP's incentive support to transport 180 tons of dried fruits, nuts and spices, from Kandahar, Balkh and Uruzgan to Kabul, Balkh and Herat Provinces.</p>	<p>No Photo Available</p>




Contract No.	Description	Photo
1026	<p>Faiz Gulab Ltd, a Kandahar-based major dried fruit processor, benefited from AMP support to concrete an external area of land (1650 m2 in size) used for fruit drying and processing. The improvements enable the company to improve the quality of its dried fruit, particularly figs, as well as the working conditions for employees. The business also received AMP transport incentive to transport more than 170 MT of black raisins, almonds, black raisins, green raisins, dried apricots, figs, cumin, and basil seed to Nangarhar, Kabul, Herat and Paktia provinces. Additionally, they procured 3,000 plastic crates to reduce losses caused by inadequate packaging and save on the cost of transporting quality goods from the field to customers nationwide.</p>	
1027	<p>Sayed Popal Processing Company, a Kandahar-based processor, supplied processed basil seed, chickpeas, and cumin seed from Kandahar to Paktia, Nangarhar, and Kabul wholesale markets. The company acquired 10,000 PICS bags to store processed basil seed, chickpeas, and cumin seed away from pests and diseases. The company also purchased 10,000 PICS bags to safely store basil seed, chickpeas, and mung beans, with AMP support. The PICS bags enable the company to store the products for a longer duration, away from dust, pests, and insects, enabling them to supply quality products to regional markets. The firm anticipates a boost in revenue and an improved reputation for quality, by preventing 15% of product loss caused by inappropriate storage of these products.</p>	
1028	<p>Balkh-based Sama Azizi Trading Company, specializing in supplying a range of niche agricultural products, was able to find new customers in Nangarhar province to supply licorice with AMP incentive support. The company also acquired 290 pallets for its facility, improving the storage of its products and extending the market window for a constant supply throughout the season, and increasing sales. In order to enhance production, the company also bought 22 licorice cutting machines with AMP help.</p>	
1029	<p>King Khan Ltd, improved the handling and production of golden raisins, black raisins, and fresh grapes with AMP Incentive support to procure more than 5,000 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers. As a result, the businesses saw reduced product waste, improved the quality of its products, and increased sales. Additionally, the business benefited from a transportation Incentive to supply fresh and dried produce to Kabul, Balkh, Nangarhar and Paktia provinces.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I032	<p>Qarizada Tomato Paste Production Company, a leading tomato paste supplier in Balkh province, benefited from AMP support to renovate a 3720 m3 processing/warehouse facility used to produce quality tomato paste in a hygienic and safe environment. Improvements to the processing/warehouse facility enable the business to source higher volumes of tomatoes from remote areas of the country, thereby increasing sales and customer satisfaction. Additionally, purchased 1,700 plastic crates, and 200 wooden pallets with AMP incentive support. The items are being used to appropriately package, transport, and store tomatoes from field to warehouse, ensuring that the company is able to offer quality tomatoes to in the local market.</p>	
I033	<p>Herat-based Haqyar Saffron Ltd., which produces saffron, received funding from AMP to refurbish its 600m2 processing center. The renovated processing facility provides the workers a safe and healthy work environment, speeds up processing, and increased this company's production and sales. The company also obtained support from AMP to produce videos, billboards, print brochures, and TV advertisements (in Dari, Pashto, and English) aimed at the domestic market. This assistance raised the company's competency, enabling it to be more proactive in the domestic markets and increase sales and revenue. Additionally, the company received assistance from AMP incentive to purchase three saffron dryers.</p>	
I034	<p>Faisal Hafizi Food Production, a Herat-based woman-owned agribusiness, acquired two food processors and a vegetable/fruit drying machine to process higher volumes of pickles, jams, and marmalade. The production line's quality improved with the addition of this standard processing equipment. To satisfy demand and increase revenue, the company was able to increase manufacturing capacity with AMP support.</p>	
I036	<p>Herat-based Afghanistan Red Gold Saffron Company, benefited from AMP incentive support to purchase and distribute agricultural toolkits. The company provided 600 packages of safe and clean saffron processing equipment including shelves, baskets, pence, white cloth, and hygiene kit to be used by farmers in remote areas of Herat province. Additionally, the farmers received training on Saffron Drying and Processing Methods and learned the importance of food safety and hygiene at harvesting time.</p>	



Contract No.	Description	Photo
I037	<p>Jamshid Ramin Ltd, a large Balkh-based agribusiness, received four incentives to impact shelf-life extension, value addition and income. The company purchased 320 wooden pallets to store its products off the ground, installed a fully automatic vacuum packing machine to vacuum pack almonds, pistachios, and walnuts (preventing the growth of bacteria, fungus, and mold), and renovated its facility by tiling the walls and floors, epoxy-coating the walls, and installing improved ventilation, all of which will contribute to improved product quality. Additionally, the company was able to transport 205 MT of pistachio kernels worth \$3,380,000 from Balkh to Herat and double domestic sales this year with AMP incentive support.</p>	
I039	<p>Habibullah Sherzai s/o Sher Gul Sole Proprietorship, a Kabul-based agribusiness, trades fresh fruit, including apricots, grapes, melons, watermelons, apples, and pomegranates, in the domestic markets. With AMP's assistance, the business was able to ship 73.5 tons of pomegranate from Kandahar and Kapisa to Kabul and 18 tons of grapes from Kandahar to Kabul, valued at \$60,200. Additionally, the business purchased 145,000 plastic baskets to safely transport the fresh fruits.</p>	
I042	<p>Balkh-based Tela-e-Surkh Company, utilizes basic equipment to process oils from black seed, almonds, and mustard seeds. The lack of filtration capacity results in oil that is unfiltered. With AMP incentive support, the company purchased a machine that can process commercial volumes of 150–200 Kg of oil, enabling them to supply local markets, produce an adequate volume of high-quality oil, and meet consumer demand. The machine can also handle sesame, flax, pistachio, and walnut oils. Additionally, the company received support to purchase LED display boards and undertake billboard advertising.</p>	
I043	<p>Mahmood Akrami Ltd, a Herat-based agribusiness, took advantage of six AMP incentives enabling the company to process the dry fruits, purchased 400 pcs of wooden pallets, purchase a vacuum packaging machine (with a capacity of 200 cartons per hour) and a shrink wrap packaging machine (with a capacity of 800 cartons per hour) to maintain quality and consistent supply to regional markets. Printed 50,000 brochures to promote the products domestically and transported 390 MT of raisins, cumin, almonds, and watermelon seed to regional markets nationwide.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
I044	<p>Anar Agriculture Services made improvements to its raisin processing facility with AMP incentive support. These improvements included concreting the apron to its facility to reduce dust, installation of extractor fans, the purchase of processing tables and installation of a high-pressure water pump for its raisin processing equipment. The company also installed a 3kW solar power system to power its processing and packaging equipment, facility lighting and water supply. The company also purchased 1,000 heavy duty plastic crates to transport the preprocessed and processed products.</p>	
I045	<p>Kabul-based, Zemarai Rasouli Ltd, a dry fruit and nuts trader, renovated its warehouse with AMP incentive support. Improvements included the installation of exhaust fans and procurement of processing tables and chairs for its largely female workforce. The company also received a domestic transport incentive from AMP, assisting them in transporting raisins and almonds from Ghazni to Kabul, and pistachios from Badakhshan to Kabul. Additionally, he utilized a third-party processing facility in Ghazni to clean raisins and remove the stems, with AMP support. 300 MT of locally produced red raisins were processed, reducing operational costs and time and enabling a consistent supply to regional markets nationwide.</p>	
I046	<p>MS Trading Company Kandahar based agribusiness, received AMP transport incentive to transport more than 112 MT of black raisins, almonds, black raisins, green raisins, dried apricots, figs, cumin, and basil seed to Nangarhar, Kabul, Herat and Paktia provinces.</p>	<p>No Photo Available</p>
I047	<p>Neman Jan Popal Agri Services, a Herat-based agribusiness transported raisins and apples inter-provincially. The business supplied 128 MT of raisins from Herat to Kandahar and 165 MT of apple from Ghazni to Herat. Additionally, the company partially automated its raisin processing to remove external residues and stems. The machinery has enabled the company to increase productivity and quality ensuring them meet domestic and regional market expectation. Moreover, the company transported high-quality raisins in plastic crates. AMP also provided support for the company to procure 2,600 plastic crates to improve the handling of its products. With AMP's support the company also produced a commercial video, printed brochures, and billboard banners to promote its products. The assistance gained led to this business's</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
	expansion and higher sales.	
I049	<p>Brotheran Mohmand Food Industrial Co. uses fresh fruit, particularly apples and potatoes, to make standard retail packages of chips. By upgrading the cold store compressor and adding steel storage racks, the business was able to increase cold storage space to 7,300 m³. The previous compressor only enabled the company to store potatoes – they were unable to attain lower temperatures necessary to store fresh fruit. The company has also purchased 100 of plastic pallets under the AMP incentive program.</p>	
I050	<p>Salar Zafron Naeemi Ltd, a woman-owned agribusiness in Herat, specializing in saffron and dried fruit, has supported 10 farmers in Yadagar Village, Injil District to cultivate saffron, with each receiving 800Kg of saffron corms, DAP and Urea fertilizer and basic toolkits. By providing subsidized inputs to its saffron farmers to increase the volume of saffron received, they are also strengthening its links with farmers. The company has also received two more incentives for purchasing saffron dryers and UV sanitizer and renovation of processing facility.</p>	
I051	<p>Woman-owned Khaharan Hajizadah, a Herat-based business trading in dried fruits and spices, utilizes traditional processing methods. The company obtained an automated dehydration machine with AMP support, increasing productivity while meeting food safety standards. Due to the company's quality-driven processes, its products are now in demand and have a higher profit margin.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
I052	<p>Herat-based Pashton Zarghon Saffron Kar Women Ltd. received equipment with AMP support, including a saffron drying machine, laboratory tools, and equipment, to help its saffron processing activities and ensure proper drying. The laboratory streamlines the process of standardization and high-quality product in domestic markets, and the saffron dryers ensure high-quality saffron production. The company also renovated its 300 m2 processing facility. Prior to the renovation, the business did not have suitable heating, cooling, ventilation, hygiene services for the workforce, or a proper production process (operational in open hall).</p> <p>With AMP help, the business set up a partitioned facility to process high-quality, contamination-free saffron, which led to increased sales and revenues and a positive impact on the livelihood of the female workforce.</p>	
I053	<p>Karwan Saffron Agriculture and Livestock Services Company, a Herat-based agribusiness, printed brochures and created commercial videos to advertise its products in domestic markets. The premium quality saffron processor was struggling to sell in domestic markets. The assistance allowed the company to expand, which increased sales and helped them establish a presence in local markets for its branded saffron. The company also purchased 500 plastic crates and 1,000 plastic baskets for collecting and transporting saffron flowers from the field to the processing center, and 1,000 small plastic boxes (each with the capacity of 1 Kg to store 1,000–2,400 Kg of saffron). With AMP's support, the business can process 1,500 Kg of saffron flowers this year and store 1,000–2,400 Kg of dried saffron to sell in domestic and international markets. The company also has received two more incentives support which allowed them to purchase saffron dryers, and renovate its processing facility</p>	
I054	<p>Wais Sodais Ltd. received a transport incentive to transport mung beans and sesame from Kunduz to Herat. The incentive support enabled the company to transfer the raw products from northern Afghanistan to the west and add value to the products by dehulling the sesame and cleaning the mung beans. Additionally, the company received an x-ray machine to remove impurities from the products. The company also received AMP support to print brochures and product catalogs to promote its products to potential buyers. Additionally, billboards were rented to promote its products to the domestic market, enabling the company to increase its sales. Also, procured 4,000 PICS bags to safely store cereal crops and certified vegetable seeds for up to 2-3 years. Renovations to its warehouse to store quality dry fruits and legumes, including mung beans, chickpeas, raisins, sesame, and nuts for sale off-season. Renovations included tiling the floor and walls to ensure food safety and hygiene requirements.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I055	<p>Mohammad Hashim Husain Zada Ltd, a Balkh-based agribusiness, specializes in processing dry fruits, nuts, cumin seeds, asafetida, and licorice to supply across domestic markets. With AMP incentive support, the company purchased and installed licorice cutting machines enabling them to process licorice in uniform lengths (4cm, 5cm and 8cm). The company anticipates generating 45 seasonal jobs in cutting, sorting, grading, and packaging the product. The company also transported 217 tons of dry fruits, nuts, cumin seeds, licorice roots and asafetida valued at \$1,186,000 from Balkh to Nangarhar, Herat and Badghis. In the province of Badghis, the impact of utilizing transportation is boosting business growth and opening an opportunity to access a new domestic market with AMP help. Additionally, the company received AMP's incentives assistance to procure 50 wooden pallets and renovate its processing facility.</p>	
I056	<p>Herat Gold Saffron Production, Processing, and Packing Company, a Herat-based agribusiness, created a commercial video, product catalog, and brochures to promote its products in domestic market, with AMP Incentive support. With the assistance provided, the company was able to attend domestic trade shows, which led to an increase in direct sales and linkages with customers in other regional markets. The company also completed the renovation of a 750m3 processing center. The improvements included tiling the walls and floors, installing extractor fans, improving saffron showcasing shelves, and installing air conditioners to prevent moisture and heat from impacting product quality and improve the working conditions for its workforce.</p>	
I057	<p>Kabul-based Bradaran Khair Khwa Kohdamani, a fresh fruit trader stored 12,446 baskets (174 MT) of fresh apples in a privately-owned cold store with AMP support. This enabled a consistent and stable supply to regional markets nationwide, as well as increase sales. Additionally, the company improved the quality of the grapes they trade. The company received an incentive of \$10,000 toward the purchase of 50,000 plastic crates (valued at \$27,207). The crates ensure the safe handling of grapes between field and market, thereby prolonging its shelf life. Meanwhile the company transported 868 MT tomato and apricot from Baghlan to Nangarhar Ghani, and Kunduz provinces.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I058	<p>Arya Kabul Cold Storage improved the access to and functioning of its cold storage facility in Kabul with support from AMP. By concreting the 6-meter-wide driveway to its facility and aprons in front of the loading docks, to enable trucks to load and unload products, they are not only encouraging businesses to use its facility but also reducing the amount of dust in and around the cold store, resulting in improved storage for fresh fruit and vegetables.</p>	
I059	<p>Herat-based Rouzbe Noorzaie Agriculture and Livestock supplies staple crops and agricultural services to the domestic market. The business purchased a machine to automate the process of rice sowing, with AMP incentive support, speeding up the typically manual process. The equipment also increases the yield per unit of land by planting more evenly and in rows. Also, they purchased 4,000 PICS bags and 800 plastic baskets of different sizes with AMP support. The bags are intended to be used for packing and storing cereal crops, as well as carefully placing them in the warehouse away from moisture and pests to preserve the quality and prolong the shelf life of the products. The plastic baskets ensure that the quality of the saffron flowers was not damaged throughout its safe transportation from the field to the processing facility. Additionally, the company distributed 9 MT of saffron corms (600Kg per jerib land), 750Kg Urea (50Kg/ farmer), 15Kg Iron (1kg/ farmer), and toolkits (including a digital scale, foil, masks, and a hand sanitizer) to 15 farmers in Herat to help them cultivate high quality saffron. Farmers are expected to harvest at least 20Kg of saffron flowers or 200gm of dried saffron filaments from each jerib of land in the first year, producing an estimated AFN 20,000 in income. In the second and third years, these amounts should increase to 60Kg of saffron flower (AFN 60,000) and 100Kg of saffron flower (AFN 100,000) respectively.</p>	
I060	<p>Herat-based Bradaran Itefaq Noorzai Ltd acquired a machine that can clean all sorts of external contaminants from sesame and mung beans. The equipment also boosts production and reduces costs, which increases profit margin. Also, the company received help designing and printing brochures and making a video commercial to advertise its products in domestic markets. The support allowed the processor to promote its products in regional markets across the nation.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I061	<p>Akaam Zaeefi Trading Company, based in Kabul, trades dried fruits and saffron both nationally and internationally. Saffron corms, strawberries, and vanilla are among the agricultural inputs the company obtained from AMP and are grown on 200 acres of its own land. The company also received AMP support to upgrade 600 m² its processing center, including facility painting, electrical work, facility upgrades, a cold room, storage installation and a 10kW power generator. This support enabled the company's staff to work and process its products in a standardized and hygienic environment.</p>	
I062	<p>Kanda Fruit Process Company, a Kandahar and Kabul-based agribusiness, benefited from AMP incentive support to improve the packaging of its grapes and increase product shelf-life. The company purchased 250,000 grape guards and 200,000 clamshells and 55,894 plastic baskets. Additionally, with AMP assistance, the company promoted its products in the domestic market through billboard advertising and the brochure printing. In addition, the company has procured many spare parts such as compressors and dynamo for reefer containers.</p>	
I063	<p>Kabura Saffron Agricultural Processing and Packaging Company, a Herat-based saffron processing and export company, renovated a 370m³ saffron processing facility to international standards, providing a safe and comfortable working environment for its female workforce. The renovations included concreting and tiling the floor, plastering, painting, installation of PVC doors and windows, the installation of cabinets, electrical work, plumbing and procurement of health and safety equipment. The company has also benefited from transportation and packaging incentives. The company also has purchased 5,000 PIGS bags with AMP support.</p>	
I064	<p>Zafarani Insaf Ahmadi Food Production Company, a woman-owned enterprise based in Kabul produces a wide range of spices, instant soups, and jams for the domestic market. With AMP support, the company was able to continue sourcing its vegetables from suppliers in Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Parwan and Ghazni and, after processing, send the products back to markets nationwide. Taking advantage of AMP's marketing incentive, they also undertook a social media campaign through YouTube and Instagram to promote its branded products. The company reports an increase in sales and demand as a direct result, which has not only enabled them to maintain its sales during this difficult economic period, but also expand.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
I065	<p>Bazr Pashan Amin Agricultural and Improved Seed Production, a seed supplier based in Herat, acquired an improved seed processing machine to meet the demands of local markets and seasonal farming. It also purchased 2,000 PICS bags and 180 wooden pallets to enhance product storage and extend shelf life, with AMP incentive support. A total of 550 tons of improved and modified seeds, including wheat, mung beans, soybeans, chickpeas, and beans, worth \$401,685 will be stored at its facility. The company also promoted its products in domestic markets by printing brochures, creating TV adverts, and commercial videos, with AMP Incentive support. Also, they distributed wheat seed, DAP, and urea fertilizers, and tools to 100 (including 12 female) farmers. The support enabled the company to work with farmers and use better seeds to boost yields by 25–30%. The company committed to pay farmers 10% over market price for its produce.</p>	
I066	<p>Habibzai Spices Production Company produces 22 different types of spices. To improve the quality of its products and ensure they are prepared in sanitary conditions, the company renovated 3825m³ of processing center and storage space. Specific activities included tiling the walls and floor, installing a partition, suspended ceiling, and exhaust fans, procuring health & safety equipment and electrical work.</p>	
I067	<p>Noor Ahmad Baher Ahmad Ltd, a Balkh-based company, benefited from three AMP incentives to purchase plastic baskets, renovate its 2,800m³ processing center, and transport 1,020 MT raisins (Qaisary black) valued at \$2.1 million from Balkh to Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat domestic markets. Improvements included epoxy coating the walls, tiling the floors, and installing extractor fans, improved lighting, UV insect traps and a solar power system, all of which will assist in preserving product quality and improve the working conditions for its female workforce.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
I068	<p>Ahmad Mureed Nawabi Food Production, based in Logar, buys tomatoes from 60 farmers in the provinces of Logar, Paktia, Kabul and Parwan and produces tomato paste. Its most significant constraint to expansion was the lack of suitable processing and storage space for its products. With AMP support, the company has renovated a 403m³ facility enabling them to produce its paste in sanitary conditions and sell to local restaurants, wholesalers, and retailers in the region. AMP also aided in tomato sourcing from Farah, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces when prices were competitive. Additionally, the company hired a marketing consultant for business development, with AMP incentive support, helping them boost sales in Logar and remoter areas, including Paktika, Khost, Ghazni, and Paktia provinces.</p>	
I069	<p>Guzar Taksar Trading, Logistic & Construction Kabul-based fruit and vegetable trading company improved the handling and production of its apricots and tomatoes. With AMP support, they procured 415,000 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers, when they largely used to use just plastic bags. As a result, the companies saw less product waste, were able to deliver products from and to more remote regions of the country, and increased sales. In addition, taking benefit from incentives the company has transported apricots to many new and existing markets, and stored 600 MT fresh apples in cold storage for three months.</p>	
I070	<p>Nadia Jam and Pickle production, is a new women business based in Balkh, she received AMP support for procuring food processing equipment including a metal table for processing the Jam and Pickles.</p>	
I071	<p>Omarzai Jahani stored 308 MT of fresh grapes in a private cold storage facility under AMP's incentive program. The company also purchased 14700 plastic crates to properly store and transport the fresh produce from the orchard to the cold store and then to other provinces for high-value sales. Using the plastic crates rather than cardboard boxes, the business was able to transport its products further within the country and increase sales.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
I072	<p>Rayan Herat Saffron, a Herat-based company, produces saffron for the domestic market. The company renovated its 593 m² processing center with AMP incentive support. The company was able to standardize the facility to meet food security requirements, including installation of hydraulic door closers, strip curtains, window nets, protective film, suspended ceiling, improved sewage system, exhaust fans, toilet sanitaryware, changing rooms, cabinets, and storage facilities. They also received AMP support to print company brochures and product catalogs. They also received a transport incentive to supply its products to Kandahar and Balkh. Additionally, they acquired a batch number/date printer to print on its saffron packets. By providing batch numbers that could be used to track back saffron products to the company for quality control purposes, this machine allowed the company to compete in local markets.</p>	
I073	<p>Yaqoob Shah Fresh Fruit stored 316 MT of fresh grapes in a private cold storage facility under AMP's incentive program. The company also purchased 13450 plastic crates to properly store and transport the fresh produce from the orchard to the cold store and then to other provinces for high-value sales. Using the plastic crates rather than cardboard boxes, the business was able to transport its products further within the country and increase sales.</p>	
I075	<p>Omid Ghazanaviyaan Food Production Company, a woman-owned and managed tomato paste producer in Ghazni installed an off-grid 7 kW solar power system to power its processing and packaging equipment. The system included 30 solar panels, and 12 batteries together with inverters and controllers.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I076	<p>Milad Sahel Logistic Services is a woman-owned Kabul-based enterprise that produces and sells a wide range of agricultural products, including mushrooms, raisins, and cucumbers. The company owns 13 greenhouses in Deh-Sabz district of Kabul cultivating cucumbers twice a year. Using AMP's agricultural inputs incentive, the company obtained 75 packs of certified cucumber seeds and necessary fertilizers to increase production. As a result, the company can produce and supply to the domestic market 60 tons of cucumber on a weekly basis. The company also procured 645 plastic crates with AMP support to safely harvest and transport fresh cucumbers from the field to the wholesale market for satisfactory customer sale.</p>	
I077	<p>Etemad Estiqlal Plastic Manufacturing made external improvements to its processing facility. Work included removing rubble, compacting the subgrade, and laying 130m³ of concrete. The improvements will ensure that the company is more efficient in loading and unloading products and reducing dust and sand in its processing and storage facility, thereby improving product quality.</p>	
I078	<p>Azim Shah Fruit Seller stored 300 MT of fresh grapes in a private cold storage facility under AMP's incentive program. The company also purchased 14400 plastic crates to properly store and transport the fresh produce from the orchard to the cold store and then to other provinces for high-value sales. Using the plastic crates rather than cardboard boxes, the business was able to transport its products further within the country and increase sales.</p>	
I079	<p>Sayed Hikmatullah Fresh Fruit, improved the handling and production of golden raisins, black raisins, and fresh grapes with AMP Incentive support to procure more than 14,880 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers. As a result, the businesses saw reduced product waste, improved the quality of its products, and increased sales. Additionally, the business benefited from a transportation Incentive to supply fresh and dried produce to Kabul, Balkh, Nangarhar and Paktia provinces.</p>	<p>No Photo Available</p>



Contract No.	Description	Photo
I080	<p>Mohammad Ayoub Dried Fruits Ltd, a Nangarhar-based wholesaler of dried fruit and nuts sources products from various provinces, including Kabul, Kandahar, Ghazni, Samangan, and Logar. The firm was restricted in the volume of products they could store due to the unsanitary conditions of its warehouse (products were being spoiled from condensation and dust). With AMP support, the company renovated its 240m³ warehouse including installation of an iron door, extractor fan and air conditioning, floor and wall tiling, electrical work, painting, and procurement of health and safety equipment. Sales are anticipated to increase by 20 to 30% as a result of the improvements.</p>	
I081	<p>Shuaib Shekib Trading & Plastic Production, a Kabul-based fruit and vegetable trading company improved the handling and production of its apricots and tomatoes. With AMP support, they procured 155,000 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers, when they largely used to use just plastic bags. As a result, the companies saw less product waste, were able to deliver products from and to more remote regions of the country, and increased sales.</p>	
I082	<p>Shaikh Marouf Karoukhi, a Herat-based agricultural seed company, supplies beans and chickpea seeds to local farmers. To meet food safety standards, the company renovated a 1,019 m² processing facility and acquired machinery to replace manual processing, with AMP assistance. The upgraded facility improves working conditions and reduces dust during processing. With the introduction of machinery, various items can be processed at capacities ranging from 500 to 1,000 kg per hour, compared to a human workforce's 100 kg per hour. The company also took advantage of AMP support to produce brochures and product catalogs, enabling them to promote its services in the domestic market. Additionally, purchased 2,500 PICS bags and 250 wooden pallets with AMP incentive support. The items are being used to appropriately package and store cereals in its warehouse away from moisture and pests, preserving product quality and extending shelf life.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
I083	<p>Bradaran Mirwais Hajizada Ltd, a Kabul-based fruit and vegetable trading company improved the handling and production of its apricots and tomatoes. With AMP support, they procured 50,000 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers, when they largely used to use just plastic bags. As a result, the companies saw less product waste, were able to deliver products from and to more remote regions of the country, and increased sales. The company also transported 223 MT tomato and apricot from Baghlan to Kabul province with AMP help.</p>	
I084	<p>Alam Gul Sole Proprietor, a trader in Ghazni, decided to diversify his business operations by commencing to purchase and process domestic wheat utilizing third-party mills in Ghazni with the help of AMP. The business was faced with the challenge of attempting to sell imported wheat at increased prices. The agribusiness was able to increase sales of wheat flour from 420 MTs last year to 455 MTs this year.</p>	
I085	<p>Atlas Cashmere, a Herat-based agribusiness, increased its grape production through the procurement and application of 16,500 Kg DAP fertilizer for its 110-jerib vineyard. In the past, the company used a limited amount of DAP to boost productivity. However, since the hike in input prices, they were unable to purchase the fertilizer. The business grows three varieties of grapes, which are processed into raisins after harvesting. Following proper sorting and processing the products are sold within domestic and export markets. AMP assistance will result in doubling vine yields, from 10-12 Kg to 20-25 Kg.</p>	
I087	<p>Haji Mohammad Karim Jamadar, a Kandahar-based fresh fruit trading company improved the handling and production of its green, and black raisins. With AMP support, they procured 4600 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers. As a result, the company has seen less product waste, was able to deliver products from and to more remote regions of the country, and increased sales.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I088	<p>Haji Abdul Rashid Jamadar, a Kandahar-based fresh fruit trading company improved the handling and production of its green, and black raisins. With AMP support, they procured 4500 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers. As a result, the company has seen less product waste, was able to deliver products from and to more remote regions of the country, and increased sales. The company also concreted 264 m² it's processing center.</p>	
I089	<p>Kandahar-based Haji Abdul Ghani Jamadar, improved the handling and production of golden raisins, black raisins, and fresh grapes with AMP Incentive support to procure more than 15,750 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers. As a result, the businesses saw reduced product waste, improved the quality of its products, and increased sales.</p>	
I091	<p>Woman-owned Jahan Sabzina Etemad Agricultural Livestock and Beekeeping purchased DAP and urea fertilizer, saffron corms, and toolkits. AMP support enabled the business to grow saffron on six jeribs of land instead of just one, increasing its production capacity and income. Additionally, the business received support for pallets to store raisins, pistachios, and almonds off the ground, keeping the produce away from dust, pests, and insects. The business also received AMP support to print brochures and product catalogs to promote its products to potential buyers. Additionally, billboards were rented to promote its products to the domestic market, enabling the company to increase its sales. Further the business acquired two saffron dryer with AMP help.</p>	
I093	<p>Abdul Rasul is a fresh fruit seller who primarily operates in Kandahar. The company profited from AMP's three incentives by buying 18400 plastic creates and storing 310 MT of grapes in third-party cold storage. Additionally transported 320 MT of grapes and melons from Kandahar to the provinces of Kabul and Nangarhar.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
1094	<p>Agribusiness Zeyaratijah Ltd., situated in Herat, was given AMP incentive support to print product catalogs and brochures to advertise its goods on the domestic market. Further, the company purchased 350 DAP bags and, with AMP's help, renovated 350 m2 of its processing facilities.</p>	
1095	<p>Herat-based Bahra Danish Agricultural Company, produces and processes saffron, has acquired saffron dryers, vacuum machines, and vegetable dryers. The standard and quality of this company's saffron were being devalued using old methods. The equipment significantly improved the level and quality of the saffron, allowing it to compete well in domestic markets.</p>	
1097	<p>Herat-based Raihan Banafsh Agriculture and Livestock Agribusiness, benefited from AMP support to acquire a saffron dryer to efficiently dry saffron stigmas. This enabled the company to purchase and process 2,300 kg's of saffron flower this year and offer quality products to fulfill market demand.</p>	
1098	<p>Toba Baset Trading, a Kabul-based fresh fruit and vegetable, dry fruit, and cold storage company, renovated its cold storage facility by plastering 690m2, ground concreting 425m2, and renewing wiring with AMP support. In addition, the company stored fresh produce from numerous other fresh fruit businesses in its cold storage as compared to last year, and they will use its processing hall to process the fruits during the upcoming fresh fruit season before storing them in cold storage and processing them for export to other nations. The company also utilized a third-party processing facility in Kabul to process and pack 35.75 metric MT of dry fruit, including, almonds, walnuts, raisins, and figs, with AMP support. The support helped the business fulfill sales agreement to vendors at Kabul wholesale market. Also procured 148,000 plastic crates, with AMP support, from domestic manufacturers, to</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
	<p>facilitate transportation from field to cold storage. The incentive resulted in reduced product spoilage, distribution to more remote regions of the country and increased product sales. The company also shipped 530 MT of tomatoes from Baghlan to Kabul and 250 ton of fresh grapes from Samangan to Kabul together valued at \$200,000.</p>	
1099	<p>Rahela Yosoufi Jam and Pickle Processing Company, a Balkh-based female-owned company purchased food processing equipment under AMP's Grant & Incentive Program. The equipment will allow the business to process jams and pickles in a standardized manner.</p>	
1100	<p>Kabul Saffron Agriculture Company, a Herat-based agribusiness, benefited from two AMP incentives to purchase two saffron dryers and a vacuum machine to properly dry and package saffron stigma and blooms and acquire 2,000 PICS bags to store cereal and vegetable seeds away from pests and diseases.</p>	
1101	<p>Hayat Mandagar Ltd, a Herat-based agribusiness, took advantage of two AMP incentives. The first supported the purchase of raisin cleaning and vacuum packaging equipment, increasing its processing capacity from one ton to four MT per day and prolong the shelf-life of the product. The company also produced and disseminated promotional materials including, brochures, product catalogs, and banners to advertise the company.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
I102	<p>Ajaz Dry Fruits, Kandahar-based agribusiness, received AMP transport incentive to transport more than 170 MT of black raisins, almonds, black raisins, green raisins, dried apricots, figs, cumin, and basil seed to Nangarhar, Kabul, Herat and Paktia provinces.</p>	No Photo Available
I103	<p>Haji Basir, a Balkh-based wholesaler with 50 years' experience supplying fresh fruits and vegetables to domestic markets, was able to access new domestic markets with AMP support, including its first supply of watermelon to Khost province.</p>	
I104	<p>Yasin Faisal Ltd, a woman-owned agribusiness based in Logar province, transported 145 MT of apples (from Logar to Balkh and Maidan Wardak to Parwan), raisins (from Kabul to Balkh and Parwan to Balkh) and almonds (from Logar to Herat) with a value of \$67,875. The incentive came at a crucial time when women find it increasingly difficult to run its businesses. The company also purchased sulfur pads and plastic crates to improve the quality and shelf-life of its grapes.</p>	No Photo Available
I105	<p>Kandahar-based Shoab Nabi Zadah Ltd provides wholesale markets with bulk supplies of raisins, dried apricots, figs, caraway, basil, pomegranate, almond, and pistachio seeds. AMP incentive support enabled the company to ship 383 MT of goods valued at \$1.1 million to new and existing customers in Herat and Kabul provinces.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
I106	<p>Kandahar-based Haji Akhundzada Jamadar, improved the handling and production of golden raisins, black raisins, and fresh grapes with AMP Incentive support to procure more than 4400 plastic crates from domestic manufacturers. As a result, the businesses saw reduced product waste, improved the quality of its products, and increased sales.</p>	
I107	<p>Nazar Mohammad Fresh Fruit Trading, Kandahar-based firm, stored 340 MT of fresh grapes using a third-party cold storage facility with AMP incentive support. As a result, fresh products were sold on the domestic market at reasonable prices while avoiding heat damage and reducing spoilage. The firm was also able to transport its products nationwide and increase sales.</p>	
I108	<p>Akbar Jan Fresh Fruit Trading, Kandahar-based firm, stored 350 MT of fresh grapes using a third-party cold storage facility with AMP incentive support. As a result, fresh products were sold on the domestic market at reasonable prices while avoiding heat damage and reducing spoilage. The firm was also able to transport its products nationwide and increase sales.</p>	
I109	<p>Herat-based, woman owned Abrar Vegetable Processing Food Company installed a solar-powered irrigation system and constructed a deep well in Sharif Abad village, with AMP support. The incentive enables the business to irrigate three jeribs of saffron and three jeribs of asafetida at a time when water supply is inconsistent.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
I110	<p>Ali Mohammad Haidari Ltd, a Herat-based agribusiness trading sesame, mung beans, pistachios, and almonds, renovated 1,450 m2 of its facility to improve processing and storage of its products with AMP assistance. Additionally, the company procured 50 iron pallets to safely store its quality produce and prevent impact from disease, pests, and moisture.</p>	
I111	<p>Zarbaih Sanati, Kandahar-based agribusiness, received AMP transport incentive to transport more than 660 MT of black raisins, almonds, black raisins, green raisins, dried apricots, figs, cumin, and basil seed to Nangarhar, Kabul, Herat and Paktia provinces.</p>	<p>No Photo Available</p>
I112	<p>Nangarhar-based Khalid Faizan Food Production Company renovated its 774m3 processing facility used to produce quality fruit jam, juice, and vegetable pickles. AMP support enabled the company to plaster the walls and ceiling of the processing center, tile the floor, install PVC doors, windows, air conditioners and extractor fans, and purchase fire extinguishers.</p>	
I113	<p>Parsa Zabihi Ltd, a Herat-based agribusiness, processing and supplying regional markets with a variety of dried fruits, acquired raisin cleaning, and raisin destemming machines, with AMP incentive support. The equipment enables the company to clean raisins more efficiently and effectively and increase its overall profit margin. The company also renovated its 1,100 m2 processing facility to meet international food safety standards. This was crucial for creating a safe and effective working environment for employees.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
1114	<p>Kobra Khawari Agriculture and Livestock Company, a Herat-based female-owned company purchased a vacuum packaging machine under AMP's Grant & Incentive Program. The equipment will enable the company to extend the shelf life of its dried fruit products to a minimum of six months. The business also received AMP incentive support, to undertake a variety of promotional activities including the creation of commercial videos, billboard advertising, use of digital display boards at business outlets, creation of branded bags, and Facebook promotion. By reaching out to more customers, the business is now able to increase production while increasing its market share. The company also purchased 4200 PICS bags and shipped 50 MT mung beans, sunflower seed, and raisins from Herat to Kabul.</p>	
1116	<p>Samsor Ban Ltd. received an AMP Incentive to procure new agricultural equipment, including wheelbarrow and trolley motorized sprayer pumps, a backpack motorized sprayer and small tractors. The incentive supports business growth as an agricultural service provider by enabling them to expand its services and reducing cultivation costs for its clients. The business will lease the equipment to farmers or use themselves when providing land preparation and cultivation services.</p>	
1122	<p>Bukhdy Bami Agriculture and Livestock Services, a Balkh-based agribusiness, grows wheat, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers, strawberries, melons, watermelons, and leafy vegetables in its greenhouses for distribution to several domestic markets. The company obtained AMP support to buy oil-filtering machinery to process vegetable oil seeds. The equipment expands the company's product lines, has enabled them to create market linkages with 1,000 vegetable seed growers, and hire additional workers, while reducing a reliance on imported oils.</p>	
1123	<p>Female pickle and jam producer Maleka Jami, based in Herat, purchased a packaging machine, vegetable grinder, dryer, vacuum packaging machine, sealing machine, freezer, and refrigerator, with AMP incentive support. The quality of her products was impacted by open-air vegetable drying, manual peeling, slicing, cutting, and sealing, and a lack of refrigeration. Using the modern appliances, the production process is streamlined to provide high-quality items without contamination. The company has reported more sales and lower food waste.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
I126	<p>Herat-based Afghan Miva Herat Process House & Cold Storage refurbished its 2080 m2 processing and cold storage facilities. This will give it more space to store, sort, and package fresh fruit from the provinces of Ghazni and Wardak at the peak of the season and sell with higher margins after the peak. Additionally, the business stored 500 MT of fresh apples in private cold storage facilities for 45 days. The intervention will help the businesses to supply quality fresh apples in the off-season at reasonable prices. The business also received AMP support to transport 190 MT apples from Ghazni and Wardak to Herat. Prior to support, its monthly trade ranged from 50 to 100 MT, and during the harvest season it increased to 500 MT worth at \$252,412 per month.</p>	
I128	<p>Mushtaq Karokhy Brothers Company, stored 580 MT of fresh apples in private cold storage facilities for 45 days. The intervention will help the business to supply quality fresh apples in the off-season at reasonable prices. Additionally, the business took advantage of AMP's transportation incentive to transport 460 MT of fresh apples from Ghazni to Herat wholesale market and cold storage. This is the business's first experience shipping fresh apples from Ghazni province.</p>	
I143	<p>Sarsabz Hewad Zarati Company, a Kandahar-based agribusiness, purchased a laser land leveler to support increased wheat production. At least 30 individual farmers will use the equipment to plant wheat crops in a few demonstration plots on 30-hectare parcels of land in the three productive Kandahar provincial districts of Panjwai, Dand and Daman.</p>	
I146	<p>Herat-based Arsh Ghazni Saffron Processing and Paking Production Company, a domestic producer of saffron, renovated 247 m2 of its processing facility with AMP incentive support. The renovation enables the business to maintain hygiene standards and protect processed goods from contamination.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
I155	<p>Paktia-based Nafees Jalalzai Production, a domestic producer of jams, pickles, spices, and potato chips, renovated 542 m2 of its processing facility with AMP incentive support. The renovation enables the business to maintain hygiene standards and protect processed goods from contamination.</p>	
I162	<p>Herat-based Agribusiness Khwaja Sabz Posh Agricultural and Improved Seeds Production, which produces seeds, received 5,000 PICS bags as part of the AMP Incentive program. In order to protect product quality and extend shelf life, the products are being utilized to properly package and store seeds in its warehouse away from moisture and pests. The business also renovated its warehouse with AMP support (441 m2 and 530 m2).</p>	
I163	<p>Hambastagi Agriculture Seed Company, trading wheat seeds in the domestic market, renovated its warehouse with AMP support (441 m2 and 530 m2). They also received support to purchase PICS bags to improve the storage of the wheat and protect against insects and rodents.</p>	
I177	<p>Afghan Red Jacinth Company renovated its 1,100 m3 processing/warehouse facility, enabling it to process and store saffron in a hygienic and safe area. The renovation included tiling of the processing walls and floor and establishing a staff changeroom and saffron storage room. With these improvements, the company prevents dust that contaminates products and endangers workers' health and safety, enabling it to provide high-quality, safe processed and unprocessed saffron to the wholesale market. Additionally, it acquired a UV machine, vacuum packaging machine, digital scale, batch number printer, and small saffron dryers for farmers to support its saffron processing activities distributed to farmers for proper drying.</p>	


Contract No.	Description	Photo
1178	<p>Herat Takchin Saffron, a Herat-based agribusiness, renovated 300m² of its processing facility with AMP incentive support. The assistance was crucial for the saffron processor to meet food safety requirements, as well as improve operations and enhance working conditions. The facility is now equipped with the necessary infrastructure to maintain a clean environment, a designated area for workers to change, and other equipment that enable the saffron to be processed without any form of contamination.</p>	
1187	<p>Woman-owned Banowan Damparwar Agriculture Company, a Herat-based producer of jam, pickles, and marmalades renovated 110 m² of processing space with AMP assistance, enabling them to improve hygiene standards. The company has also received branding and graphic design assistance from AMP's Creative Specialist. The company also was supported to procure a range of processing and storage equipment, including refrigerators, vacuum packing machines of different sizes, a drying machine for fruit and vegetable, and a milling machine for crushing medicinal herbs and fruits. Automation within the business has enabled them to professionalize and boost production. Meanwhile, the company purchase 150 plastic baskets with AMP help.</p>	
1194	<p>Mar Mar Saffron, based in Herat, obtained a batch number printer with AMP support. With the use of the printer, the business will be able to print standardized batch and date numbers on the packaging for its saffron. The business also renovated its facility to process and store quality saffron in a hygienic and safe environment, and supply quality products to the market, resulting in increased sales and improved consumer satisfaction. The improvements enable the business to source and process higher volumes of saffron from remoter areas of the country.</p>	
1196	<p>Ariana Saffron Agricultural Processing and Packing Company, a Herat-based agribusiness that processes and supplies saffron to markets nationwide received AMP incentive support to procure a batch/date printer and renovate its 184m² processing facility, providing a safe and hygienic workspace for its largely female workforce. The renovation included storage facilities, hygiene signs, fire extinguishers, and production hall improvements.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
I197	<p>Bi Nazir Rah Lajward Saffron Packaging and Processing Production, a Herat-based saffron business, received AMP's support to renovate its 400 m2 facility, improving labor conditions and providing a humidity and dust-free processing facility, which will lead to the production and sale of high-quality saffron in domestic markets. AMP also supported the purchase of a batch number printer for the business in Herat. The device will allow the business to print standard batch and date numbers on its saffron packaging. By providing batch numbers the saffron products can be traced back to the company's quality control and marketing objectives, enabling the business to compete in local markets.</p>	
I200	<p>Herat-based Gul Mir Saffron Ltd, produces and supplies saffron to domestic markets. With AMP incentive support, the company upgraded its 160 m2 processing center, and installed equipment including strip curtains, window nets, a suspended ceiling, improved sewage system, exhaust fans, toilet sanitaryware, a changing room, and fire, extinguishers. The support was provided in coordination with the USAID-funded ACEBA program, which is also providing support to the saffron company. The company also received a batch number printer that will enable the company to print standardized batch and date numbers on its saffron packaging. By providing batch numbers the saffron products can be traced back to the company's quality control and marketing objectives, enabling the business to compete in domestic markets.</p>	
I212	<p>Kandahar-based Haji Jan Mohammad Wholesaler leveled the ground and concreted an area 1,844 m2 at its wholesale market facility to improve the trading environment and enable buyers and sellers to have access to high-quality dry fruits, even during inclement weather conditions. The wholesale market will be able to maintain a hygienic, safe environment, free of sand and dust, boosting sales and increasing customer satisfaction.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
Warehouse, Storage, Processing Center Improvements, Agricultural Production & Women Led & Women Focused Food Processing Activities Grants		
G1-001	<p>Nutrition and Education International (NEI) is supporting more than 1,500 farmers to grow soybean in Herat, Balkh and Nangarhar provinces, with the goal of improving the nutritional and economic status of these rural farming households. 51 of the farmers, in Herat, are women. The key objectives include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) training farmers on soybean production and providing needed inputs to ensure success, 2) improving the nutrition and food security of rural farming households through consumption of protein-rich soybeans and soy dishes and 3) improving the economic livelihoods of rural farmers by connecting them to Soy Farmer Associations and local markets to sell its surplus soybeans. During the last quarter, the grantee held farmer field days and provided technical support to farmers three provinces. 	
G2-005	<p>Elite Development Counterparts Afghanistan Organization trained 250 female workers, in food safety knowledge, techniques for cracking, deshelling, sorting, and cleaning dried fruit and nuts. The 18-day theoretical and practical training took place June 29 - July 26. Participants also received manual processing tools, such as (cracking machine, hammer, weighing machine, Ghalbil and cracking table). Following the training, eight agribusinesses were linked to the 250 skilled women processors, providing them with new or better paid employment. As of the end of September, 102 women had found new employment and 25 were receiving higher salaries because of the training.</p>	
G3-011	<p>Kabura Saffron Agricultural Processing and Packaging distributed certified seed, fertilizers and tools to 60 farmers (15 of whom were women), provided farmer training sessions to increase yields and produce high quality sesame, created two chambers/groups of farmers, and provided each with a sesame oil extraction machine and training on how to use it to produce sesame oil and seed pulp, and linked farmers with domestic markets and Kabura Saffron. During the quarter, the company delivered pre-planting, growth stage and harvest stage training to the 60 farmers, distributed the certified seed, Urea, DAP and toolkits and distributed 10 PICS bags and bottles for sesame oil.</p>	


Contract No.	Description	Photo
G4-021	<p>Bukhdy Bami is increasing the production, yield, and sale of soybeans in Sholgara District, Balkh province through the distribution of seeds, provision of fertilizer and agricultural tools (shovel, fork and gloves), and weeding toolkits (small fork, spade, rake and dandelion digger), delivery of theoretical and practical training to 150 farmers, and establishment of market linkages between farmers and traders. The company also provided three field days for 150 farmers (in three groups of 50 farmers) at each of the three established demonstration plots, at flowering stage, to address farmers' concerns.</p>	
G5-025	<p>Shaikh Marouf Karoukhi Agricultural Seed Company is supporting 140 farmers (including 36 women) in Karukh District in Herat province to increase its yields of kidney beans through the provision of certified seeds, training, and technical assistance. Kidney beans are high in protein and therefore contribute to alleviating food insecurity. They also offer farmers a more profitable alternative to traditional crops, including other types of beans. During the quarter, the company completed the second and third technical workshops on irrigation and pest control, and harvest and post-harvest management, provided on-farm technical advice and distributed five PICS bags to each farmer.</p>	
G7-009	<p>New Yaqoubi Ltd, trades thousands of MT of high-quality raisins, dried figs, dried apricots, pine nuts, almonds, caraway seeds, walnuts, basil seeds, and pomegranates seed to both national and international markets annually. The business acquired three vacuum packaging machines with AMP assistance (under grant agreement G7-009). As a result, the improved packaging will boost sales, extend product shelf life, and protect the goods from potential mold, insects, and disease damage. It also increases the value and quality of the products.</p>	
G8-016	<p>Haji Abdul Ghani Jamadar, the owner of a golden raisin wholesale market in Kandahar received grant support from AMP (Grant G8-016) to concrete an open-air section of the market. As a result, product wastage was reduced by 10%, it established a positive reputation in the market, increased sales, and it had a positive impact on the product's and consumers' food safety.</p>	



Contract No.	Description	Photo
G10-010	<p>Kandahar-based Afghan Red Pomegranate produces Not-From-Concentrate (NFC) fruit juice in PET bottles, juice drinks with a 15% minimum juice content in PET and beverage cans, carbonated drinks with juice 5% minimum juice content & juice concentrate for industrial supply. With AMP support, the grantee received ultrafiltration equipment, comprising a complete ultrafiltration plant, centrifugal separator, tube pasteurizers, two steel tanks for storing juice, plastic water tanks, and stainless-steel pipelines. The latest equipment allows them to increase its production capacity and keep up with rising domestic demand for clear juice and concentrate.</p>	
G11-029	<p>Talay Sorkh Afghan Ltd, a female owned Herat-based business that trades saffron, cumin, coriander, fennel, dill and nuts, signed a grant agreement with AMP (G11-029) to renovate and upgrade two processing centers. The company struggled to minimize cross contamination of saffron and seed products and had to spend a large amount of time washing and thoroughly cleaning the facilities between processing cycles. The work included tiling of walls and floors, installation of a suspended ceiling and five air conditioners, electrical work, painting, and the purchase of 10 metal shelves to store saffron.</p>	
G12-035	<p>Women Saffron Cultivator Association signed a grant agreement with AMP to purchase three saffron dryers to support its saffron processing activities. 22 members and staff participated in training on how to use the dryers, enabling the women to increase the value of the saffron they process, increase saffron shelf-life and increase drying capacity from 1 to 10 Kg per day.</p>	
G13-034	<p>Karwan Sabz Agricultural and Livestock Services Company is implementing three distinct activities: increasing kitchen garden production of vegetables, reducing post-harvest grain storage losses and increasing the production and yield of mung beans. Under the Kitchen Gardening activity, the company trained ten newly hired trainers who then went on to train 1,000 households/farmers in Herat and Balkh through theoretical and practical training courses. 555 of the farmers were women. Karwan Sabz also distributed tool kits and established demo plots. The company also trained 500 mung bean farmers in Balkh province with the goals of increasing yields and improving post-harvest handling. After the training, each participant was given a toolkit. Field days were also conducted to address farmers' problems.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G14-051	<p>Khwaja Sabz Posh Agricultural and Improved Seeds Production Co. conducted the first two of three trainings on mung bean and rice production. 60 male farmers participated in the rice training and learned about different rice species, seed rates in the nursery cultivation of rice, rice seed selection, and weighing the seeds with water and salt solution. The grantee also distributed 15Kg urea to each rice farmer. After the training, each participant was given a toolkit that included a sieve, hoe, and tarpaulin.</p>	
G15-014	<p>Community Development and Social Affairs Charity Organization completed two training sessions to 600 (300 Male and 300 Female) potatoes farmers in all six districts of Nangarhar. During the training, each farmer received training kits (a cap, six gloves, 12 potato bags, masks, a vegetable cutter/scissor, a 2m x 2m tarpaulin. Additionally, the organization organized 12 B2B and B2F networking events. The local businesses and farmers discussed its activities during the year and exchanged contact numbers, with businesses promising to purchase its products during harvest at reasonable prices. Then the grantee team visited and evaluated all 12 demonstration plots in all six districts of Nangarhar province.</p>	
G16-070	<p>A group of twelve Kandahar women processors received training under this grant on the safe handling of raw materials; sorting, grading, washing, and cleaning of raw materials; cleaning and sanitizing utensils and maintaining a hazard free working environment; processing and packaging products; and basics of marketing. Additionally, each woman received a food processing toolkit and related equipment.</p>	
G17-053	<p>Herat-based Aziz Zahoor Auricular and Livestock, imports, exports, and distributions of fruits, vegetable, fish, sausages, and other agricultural and livestock product to both national and international markets annually. Cold storage is an integral part of the company's operations. The business acquired 350 kW power generator, 80 V forklift, and 1600 plastic crates with AMP assistance (under grant agreement G17-053). As a result, the equipment's will boost utilization of the existing cold storage.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G18-059	<p>Sail Food Production Company completed distribution of 12,000 kg seed potatoes, 2,000 kg Urea and 1,000 kg DAP fertilizer to 20 potato growers/farmers. The grantee also installed a 28kW on-grid solar power system to power its potato chip production machinery and processing equipment. The solar power system will provide energy independence and non-stop fruit processing capacity, increasing processing capacity and output, reducing expenditure on grid electricity and fuel, and enabling the company to maintain its forecasted seasonal workforce.</p>	
G19-036	<p>Sayara Sabz Agricultural and Livestock Service Company finished a number of training activities for 230 greenhouse owners (180 men and 50 women). The training focused on different types of fertilizers, pest and disease management, greenhouse insect scouting, practical use of foliar fertilizer, and irrigation management. focused on land preparation inside the greenhouse, the benefit of plant rotation, soil fertility improvement using manure, compost, and crop residue, seedling preparation using peat moss on seed trays, and seedling transplanting in the greenhouse, and benefits of drip irrigation systems.</p>	
G20-069	<p>Mobin Tawhid Agricultural and Livestock Company delivered theoretical and practical training to 10 tinsmiths on household metal silo production, from which three will be selected to manufacture the silos for 180 Balkh beneficiaries. Additionally, the company completed training for 180 farmers on the Post-harvest Management of Cereal Crops. Each farmer received a household metal silo, wooden pallet, and training handouts after providing a contribution of 10% toward the costs.</p>	
G21-079	<p>Faiz Gulab Ltd, one of Kandahar's major dried fruit companies installed a 48kW off-grid solar power system last week to power its processing and packaging equipment. The system, including 96 solar panels and 24 batteries, was handed over to the grantee following basic operator training.</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
G23-075	<p>Kandahar-based Tawakal Sadat Cold Storage purchased and installed 25 air conditioning units for its reefer containers at its cold storage facility (under Grant Agreement G23-075) with AMP assistance. The grant resulted to a 33,33% capacity increase in the cold storage facility (from 1,400 MT to 2,100 tons). As well as prolonging the shelf-life of agricultural products, the grant sustains employment for workers at the facility for 9-10 months of the year loading and unloading produce into the containers.</p>	
G25-046	<p>Hope Agricultural and Livestock installed drip irrigation heating, and cooling systems in each of its 10 greenhouses in Nangarhar province. The grantee also installed a 25 kW off-grid solar power system at its premises in Nangarhar to run heating, cooling, and ventilation systems inside the greenhouses. They also covered its ten greenhouses with polyethylene plastic sheets for off-season tomato cultivation. Additionally, the agribusiness delivered greenhouse production training to 50 (20 female, 30 male) farmers.</p>	
G26-055	<p>Help Agro Services Company (under Grant Agreement G26-055), delivered two three-day courses in safe pesticide handling training to 50 agricultural input suppliers from Nangarhar province. Topics included the toxicology and classification of pesticides, safe use, storage, transportation, disposal, and pesticide legislation, with the overall aim of minimizing the impact of pesticides to human health and the environment. The grantee also delivered ten Farmer Field Days, which trained 500 farmers on pesticide skills. The company distributed PPE kits including, a hat, respiratory mask, protective clothing, long leather boots, a skirt, and gloves to the participants.</p>	
G27-056	<p>Mahir Hamza Ltd, one of Kandahar's major dried fruit and seed processing companies, installed a 40kW off-grid solar power system last week to power its processing and packaging equipment. The system, including 128 solar panels, 70 batteries, and four 12kW hybrid inverters, was handed over to the grantee following basic operator training. As a result of installation, the solar power system will provide energy independence and non-stop fruit processing capacity, increasing processing capacity and output, reducing expenditure on grid electricity and fuel, enabling the company to maintain its forecasted seasonal workforce.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G28-091	<p>Bilal Saeed Ltd installed a 96kW off-grid solar power system to power its processing facility equipment. The system, including 192 solar panels, 48 batteries, five 12 kW inverters, and a manual switch, was handed over to the grantee who completed basic operator training. As a result of installation, the solar power system will provide energy independence and non-stop fruit processing capacity, increasing output, and reducing expenditure on grid electricity and fuel, and enabling the company to maintain its forecasted seasonal workforce.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
Kitchen Gardening Training, Inputs & Toolkit Grants		
G29-172	<p>Faiz Agriculture Ltd, a Kandahar-based company delivered training to 200 Zabul-based female farmers on kitchen gardening management, including its introduction and importance, site selection, land preparation, seed selection, cultivation methods, weed control, irrigation, and fertilizer requirements. Each farmer received a shovel, rake, and hand hoe, as well as tomato, brinjal (eggplant), chili, and okra seeds/seedlings, DAP, and Urea.</p>	
G31-175	<p>Karwan Sabz Agricultural and Livestock Service Company, a Balkh-based company delivered kitchen gardening training to 200 female Balkh farmers. The training included soil preparation, seed selection, seed rates, vegetable cultivation techniques, irrigation, weed control and composting. Each farmer received planting tools (a shovel, rake, hand sickle, and harvesting basket), vegetable seeds/seedlings (okra, leek, ridge gourd, and green onion) and fertilizer (Urea and DAP).</p>	



Contract No.	Description	Photo
G32-183	<p>Sarsabz Hewad Zarati Company, a Kandahar-based business delivered a two-day kitchen gardening training to 200 female beneficiaries in Shahjoy District, Zabul province. The participants were trained in land preparation, cultivation, and harvesting. The grantee distributed inputs to the male representative of the female beneficiaries, as requested by the interim government authorities. These included a shovel, rake, and hand hoe, as well as tomato, brinjal (eggplant), chili and okra seeds/seedlings, and fertilizer.</p>	
G34-180	<p>Balkh-based Mobin Tawhid Agricultural & Livestock Company delivered training and inputs to 200 female farmers. Training focused on land preparation, seed selection, seed rates, vegetable cultivation methods, irrigation frequency, and weed control. Each participating female farmer received a shovel, rake, and hand hoe, as well as seeds and fertilizers (Urea and DAP).</p>	
G36-188	<p>Shinwari Livestock & Agriculture Services Ltd, a Nangarhar-based agribusiness, conducted kitchen garden training for 120 female farmers. Participants received a sickle, trowel, watering can and plastic baskets, as well as tomato, eggplant, and chili seedlings, okra, cucumber, green bean, and garlic seeds, and DAP and urea fertilizers.</p>	
G38-164	<p>Organization of Rural Development and Rehabilitation delivered kitchen garden training and inputs to 165 female farmers in Paktia province. The training covered land preparation, cultivation, irrigation and harvesting techniques. A shovel, rake, hand hoe, tomato, chili, okra, cucumber, coriander seeds/ seedlings, and fertilizer were distributed to each farmer.</p>	



Contract No.	Description	Photo
G39-181	<p>Mobin Tawhid Agricultural & Livestock Company delivered kitchen gardening training and inputs to 200 male representatives of female beneficiaries in various villages of Kunduz province. Training focused on land preparation, seed selection, seed rates, vegetable cultivation, irrigation and weed control. Each beneficiary received a shovel, rake, and hand hoe, as well as seeds and fertilizer (Urea and DAP).</p>	
G40-182	<p>The Organization of Rural Development and Rehabilitation completed kitchen gardening training and provided toolkits and inputs to 165 female farmers in Logar Province. The training included land preparation, cultivation, irrigation and harvesting methods. Each farmer received a shovel, rake, hand hoe, and tomato, chili, okra, cucumber, coriander and spinach seeds/seedlings, and fertilizers.</p>	
G41-166	<p>Anar Agricultural Services delivered kitchen gardening training and toolkits to 100 female farmers in Ghazni province. The training included land preparation, cultivation, irrigation, and harvesting techniques. Each farmer received tomato, chili, okra, cucumber, coriander, spinach seeds/seedlings, fertilizers, a shovel, rake, and hand hoe.</p>	
G42-170	<p>Sarsabz Hewad Zarati Company delivered a two-day kitchen gardening training and inputs to 200 male representatives of female beneficiaries in Kandahar province. The participants were trained in land preparation, seed rates, and various types of vegetable production and weed control. Each male representative received a shovel, rake, and hand hoe, as well as tomato, brinjal (eggplant), chili and okra seeds/seedlings, and DAP, and Urea fertilizer.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G43-185	<p>Bukhdy Bami Agriculture and Livestock Services Company delivered kitchen gardening training and inputs to 200 women (or its male representatives) in Balkh province. The training included soil preparation, seed selection, cultivation, weed control, irrigation, and fertilizer requirements. Each farmer received vegetable seeds (okra, ridge gourd, leek, green onion), fertilizers (DAP & Urea), and tools (a shovel, a rake, and a hand sickle).</p>	
G44-167	<p>Anar Agricultural Services provided kitchen gardening training and toolkits to 160 female farmers (or its male representatives) in Ghazni province. The training included land preparation, cultivation, irrigation and harvesting techniques. Each farmer was given tomato, chili, okra, cucumber, coriander, and spinach seeds/seedlings, fertilizers, a shovel, rake, and hand hoe.</p>	
G45-195	<p>Arsari Agricultural & Livestock Services Company delivered kitchen gardening training and inputs to 180 male representatives of female farmers in Kunduz province. The farmers received training in soil preparation, seed selection, seed rates, cultivation, irrigation frequency, and weed control, as well as seeds, fertilizers and basic tools.</p>	
G46-197	<p>Banwan Tawana Agricultural & Livestock Company delivered kitchen gardening training and inputs to 60 female farmers in Balkh Province. The participants received training on land preparation, seed selection, seed rates, vegetable cultivation, irrigation frequency, and weed control. Each farmer received vegetable seeds, fertilizers, and gardening tools (a shovel, rake, hand sickle and watering can).</p>	





Contract No.	Description	Photo
G47-200	<p>Asia Minor Agricultural, Livestock and Logistic Services provided kitchen gardening training and kits to 180 female farmers in Wardak Province. The training covered topics such as irrigation, land preparation, cultivation and harvesting techniques. Each participant received a shovel, rake, hand hoe, and tomato, chili, okra, cucumber, coriander seeds/seedlings, and fertilizer.</p>	
G48-201	<p>Asia Minor Agricultural, Livestock and Logistic Services delivered kitchen gardening training and toolkits to 180 female farmers in Paktika province. The training included kitchen gardening, irrigation, land preparation, cultivation, and harvesting methods. Each recipient also received tomato, chili, okra, cucumber, and coriander seeds/seedlings as well as fertilizer.</p>	
G49-214	<p>Relief Organization for People delivered kitchen gardening training and toolkits to 100 female farmers in Nangarhar province. Each farmer received a shovel, rake, hand hoe, and plastic bucket, tomato, eggplant, and chili seedlings, okra, coriander, and ridge gourd seeds, and fertilizer (DAP & Urea).</p>	
G50-198	<p>Dast-e-Mehrabani Humanitarian Relief and Charity Organization delivered kitchen gardening training to 150 female farmers in District 13, Kabul province. The training included land preparation, seed selection, and cultivation techniques. Participants received a shovel, rake, and hand hoe, as well as certified vegetable seeds and fertilizers.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
G51-212	<p>Gandahara Agricultural and Educational Organization delivered kitchen gardening training as well as farming tools to 150 female farmers. The training covered land preparation, planting, irrigation, weeding, and seed collection. Each farmer was given a variety of vegetable seeds/seedlings, including tomato, okra, cucumber, squash, radish, courgetti, lettuce, and spinach, as well as DAP and Urea fertilizers and farming tools.</p>	
Food Processing Equipment, Renovations of Processing Facilities, & Solar Power System Grants		
G30-173	<p>Khiwa Women Food Materials Production & Process Company received a grant for a 3.5 kW solar power system, a fruit/vegetable pulper, plastic chairs and a steel worktable. The production mechanization and energy independence has enabled the business to increase production output.</p>	
G33-179	<p>Murtaza Noorzai Foods Production Company, a Nangarhar-based agribusiness that produces pickles, jams, ketchup, and tomato paste, has installed two solar-powered water heaters, purchased 2,000 glass bottles, 2,000 cardboard cartons, and a batch number printer with AMP support. As a result, the business reduced operating expenses and enhanced product packaging.</p>	
G35-184	<p>Mastoraat Food Materials Processing and Production Group, a Nangarhar-based food production company, received a grant to renovate its processing facility, purchase a fruit/vegetable mixer (pulper), glass and plastic bottles, cardboard cartons and labels.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G37-191	<p>Behsoud Bahar Food Materials Production Factory, received a grant for a 3kW solar power system and renovated its processing center with wooden doors and windows, plastering, and painting. They also purchased a fruit/vegetable pulper and mixers, a digital scale, glass, and plastic bottles, and two gas cylinders. The business was able to improve its production capacity due to production mechanization and energy independence.</p>	
G52-219	<p>Habib Sediq Naizai Foods Appliance Product purchased and installed four automatic spice packing machines and an air compressor with AMP assistance. The new packaging equipment increases production capacity and quality. Under the grant, the company also supported 75 women to establish kitchen gardens in the Dar-e-Noor district of Nangarhar.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
Kitchen Gardening Training, Inputs & Toolkit Grants		
G53-229	<p>Kabul-based New Land Star Worldwide Ltd, a woman-owned business delivered kitchen garden strawberry training and inputs to 120 female farmers in Istalif and Farza Districts, Kabul province on May 28, 2023 (under G53-229). The training covered the characteristics of strawberry plants as well as kitchen gardening techniques such as preparation of the soil, correct methods of cultivation, irrigation, fertilization, harvesting, and the significance of pruning strawberry plants. Each female farmer received strawberry seedlings, fertilizer (DAP and UREA), and gardening tools.</p>	
G54-248	<p>Community Development and Research Organization, a Kabul-based NGO, (under G54-248) completed delivery of kitchen gardening theoretical and practical training to 200 female farmers from Segonbad, Qala-e-Khatami and Darweshtolak villages in Paghman district, Kabul province on June 4, 2023. The training focused on land preparation, seed selection, and cultivation methods. On June 7, the grantee distributed inputs including vegetable seeds, seedlings, fertilizer (DAP & Urea), and toolkits such a shovel, hoe, scythe, sickle, and rake to all 200 beneficiaries who received training.</p>	


Contract No.	Description	Photo
G56-277	<p>Resilience Emergency and Humanitarian Aid Organization is a Kabul-based NGO that focuses on resilience, the environment, and humanitarian aid. In June 2023, the grantee delivered kitchen gardening training, inputs, and toolkits to 195 female farmers in Chak district, Maidan Wardak province. Training focused on soil preparation, cultivation, irrigation, and harvesting techniques. Each farmer received inputs, which included tomato, chili, okra, cucumber, coriander, spinach seeds/seedlings, fertilizers, a shovel, rake, and hand hoe.</p>	
G68-288	<p>Kabul-based Humanitarian Organization for Sustainable Actions in Afghanistan delivered theoretical and practical kitchen gardening training to 180 female farmers in Istalif District, Kabul in July 2023. The training focused on land preparation, seed selection, and cultivation techniques. Beneficiaries also received inputs such as vegetable seeds, fertilizer (DAP and Urea), and toolkits that included a shovel, hand hoe, and rake.</p>	
G69-294	<p>Kabul-based Women Organization for Movement of Education Nationwide, a woman-focused NGO, delivered kitchen gardening training, inputs, and tools to 50 female farmers in the villages of Qalae Shana and Arzan Qemat, District 12, Kabul in July 2023. The training focused on soil preparation, cultivation, and proper tomato harvesting techniques. Each farmer received tomato seedlings, fertilizer (DAP and Urea), and basic kitchen gardening tools (basket & shovel). AMP's female staff, the Business Development and MEL teams, as well as local village authorities, attended the training, input, and toolkit distribution.</p>	
G70-295	<p>In June 2023, Organization for Capacity Building and Supporting the Entrepreneurial Community, a Kabul-based NGO, delivered kitchen gardening training and agriculture inputs and toolkits to 50 female farmers from Deh Ponba village of Qargha area in District 14, Kabul province. The training focused on land preparation, irrigation, the use of fertilizer, tomato harvesting techniques, and method of cultivation. Each farmer received inputs including tomato seedlings, fertilizers (DAP & Urea), and toolkits with baskets and shovels.</p>	




Contract No.	Description	Photo
Food Processing Equipment, Renovations of Processing Facilities, & Solar Power System Grants		
G55-162	<p>Kabul-based NGO called Woman-owned Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation for Afghanistan works mostly with women, children, and those who returned from abroad. The grantee purchased mixers, ovens, freezers, vacuum sealing/packing machines, packaging machines, stabilizers, and washing machines. The expansion of PARSA's commercial kitchen/processing center to run its commercial kitchen was made possible by the new equipment from AMP.</p>	
G58-174	<p>Woman-led Bibi Khadija Social Community, based in Nangarhar, delivered four three-day practical food processing training courses to 40 women in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province in July 2023. The training focused on making mixed pickles, jams, orange juice, chutney, ketchup, and other sauces. Each woman received a food processing toolkit comprising an aluminum pot, gas cylinder, gas stove, Teflon pot, fruit juicer, plastic bucket, knife set, sieve, ladle, wooden chopping board, tray, and plastic bottles.</p>	
G59-178	<p>In June 2023, a group of 11 low-income Kandahar women received food processing toolkits, enabling them to start producing tomato paste, jam, pickles, chutneys, and vinegar for the local market. Each toolkit included a large cooking pot, gas stove and cylinder, plastic bowl, plastic bucket, set of kitchen knives, fruit blender, wooden and aluminum spatulas, personal protective equipment, digital scale, cutting board, salad mixer, colander, meat grinder, and wooden table.</p>	
G60-190	<p>Woman-owned Sola Agricultural Products Manufacturing Company, situated in Jalalabad city, is a food processing company that primarily makes pickles, jams, ketchup, sauces, juices, and tomato paste. The grantee (under G60-190) purchased a juicer, electric heating gun, liquid gas cylinder, 1000 glass bottles, 1000 plastic bottles, steel shelves, 2000 labels, 500 cardboard cartons, and 2 kg of packaging and sealing plastic. On August 27, 2023, the company installed a pulper and a kettle with AMP support. Additionally, the company trained 20 women in food processing and each food processor received toolkits.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G61-193	<p>Woman-owned Nadia Jam and Pickle Production Company, a Balkh-based business, delivered a six-day practical food processing training to 40 female producers in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh province in June 2023 (under G61-193). The training focused on making mixed pickles, tangerine jams, cherry jams and ketchup. Each woman received a toolkit containing a Teflon pot, electric mincer, sieve, spatula, ladle, set of kitchen knives, plastic bucket, aluminum pot with a lid, wooden chopping board, tray, and gas stove.</p>	
G62-168	<p>Special Khanagi, a woman-owned Kabul-based business, produces traditional Afghan sweets. The business received AMP grant support to procure an oven, dough mixer, mixer, working table, refrigerator, pasta maker, packaging materials and basic promotional materials.</p>	
G63-177	<p>Woman-owned Agricultural Jams and Pickles Processing Company was given advanced peanut processing equipment in July 2023, including a peanut sheller, peanut peeler, roaster, and peanut butter maker, enabling them to increase the production of nutritious snacks and peanut butter and create jobs. Additionally, the company provided basic equipment operation and maintenance training to its 15 female employees (most of whom were widows or had dependents) to ensure that the employees could efficiently use this new equipment.</p>	
G64-171	<p>Kandahar-based Koranai Dodi specializes in bread baking, laundry, tailoring, and light manufacturing. In July 2023, the company installed a 5kW solar power system and acquired baking tools, including a flour mill, flour mixer, tray (Ghalab), plastic net, and oven. The assistance from AMP will enable the company to expand and improve its business operations and capabilities. Currently, the company employs 72 women and bakes and sells approximately 4,500 loaves of bread daily.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G65-203	<p>Woman-owned Ash Borida (Panja Chenar) specializes in the production of noodles for sale in two different size retail packs in the local market. In August 2023, the business purchased a table, chairs, frosted glass, rectangular steel sections, PPE kits, plastic flooring, and ceiling and exhaust fans to renovate a new drying room in the processing center and increase noodle production. The company has hired two new employees and will add five more in the coming months as a result of AMP assistance.</p>	
G66-165	<p>Kabul-based greenhouse owner, Shakila Sediqi (trading as Shakila Greenhouses), completed the drilling of a 90-meter borehole, renovation of two greenhouses (including the installation of new plastic covers, drip irrigation system, and ventilation fans), and acquisition of a water tank, seeds, fertilizer, and other necessary toolkits to restart greenhouses production in July 2023; planting high-value crops like tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. The AMP assistance helps the greenhouse owner increase agricultural productivity as well as profitability.</p>	
G67-163	<p>In July 2023, women-owned Sunbol Food Processing Company from Char Asiab district, Kabul, received food processing equipment, including a working table, plastic chairs, packing materials, cupboard, fire extinguisher, knife set, refrigerator, electric scales, metallic pot, water purifier, gas cylinder and bottles. Additionally, the company installed a 3kW solar power system and renovated its processing center. The upgrades increase the company's output and improve product quality.</p>	
G71-189	<p>Three food processing companies situated in Balkh (Naw Shad Mazar Ash Product Company, Zahra (trading as Motahed Yusufi), and Laila Alizada (trading as Banowan Shamal Food Production)) process a variety of pickles, jams, and spaghetti products. The companies utilized AMP support to purchase food processing equipment, including a dough sheeter/presser, food mixer, meat grinder, milling machine, Teflon pot, processing table, colander, plastic bucket, knife set, steel bowl, chopping board and freezer. These pieces of equipment enable companies to increase production, extend product shelf life, improve food safety, and enhance the quality of its goods.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G72-196	<p>Aqila Haqdot (trading as Bano Haqdot Food Processing), situated in Kabul, was producing food for five years and selling it online in Kabul, including desserts, pickles, jams, and cookies. In July 2023, the grantee acquired food-processing equipment including a steam pot, pressure cooker, aluminum pot, electric dash, gas cylinder, refrigerator, mixer, stainless steel table, and plastic sheet with AMP support.</p>	
G73-211	<p>Ghazni-based Omid Ghaznaviyaan Food Production Company delivered a two-day practical and theoretical tomato paste production training course that provided basic tools to 60 female processors in Ghazni city in July 2023. The training included lessons on making tomato paste, processing tomatoes, and tomato harvesting techniques. Each food processor received a kit that included a barrel, stainless steel pot, and knife set.</p>	
G74-213	<p>In July 2023, Ghazni-based Sabrina Akbari (trading as Asma Desserts Production Unit), which produces Afghan traditional desserts, received new equipment including an electric grinder, oven, gas cylinder, freezer, digital scales, cookie molds, working tables, plastic chairs, a mixer and a set of pots and pans with AMP support. The equipment allows them to enhance dessert production and sell it in the local market.</p>	
G75-226	<p>Three women-owned food processing companies situated in Balkh, Friba Morowat (trading as Sahar Food Processing & Production Co.), Fariha (trading as Kawsar Food Processing & Production Co.), and Rahela Yosoufi (trading as Rahila Food Processing & Production Co.) purchased processing equipment including a freezer, processing table, metal chairs, electric mincer/grinder, water filter, bakery stove (two-in-one gas and electric), exhaust fan, milling machine, electronic mixer, dough mixer, digital scales, electric ovens, gas cylinder, gas stove, Teflon pot, tea flask, plates, frying pan, pressure cooker, cool water jug, pots and plastic serving tray with AMP support. By purchasing this food processing equipment, the businesses are able to enhance product quality, increase production capacity, improve food safety,</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
	extend product lines, and boost revenue.	
G76-169	<p>Kabul-based Lemar Social Services Organization, a national NGO specializes in honey, cumin seeds, cookies (kulcha-e-Badakhshi), and dry fruits. The NGO was given cumin seed and food processing and packaging equipment including a gas oven, desk, metal chairs, plastic bottles (100 gr, 200 gr, and 300 gr), plastic packaging for almonds, and a net for cleaning cumin seeds.</p>	
G77-231	<p>National NGO, Youth for Sustainable Development Organization, situated in Kabul, makes and sells organic tomato paste, jam, chutney, and fruit chutney in the local market. To expand its kitchen/processing center the organization purchased food processing equipment, including iron pots, gas stoves and cylinders, an automatic batch coding printer, plastic flooring, glass bottles, and paper cartons with AMP support. The organization's production and sales both grew by 30% with AMP's help. Two marketers and two female workers were also employed.</p>	
G78-241	<p>Karima Rahimi, a woman-owned business operating under the name Afghan Women Production, was producing, processing, and packaging several types of pickles in Kabul since 2017 in an effort to increase capacity and give Afghan women jobs. Its main products are chutneys and pickles (including mixed pickles made from eggplant, cucumber, chili, garlic, and pumpkin). To enhance its capacity for production, Karima acquired a freezer, a gas cylinder and stove, cauldrons/pots, washers/peelers, tanks and buckets, colanders, vegetable cutters, spatulas, and glass and plastic bottles.</p>	

Contract No.	Description	Photo
G79-210	<p>Ghazni-based Fatima Farukhzad (trading as Roya Food Processing Company) produces pickles and jams and sells them in the local market. In July 2023, it installed a 2kW solar power system to power its processing center and packaging equipment. The company also renovated its kitchen and processing center and installed a cupboard to store the products and materials. Additionally, the company procured various pieces of equipment including an electric grinder, a water purifier, a gas stove, different kinds of pots, an oven, jars, processing tables and chairs, and printed business cards and labels. AMP assistance will enable them to improve its processing activities, increase production and promote the brand in the local market.</p>	
G80-315	<p>Sadaf Welfare Technical Service Organization delivered theoretical and practical training in mushroom production to 40 male representatives of female beneficiaries (two sessions of 20 beneficiaries) in August 2023, in District 5, Kabul. Each representative received tools and inputs including thermometers, plastic bags, wheat hay, bran, mixed spores, pruning shears, medical gloves, and medical cotton. The government prohibited the grantee from training women directly.</p>	
Supermarket Promotion Grant		
G57-328	<p>Two Kabul-based businesses, Zaffrani Insaf Ahmadi, and Ash Borida (Panja Chenar), were supported in showcasing products in 15 branches of Minimum Supermarkets. Under the grant, 15 female marketers were hired to promote the products with the supermarkets. AMP also supported the businesses in product package design and barcode creation, as well as social media promotion on the EDP Facebook page.</p>	

Annex 10: Phase III Domestic Sales

Province	Product	MT	Sales
Balkh	Baklava (Different Varieties)	0.33	1,370
	Black Pepper	0.02	91
	Chutney	0.12	103
	Chutney (Green Pepper)	0.81	753
	Chutney (Green)	0.29	183
	Chutney (Red and Green)	0.10	78
	Chutney (Red Pepper)	0.72	679
	Chutney (Red)	0.15	101
	Compote (Cherry)	0.01	11
	Cookies	0.02	56
	Corn (Maize)	40.00	20,000
	Cotton Seeds	93.83	49,960
	Cumin Power	0.01	112
	Cumin Power (Masala)	0.00	20
	Dried Mint	0.00	19
	Dried Okra	0.00	2
	Dried Pepper	0.03	211
	Dried Pepper (Green)	0.00	20
	Dried Pepper (Masala)	0.00	20
	Dried Pepper (Red)	0.00	8
	Flax Oil	5.37	7,925
	Four Seasonal Masala	0.02	165
	Fresh mixed peppers	0.01	22
	Garlic Powder	0.00	16
	Ginger Power	0.01	36
	Green Pepper	0.01	32
	Jam (Apple)	0.17	214
	Jam (Apricot)	0.01	12
	Jam (Cherry)	0.22	320
	Jam (Kiwi)	0.50	682
	Jam (Plum)	0.12	168
	Jam (Pumkin)	0.15	207
	Jam (Tangerine)	0.37	492
	Jams	0.14	241
Jams (Carrot)	0.41	541	
Ketchup	0.38	366	
Krot (Dried Yogurt)	0.05	145	

Province	Product	MT	Sales
	Medicinal Herbs	0.01	12
	Milk (Hardened)	0.05	163
	Mint Power	0.02	17
	Mixed Dried Pepper	0.01	80
	Mixed Masala (Qurma)	0.02	39
	Mixed Pepper	0.01	76
	Mixed Pickle	0.12	90
	Mixed Pickle (Awree)	0.02	28
	Mixed Pickle (Vinegar)	0.01	7
	Nutritious Butter	0.10	349
	Pepper (Green)	0.00	14
	Pepper (Mixed)	0.04	258
	Pepper (Red)	0.00	10
	Pickle (Awree)	2.86	820
	Pickle (Cucumber)	0.02	17
	Pickle (Eggplant)	0.05	23
	Pickle (Garlic)	0.02	37
	Pickle (Mixed)	0.04	39
	Pickle (Red Pepper)	0.00	3
	Pickles	0.31	760
	Pickles (Mixed)	0.85	758
	Pickling	0.01	22
	Puff Pastry	0.02	169
	Sauce Masala	0.00	18
	Seasonal Salad	0.07	71
	Sesame Oil	5.54	16,333
	Spaghetti	0.98	914
	Strawberry	5.73	10,720
	Tomato Paste	0.15	301
	Turmeric Powder	0.02	66
Total		161	117,594
Kabul	Almond	0.27	1,674
	Almonds (Kernels)	0.01	38
	Almonds (With Shell)	0.00	24
	Apricots (Dried)	0.01	19
	Biryani Masala	0.08	437
	Black Pepper	0.03	170
	Black Pepper Masala	0.02	129
	Bolani Masala	0.01	53
	Burger Masala	5.20	8,465

Province	Product	MT	Sales
	Chapli Kabab Masala	0.00	11
	Checkin Soup	0.00	16
	Chicken Masala	0.01	50
	chicken Soup	0.00	14
	Chips Masala	0.03	191
	Cilantro Masala	0.00	5
	Coriander Masala	0.01	43
	Cumin Seed Masala	0.02	85
	Cumin Seeds	0.07	725
	Do pyaza Masala	0.01	32
	Dried Fruits	0.33	1,657
	Garlic Masala	0.00	22
	Grape Masala	0.01	23
	Green Pepper	0.01	27
	Green Pepper Masala	0.01	64
	Honey	0.02	174
	Kabab Masala	0.01	51
	Karayee Masala	0.01	54
	Karayee Morgh Masala	0.00	4
	Ketchup Masala	4.52	13,064
	Kofta Masala	0.01	57
	Lemon Masala	13.53	30,668
	Macaroni Masala	0.03	129
	Meat Masala	0.00	5
	Mix Masala	3.21	13,092
	Mixed Masala (Qurma)	0.01	40
	Naveen Masala	22.50	29,796
	Noodles	3.20	3,316
	Oleaster	0.00	18
	Pakawra	0.07	145
	Palaw Masala	0.00	35
	Palaw Masla	1.32	6,977
	Pekora Ready	0.60	9,767
	Pickles and Jams	0.41	466
	Kabuli Palaw Masala	0.06	340
	Qorma Masala	10.08	24,560
	Qorma Morgh Masala	0.01	38
	Qorma Zaffarani Masala	0.02	40
	Raisins	11.56	36,641
	Red Pepper Masala	0.01	46

Province	Product	MT	Sales
	Saffron	0.04	5,073
	Soup	0.02	110
	Soup Ready	1.69	8,143
	Spicy Soup	0.01	38
	Sweets	0.05	193
	Turmeric Masala	0.02	75
	Turmeric Powder	0.00	21
	vegetable soup	0.00	21
	Walnuts	0.01	52
	Zaffrani qorma masala	0.00	5
Total		79	197,228
Kandahar	Baked Bread	248.00	35,439
	Cherry Jam	0.02	37
	Dried Yogurt	29.74	44,707
	Fig Jam	0.08	108
	Fresh Juice	200.00	180,000
	Fruit Jams	4.36	4,053
	Jams	0.35	541
	Jams (Carrot)	0.61	568
	Jams (Pomegranate)	0.22	438
	Krot (Dried Yogurt)	0.43	1,236
	Milk	3.00	7,586
	Milk (Hardened)	12.24	38,697
	Mix Jam	2.58	2,499
	Nutritious Butter	34.86	84,026
	Pickles	0.59	640
	Pickles (Mixed)	0.69	650
	Pomegranate Jam	0.04	224
	Pomegranate syrup	0.13	664
	Roh Taza Juice	0.03	34
	Seeds powder	0.03	57
Total		538	402,204
Kunduz	Hing Seeds	0.04	6,333
	Rice	5.98	4,222
Total		6	10,555
	Apple Jam	0.84	1,101
	Apricot Jam	0.03	17
	Cherry Jam	0.05	90
	Chili Pickle	0.59	589
	Chutney	4.25	3,236

Province	Product	MT	Sales
Nangarhar	Chutney (Green Pepper)	0.99	986
	Eggplant Pickle	0.04	28
	Flax Oil	0.01	21
	Fruit Jams	0.69	664
	Garlic	1.19	1,294
	Garlic Pickle	0.52	552
	Green Chili	0.23	202
	Jam (Apricot)	0.02	32
	Jams	7.83	2,879
	Ketchup	0.56	367
	Mixed Pickle	6.89	5,868
	Pickles	2.29	1,305
	Red chili Chutney	0.11	169
	Red Chutney	0.31	287
	Tomato Paste	2.05	1,261
Total		29	20,948
Grand Total		814	\$748,529

Annex 11: AMP Performance Indicators - Phase I

#	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	FY2020		FY2021		Q1 FY2022		Phase I		Phase I Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
1	Total Value of sales (export + domestic) of targeted commodities as a result of USG assistance (USD)	31,000,000	23,281,777	166,851,378	104,173,738	46,480,027	14,180,191	244,331,405	141,635,706	58%
	Export sales	20,000,000	22,946,714	150,166,240	98,402,323	41,832,024	9,822,855	211,998,264	131,171,891	62%
	Domestic sales	11,000,000	335,063	16,685,138	5,771,416	4,648,003	4,357,336	32,333,140	10,463,815	32%
	Males	24,800,000	23,139,773	166,684,527	102,703,489	41,832,024	13,939,354	233,316,551	139,782,616	60%
	Females	6,200,000	142,004	166,851	1,470,248	4,648,003	240,837	11,014,854	1,853,089	17%
2	EG.2.2-1 Number of firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance to export	50	78	36	41	8	-	94	119	127%
	Males	28	63	28	18	6	-	62	81	130%
	Females	22	15	8	23	2	-	32	38	120%
3	EG.3-9 Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created with USG assistance	700	476	3,218	3,570	610	581	4,529	4,627	102%
	Males	-	377	3,057	3,188	488	581	4245	4,146	98%
	Females	-	99	161	382	122	-	283	481	169%
4	EG.3.2-1 Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	-	-	1,667	2,016	2,000	1,888	3,667	3,904	106%
	Males	-	-	1,667	2,016	1,925	1,876	3,592	3,892	108%
	Females	-	-	-	-	75	12	75	12	16%
5	Number of individuals who have received USG supported long term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	1,420	1,165	4,536	5,323	-	-	5,956	6,488	109%
	Males	1,130	1,140	4,309	4,947	-	-	5,439	6,087	112%

#	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	FY2020		FY2021		Q1 FY2022		Phase I		Phase I Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
	Females	290	25	227	376	-	-	517	401	78%
6	Percentage of participants in U.S. Government-assisted projects designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (age 15–29)	30%	18%	20%	26%	20%	19%	23%	21%	90%
	Males	24%	17%	15%	21%	15%	19%	18%	19%	106%
	Females	6%	1%	5%	4%	5%	0%	5%	2%	36%
7	9.2e-1. Proportion of female participation in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credits, income or employment)	20%	7%	5%	2%	5%	0.4%	10%	3%	30%
8	Number of hectares with increased high value crop production as a result of USG programs	200	-	500	542	144	134	844	675	80%
	Males	160	-	500	542	144	134	804	675	84%
	Females	40	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	0%
9	5.1.1c. Number of farmers growing high-value crops as a result of USG assistance	1,420	320	1,667	2,016	500	282	3,587	2,618	73%
	Males	1,130	320	1,667	2,016	500	282	3,297	2,618	79%
	Females	290	-	-	-	-	-	290	-	0%
10	EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance.	1,200	832	3,181	2,016	500	282	4,881	3,130	64%
	Males	900	832	3,086	2,016	500	282	4,486	3,130	70%
	Females	300	-	95	-	-	-	395	-	0%
11	Value of new loans to agribusinesses facilitated by USG interventions (USD)	1,000,000	-	175,000	724,420	-	-	1,175,000	724,420	62%
	Males	800,000	-	157,500	668,354	-	-	957,500	668,354	70%

#	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	FY2020		FY2021		Q1 FY2022		Phase I		Phase I Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
	Females	200,000	-	17,500	56,066	-	-	217,500	56,066	26%
12	Number of households benefited by agriculture and alternative development interventions in targeted areas	1,420	1,040	6,239	7,380	2,008	1,888	9,667	10,308	107%
	Males	1,420	1,040	6,004	6,981	1,931	1,876	9,356	9,897	106%
	Females	-	-	235	399	77	12	311	411	132%
13	Volume of exports of targeted agriculture commodities as a result of USG assistance (MT)	-	7,622	66,741	31,700	18,592	7,150	85,333	46,472	54%
	Males	-	7,561	66,674	31,620	18,573	7,150	85,247	46,331	54%
	Females	-	61	67	81	19	-	86	142	166%
14	Number of Farmers Field Schools established as a result of USG assistance	200	94	392.7	435	180	172	773	701	91%
	Males	160	94	381	395	180	172	721	661	92%
	Females	40	-	12	40	-	-	52	40	77%
15	Number of Afghan firms or Afghan institutions attending international trade and investment events supported by USG	-	-	60	51	15	-	75	51	68%
	Males	-	-	56	48	14	-	70	48	69%
	Females	-	-	4	3	1	-	5	3	60%
16	Value of deals made by Afghan firms or Afghan institutions at international trade and investment events promoted by USG.	-	-	100,000,000	75,676,907	37,500,000	-	137,500,000	75,676,907	55%
	Males	-	-	99,900,000	55,815,173	37,462,500	-	137,362,500	55,815,173	41%
	Females	-	-	100,000	19,861,734	37,500	-	137,500	19,861,734	14,445%
17	Percentage of sales completed by the Afghan firms or Afghan institutions against the deals made at international trade and investment events promoted or supported by USG.			25%	35%	0	-	25%	35%	140%

#	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	FY2020		FY2021		Q1 FY2022		Phase I		Phase I Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
	Males			19%	32%	-	-	19%	32%	169%
	Females			6%	3%	-	-	6%	3%	52%
18	Number of Afghan and foreign businesses declaring to have received positive assistance from AMP overseas trade offices	10	-	10	-	-	-	20	-	0%
	Males	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	
	Females	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	
19	Number of Afghan agribusinesses paying a Trade Office directly for services or through a membership program	10	-	5	-	-	-	15	-	0%
	Males	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	
	Females	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	
20	Number of domestic traders/businesses invested in agribusiness development (processing and packaging, cool storage, transportation, new technology and etc.)	-	-	16	-	-	-	16	-	0%
	Males	-	-	12	-	-	-	12	-	0%
	Females	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	0%
21	Value of new investment leveraged by the agribusinesses for value added products as a result of USG activities	-	-	150,000	-	-	-	150,000	-	0%
	Males	-	-	135,000	-	-	-	135,000	-	0%
	Females	-	-	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	-	0%
22	Number of new agriculture products identified and selected for export promotion as a result of USG assistance	-	-	24	15	15	-	39	15	38%

Annex 12: Performance Indicator Change Log (Phase II)

#	Current indicator description	Type of Change	Indicator status after the proposed change	Reasons for the proposed change
1	Total Value of sales (export + domestic) of targeted commodities as a result of USG assistance (USD)	Amendments	Value of domestic sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance	Based on USAID direction, AMP ceased working on export promotion and facilitation. The indicator has therefore been amended to cover domestic sales only. Based on domestic sales to date, and because of the economic crisis in Afghanistan the target has been reduced from US\$50 million to US\$30 million. 5% of sales are targeted from women-owned businesses.
2	EG.2.2-1 Number of firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance to export		Number of firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance for improving business performance	Based on USAID directions, AMP ceased working on export promotion and facilitation. The indicator has therefore been amended to focus on domestic businesses rather than those focused on export. The number of firms has been increased from 150 to 180 with 22% women-owned businesses targeted. Domestic traders, input suppliers and other supply chain enterprises will be supported
3	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training		Number of individuals trained in agriculture sector productivity or food security training	Considering USAID training definition and AMP training scope and context, the Long-term training terminology has been removed and all type of trainings will be captured and reported under the unified amended training indicator. AMP will continue to provide training for its beneficiaries to improve its operational capacity. The combined target for all types of trainings has increased by 130% from 8,500 to 19,567 AMP will target 5% female farmers
4	Number of individuals who have received USG supported long term agricultural sector productivity or food security training			
5	Number of agribusinesses invested in value added products		Number of domestic traders/businesses invested in agribusiness development (processing and packaging, cool storage, transportation, new technology and etc.)	AMP will continue to facilitate and attract investment in domestic agribusiness market development with the focus on attracting investment in packaging, cool storages, transportation, value addition and introduction of new technologies. Therefore, these two indicators will record the number of agribusinesses invested in market development and the value of investments attracted. Women-owned businesses are anticipated to represent 12.5% of businesses that have made investment and 5% of the total investment. The revised target for number of agribusinesses assisted remains the same however the target for Value of investment has decreased from 350,000 to 150,000 due to economic and financial crisis as well the challenges faced in the banking system
6	Value of new investment leveraged by the agribusinesses for value added products as a result of USG activities		Value of new investment leveraged by the agribusinesses as a result of USG activities	
7	Volume of exports of targeted agriculture commodities as a result of	Ceased in Phase II	NA	Based on USAID direction, AMP ceased working on export promotion and facilitation. The volume of exports will therefore no longer be captured.

#	Current indicator description	Type of Change	Indicator status after the proposed change	Reasons for the proposed change
	USG assistance (MT)			
8	Number of Afghan firms or Afghan institutions attending international trade and investment events supported by USG			Based on USAID direction, AMP ceased working on export promotion and facilitation. The indicators relating to international trade shows and trade offices will therefore no longer be captured.
9	Value of deals made by Afghan firms or Afghan institutions at international trade and investment events promoted by USG.			
10	Percentage of sales completed by the Afghan firms or Afghan institutions against the deals made at international trade and investment events promoted or supported by USG.			
11	Number of Afghan and foreign businesses declaring to have received positive assistance from AMP overseas trade offices			
12	Number of Afghan agribusinesses paying a Trade Office directly for services or through a membership program			
13	Number of new agriculture products identified and selected for export promotion as a result of USG assistance			
14	EG.3-9 Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created with USG assistance	Continued in Phase II	No changes recommended	
15	YOUTH-3 - Percentage of participants in U.S. Government-assisted projects designed to increase access to			

#	Current indicator description	Type of Change	Indicator status after the proposed change	Reasons for the proposed change
	productive economic resources who are youth (age 15–29)			
16	GNDR-2 - Percentage of female participation in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment)			
17	Number of hectares with increased high value crop production as a result of USG programs			
18	5.1.1c. Number of farmers growing high-value crops as a result of USG assistance			
19	EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance.			
20	Value of new loans to agribusinesses facilitated by USG interventions (USD)			
21	Number of households benefited by agriculture and alternative development interventions in targeted areas			
22	Number of Farmers Field Schools established as a result of USG assistance			
23	Number of MSMEs (including small holder farmers, lead farmers) linked to larger-scale firms as a result of USG assistance to the value chain.	New Indicators introduced for Phase II	NA	AMP proposes these five new indicators to measure the impact of new activities in the AMP implementation plan.
24	Number of individuals (beneficiaries) directly			

#	Current indicator description	Type of Change	Indicator status after the proposed change	Reasons for the proposed change
	benefiting from improving agricultural staple crops production			
25	# Of storage / cold storage / wholesale market facilities supported (through training, operationalization, repairs, maintenance, capacity increase or upgrade)			
26	Additional volume of storage / cold storage / wholesale market space functional as a result of AMP assistance (Cubic Meters)			
27	Number of farmers benefiting from improved irrigation system			

Annex 13: AMP Performance Indicators - Phase II

#	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	FY2022		Q1 FY2023 (Oct- Dec)		Phase II Total		Phase II Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
1	Value of domestic sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance	19,536,184	26,486,915	-	14,918,423	19,536,184	41,405,338	212%
	Males	18,559,375	24,737,536	-	14,816,170	18,559,375	39,553,706	213%
	Females	976,809	1,749,379	-	102,253	976,809	1,851,632	190%
2	EG.2.2-1 Number of firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance to export	61	72	-	-	61	72	118%
	Males	52	67	-	-	52	67	129%
	Females	9	5	-	-	9	5	55%
3	EG.3-9 Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created with USG assistance	759	722	37	162	796	884	111%
	Males	701	722	37	162	738	884	120%
	Females	58	-	-	-	58	-	0%
4	Number of individuals trained in agriculture sector productivity, business performance improvement or food security training	9,180	10,259	-	1,810	9,180	12,069	131%
	Males	8,615	9,526	-	1,730	8,615	11,256	131%
	Females	565	733	-	80	565	813	144%
5	Percentage of participants in U.S. Government-assisted projects designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (age 15–29)	20%	28%	20%	17%	20%	27%	136%
	Males	15%	23%	15%	15%	15%	22%	150%
	Females	5%	4%	5%	2%	5%	25%	96%

#	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	FY2022		Q1 FY2023 (Oct- Dec)		Phase II Total		Phase II Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
6	9.2e-1. Proportion of female participation in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credits, income or employment)	5%	12.8%	5%	9%	5%	12%	237%
7	Number of hectares with increased high value crop production as a result of USG programs	667	828	-	95	667	923	139%
	Males	666	828	-	95	666	923	139%
	Females	-	-	-	-	0	0	0%
8	5.1.1.c. Number of farmers growing high-value crops as a result of USG assistance	2,218	1,932	737	220	2,955	2,152	73%
	Males	2,218	1,932	737	220	2,955	2,152	73%
	Females	-	-	0	0	0	0	0%
9	EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance.	3,670	1,932	1,738	220	5,408	2,152	40%
	Males	3,560	1,932	1,534	220	5,094	2,152	42%
	Females	110	-	204	0	314	0	0%
10	Value of new loans to agribusinesses facilitated by USG interventions (USD)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
11	Number of households benefited by agriculture and alternative development interventions in targeted areas	11,761	13,583	-	6,198	11,761	19,781	168%
	Males	11,187	11,908	-	5,660	11,187	17,568	157%
	Females	574	1,675	-	538	574	2,213	385%
12	Number of Farmers Field Schools established as a result of USG assistance	255	539	-	85	255	624	245%

#	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	FY2022		Q1 FY2023 (Oct- Dec)		Phase II Total		Phase II Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
	Males	199	359	-	80	199	439	220%
	Females	56	180	-	5	56	185	333%
13	Number of domestic traders/businesses invested in agribusiness development (processing and packaging, cool storage, transportation, new technology and etc.)	40	42	-	58	40	100	250%
	Males	39	37	-	42	39	79	205%
	Females	1	5	-	16	1	21	1474%
14	Value of new investment leveraged by the agribusinesses for value added products as a result of USG activities	150,000	79,526	-	272,001	150,000	351,527	234%
	Males	142,500	78,379	-	214,434	142,500	292,813	205%
	Females	7,500	1,147	-	57,567	7,500	58,714	783%
15	Number of MSMEs (including small holder farmers, lead farmers) linked to larger-scale firms as a result of USG assistance to the value chain.	2,000	2,182	-	378	2,000	2,560	128%
	Males	1,900	2,131	-	378	1,900	2,509	132%
	Females	100	51	-	0	100	51	51%
16	Number of individuals (beneficiaries) directly benefiting from improving agricultural staple crops production	2,000	4,303	-	2,452	2,000	6,755	338%
	Males	1,900	3,366	-	2,010	1,900	5,376	283%
	Females	100	937	-	442	100	1,379	1379%
17	# of storage / cold storage / wholesale market facilities supported (through training, operationalization, repairs, maintenance, capacity increase or upgrade)	20	7	13	42	33	49	148%
	Males	20	6	12	34	32	40	124%
	Females	-	1	1	8	1	9	1385%

#	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	FY2022		Q1 FY2023 (Oct- Dec)		Phase II Total		Phase II Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
18	Additional volume of storage / cold storage / wholesale market space functional as a result of AMP assistance (Cubic Meters)	4,000	6,699	-	25,599	4,000	32,298	807%
	Males	4,000	6,507	-	4,406	4,000	10,913	273%
	Females	-	192	-	21,193	0	21,385	
19	Number of farmers benefiting from improved irrigation system	1500	-	1500	1,500	3,000	1,500	50%
	Males	1500	-	1500	1,500	3,000	1,500	50%
	Females	-	-	-	0	0	0	

Annex 14: AMP Performance Indicators - Phase III

No	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	Q2 FY2023 (Jan - March)		Q3 FY2023 (Apr - June)		Q4 FY2023 (Jul - Sep)		Total Phase III		Phase III Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
1	Value of domestic sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance	113,085	254,461	904,678	346,111	113,085	147,956	1,130,847	748,528	66%
	Males	84,814	0	678,508	171,316	84,814	45,000	848,135	216,316	26%
	Females	28,271	254,461	226,169	174,795	28,271	102,956	282,712	532,213	188%
2	EG.2.2-1 Number of firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance to export	5	24	14	30	36	3	55	57	104%
	Males	4	7	11	7	2	1	16	15	92%
	Females	1	17	4	23	34	2	39	42	108%
3	EG.3-9 Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created with USG assistance	595	602	170	-	111	68	876	670	76%
	Males	536	586	153	-	99	41	788	627	80%
	Females	60	16	17	-	12	27	89	43	49%
4	Number of individuals trained in agriculture sector productivity, business performance improvement or food security training	1,407	2,001	4,526	4,086	1,611	1,813	7,544	7,900	105%
	Males	1,165	1,281	3,725	4,026	1,318	1,690	6,412	6,997	113%
	Females	242	720	802	60	293	123	1,132	903	68%
5	Percentage of participants in U.S. Government-assisted projects designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (age 15–29)	20%	18%	20%	22%	20%	9%	20%	16%	82%
	Males	15%	12%	15%	9%	15%	5%	15%	10%	58%
	Females	5%	6%	5%	13%	5%	4%	5%	6%	153%

No	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	Q2 FY2023 (Jan - March)		Q3 FY2023 (Apr - June)		Q4 FY2023 (Jul - Sep)		Total Phase III		Phase III Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
6	9.2e-1. Proportion of female participation in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credits, income or employment)	25%	23%	25%	45%	25%	36%	25%	35%	139%
7	Number of hectares with increased high value crop production as a result of USG programs	747	693	-	-	-	-	747	693	93%
	Males	635	674	-	-	-	-	635	674	106%
	Females	112	19	-	-	-	-	112	19	17%
8	5.1.1c. Number of farmers growing high-value crops as a result of USG assistance	1,050	1,510	-	-	-	-	1,050	1,510	144%
	Males	893	1,430	-	-	-	-	893	1,430	160%
	Females	158	80	-	-	-	-	158	80	51%
9	EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance.	1,097	1,510	1,341	1,346	-	-	2,438	2,856	117%
	Males	933	1,430	1,140	1,346	-	-	2,072	2,776	134%
	Females	165	80	201	-	-	-	366	80	22%
10	Value of new loans to agribusinesses facilitated by USG interventions (USD)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11	Number of households benefited by agriculture and alternative development interventions in targeted areas	2,249	3,548	1,249	7,772	1,499	3,417	4,997	14,737	295%
	Males	1,911	2,726	1,062	4,258	1,274	2,466	4,247	9,450	222%
	Females	337	822	187	3,514	225	951	750	5,287	705%

No	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	Q2 FY2023 (Jan - March)		Q3 FY2023 (Apr - June)		Q4 FY2023 (Jul - Sep)		Total Phase III		Phase III Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
12	Number of Farmers Field Schools established as a result of USG assistance	138	142	405	411	135	145	675	698	103%
	Males	140	138	365	411	122	145	608	694	111%
	Females	2	4	41	-	14	-	68	4	7%
13	Number of domestic traders/businesses invested in agribusiness development (processing and packaging, cool storage, transportation, new technology and etc.)	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	13	
	Males	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	
	Females	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	
14	Value of new investment leveraged by the agribusinesses for value added products as a result of USG activities	-	95,923	-	-	-	-	-	95,923	
	Males	-	88,473	-	-	-	-	-	88,473	
	Females	-	7,450	-	-	-	-	-	7,450	
15	Number of MSMEs (including small holder farmers, lead farmers) linked to larger-scale firms as a result of USG assistance to the value chain.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16	Number of individuals (beneficiaries) directly benefiting from improving agricultural staple crops production	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

No	Indicator (and disaggregation by gender)	Q2 FY2023 (Jan - March)		Q3 FY2023 (Apr - June)		Q4 FY2023 (Jul - Sep)		Total Phase III		Phase III Achievement
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
17	# of storage / cold storage / wholesale market facilities supported (through training, operationalization, repairs, maintenance, capacity increase or upgrade)	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	
	Males	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	
	Females	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
18	Additional volume of storage / cold storage / wholesale market space functional as a result of AMP assistance (Cubic Meters)	-	9,564	-	-	-	-	-	9,564	
	Males	-	7,484	-	-	-	-	-	7,484	
	Females	-	2,080	-	-	-	-	-	2,080	
19	Number of farmers benefiting from improved irrigation system	-	-	300	42	1,200	1,291	1,500	1,333	89%
	Males	-	-	300	42	1,200	1,291	1,500	1,333	89%
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Annex 15: Environmental Monitoring Reports

Province	Canal/Kareze	Incentives	Grants
Kabul			G50-198 Dast-e-Mehrabani Humanitarian Relief and Charity Organization
			G53-229 Newi Land Star Worldwide Ltd
			G54-248 Community Development and Research Organization
			G54-248 Community Development and Research Organization
			G70-295 Organization for Capacity Building and Supporting the Enter Prnuriel Community
			67-163 Bibi Najia (trading as Sunbol Food Processing Company)
			65-203 Ash Borida (Panja Chenar)
			69-294 Women Organization for Movement of Education Nationwide
			68-288 Humanitarian Organization for Sustainable Actions in Afghanistan (HOSAA)
			Grant G80-315 Sadaf Welfare Technical Service Organization (SWTSO).
Ghazni	Kushk Irrigation canal	Anar I075	G41-166 Anar Agricultural Services
			G44-167 Anar Agricultural Services
			73-211 Omid Ghaznaviyaan Food Production Company
			79-210 Fatima (Trading as Roya Food Processing Company)
Logar	Shakh Qand Irrigation canal		G40-182 Organization of Rural Development and Rehabilitation (ORDR)
Paktika	Kanni canal		G48-201 Asia Minor Agricultural Livestock & Logistic Services
Paktia			G38-164 Organization of Rural Development and Rehabilitation (ORDR)
Herat		1007 Faisal Fahim Ltd	
		I043 Mahmood Akrami Ltd	G3-011 Kabura Saffron Agricultural Processing & Packaging Company
		I049 Brotheran Mohmand Food Industrial Co.	G5-025 Shaikh Marouf Karoukhi Agricultural Seed Company
		I052 Pashton Zarghon saffron Kar women Ltd	G12-035 Women Saffron Cultivator Association

Province	Canal/Kareze	Incentives	Grants
		I061 Akaam Zaeefi Trading Company	
		1007 Faisal Fahim Ltd	
		I056 - Herat Gold Saffron Production, Processing & Packaging Co - Processing Hall/warehouse	
Balkh			G19-036 Sayara Sabz Agriculture and Livestock Services Company
			G31-175 Karwan Sabz Agricultural & Livestock Service Company
			G34-180 Mobin Tawhid Agricultural and Livestock Company
			G43-185 Bukhdy Bami Agriculture and Livestock Services Company
			G46-197 Banwan Tawana Agricultural & Livestock Company
			G2-005 Elite Development Counterparts Afghanistan Organization
Zabul	Enngi Kareze and Canal		G20-069 Mobin Tawhid Agricultural & Livestock Services Company
			G29-172 Faiz Agriculture Ltd
Kandahar			G32-183 Sarsabz Hewad Zarati Company
	Shakarina Irrigation Canal		G28-091 Bilal Saeed
	Sabza Kareze		G42-170 Sarsabz Hewad Zarati Company
			59-178 Kandahar Household Processing Community
			63-177 Agricultural Jams & Pickles Processing.
			G16-070 Women Processing Community Group
			64-171 Koranai Dodai
Nangarhar			Grant G10-010 - Afghan Red Pomegranate.
			G30-173 Khiwa Women Food Materials Production & Process Company
			G33-179 Murtaza Noorzai Foods Production Company
			G35-184 Mastoraat Food Materials Processing and Production Group
			G36-188 Shinwari Live Stock & Agriculture Services Ltd
			G37-191 Behsoud Bahar Food Material Production Factory
			G30-173 Khiwa Women Food Materials Production & Process Company
			G52-219 Habib Sediq Naizai Foods Appliance Product
		61-193 Nadia Jam and Pickle Production Company	

Province	Canal/Kareze	Incentives	Grants
			58-174 Bibi Khadija Social Community
			Grant G60-190 Sola Agricultural Products Manufacturing Company
Wardak			G56-277 Resilience, Emergency and Humanitarian Aid Organization (REHAO)
			G47-200 Asia Minor Agricultural Livestock & Logistic Services

Note: The following grants did not require an EMR: G57-328, G78-241, G77-231, G72-196, G68-294, G74-213, G75-266, G76-169, G71-189, G62-168

Annex 16: Selected Success Stories

Weekly Tweets

With the humanitarian crisis facing Afghanistan, USAID is helping farmers boost household income with value-added processing. Apricot farmers are currently being trained in sulfur-drying techniques so they can sell dried apricots this summer in the local market at a 50% markup.



Afghan women play an important economic role in rural farm families. USAID continues to provide support to women farmers with training in advanced horticultural methods, enabling them to better feed their families and generate income in the local market.



USAID is standing behind Afghan farmers by providing training and inputs that will increase production of staple crops throughout the country. We are working to ensure that these crops reach domestic markets, building the livelihoods of Afghanistan's most vulnerable people.



Afghan grape farmers supported with trellising by USAID will see dramatic results this year over traditional growing techniques. Trellising doubles output and significantly improves grape quality, bringing a higher price at local markets.



USAID supported more than 40 Afghan agribusinesses at this week's Kabul AgFair. The event generated exposure for growing businesses and gave a boost to domestic sales.



USAID training and incentives enable Afghan agribusinesses to sell value-added products in local markets - greater livelihoods for business owners, safer products for consumers.



43 USAID-supported agribusinesses inked 2.6 million AFN in deals at Kabul AgFair. Dried fruit, saffron and honey were in high demand. The event increased visibility for Afghan products and created linkages for future deals.



Qarizada Co. came away from last week's AgFair with 200,000 AFN in sales and new clients in key northern markets. USAID's AMP program helped them participate for the first time at AgFair, which resulted in the sale of thousands of cans of tomato paste.



USAID is providing graphic and marketing support to Afghan agribusinesses to help them improve their brand identity. Better logos, websites and marketing materials will help them better compete with imports on the domestic market.



USAID is equipping Afghan farmers to meet the food challenges of the future by helping them convert to high-value fruit orchards. Thousands of saplings were recently distributed as part of a program to create new orchards and vineyards under the AMP program.



USAID continues to support Afghanistan's proud women-owned agribusinesses. Training in processing, food safety, business skills and B2B linkages is enabling these businesses to supply the demands of the domestic market for dried fruit, spices and other high-value products.



Afghan saffron is a crop largely harvested and processed by women. USAID provides mentoring and business training to women-owned saffron firms to build their business and improve the lives of the thousands of women in the field who depend on them.



USAID is addressing long-term security needs in Afghanistan by establishing high-value orchards. In the past quarter alone we've planted nearly half a million fruit saplings so that farmers can transition from cereal crops.



New orchards can take up to seven years to bear fruit. To address immediate food security needs in Afghanistan, USAID provides training and inputs so that farmers can intercrop their orchards with nutrition-rich vegetables to feed their families and sell in the local market.



#USAID remains committed to Afghanistan during the food security crisis. We recently doubled the number of rural districts served by our Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP), where activities range from establishing fruit orchards to awarding machinery grants.



Technical training by USAID ensures that Afghan farmers are applying best practices and maximizing their harvest potential. In the past quarter alone we trained nearly 2,000 farmers in eight provinces under the Agriculture Marketing Program.



Knowledge is key to creating food security in Afghanistan. #USAID is working in eight provinces to provide advanced technical training to farmers through Farmer Field Schools under the Agriculture Marketing Program.



Saffron requires a sizeable workforce traditionally composed of women. The #USAID AMP program is working to support community-based spice processing in Herat Province with grants that will create income and employment opportunities for women-owned agribusinesses.



USAID-supported farmers in Nangarhar Province are currently enjoying a bumper harvest, with many reaping the benefits of orchards planted by USAID five years ago. See video for a quick visit to Abdul Raziq's peach orchard near Jalalabad. [video link]

Nangarhar peach farmers have received a full range of USAID support from designing and planting their orchards to technical training aimed at maximizing quality and output. Vegetables planted between the rows provide added food and income while the saplings mature.



#USAID continues to support women business leaders in Afghanistan through the Agriculture Marketing Program. A recent business development workshop in Kabul introduced women agribusiness owners to concepts of brand marketing, accounting and other fundamental business skills. [link to video]

#USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program has launched a grant and incentive program that will provide much needed equipment to dozens of food processors and other agribusinesses. These grants will give businesses the ability to add value to products and improve shelf life.



#USAID continues to train tomorrow's Afghan business leaders, incorporating women and youth into all program activities. A training in Mazar by the Agriculture Marketing Program trained participants in a wide range of business skills.



#USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program recently awarded a grant to Nutrition and Education International to support 1,500 smallholder soybean farmers. Farmers will receive seed and fertilizer as well as vital training to boost production during this critical time.



Pears are shown ripening in a Balkh orchard. It was established in 2020 under USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program, with training in pruning, fertilizing and intercropping. With the income from this first harvest, the farmer says he will add rooms to his house for his children.



USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program rolled out business trainings this past week for more than 30 agribusiness leaders in Balkh Province. Trainings were held for both men and women in topics such as business negotiation and product development.



#USAID has distributed more than 1.2 million saplings to establish new fruit orchards in Afghanistan under the Agriculture Marketing Program. Follow-up technical visits are critical to ensuring orchard survival, and this week AMP's team visited more than 700 orchards.



Farmers prepare for a welcome harvest of pears planted by #USAID in Afghanistan. In recent years USAID has established thousands of orchards to help farmers shift from low-value crops to lucrative fruits, nuts and spices.



These grapevines in southern Afghanistan were planted and trellised by #USAID in 2014. Trellising doubles the output of grapes over traditional methods and thereby increases household income for Afghan farmers.



The pears in this Balkh orchard are the first fruits of an orchard establishment program implemented by USAID's Agricultural Marketing Program. Farmers receive field technical assistance to ensure a healthy, abundant harvest.



The #USAID Agriculture Marketing Program works closely with Afghan fruit farmers to ensure that they're utilizing the latest harvest techniques. The program links them with buyers and provides field technical support to help them negotiate climatic challenges.



#USAID grants and incentives are making a difference for farmers in Afghanistan. This week, some 200 Herat farmers received training and inputs to grow kidney beans, a nutritionally rich crop that will feed their families and bring sales in the local market.



14 agribusinesses exhibited at last week's Akhtar Bazaar at the Hotel Intercontinental in Kabul with support from USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program. The event provided an opportunity for businesses to forge linkages and generate new customers.



USAID grants to agribusinesses through the Agriculture Marketing Program is helping rebuild essential infrastructure, such as the processing center shown in these before/after photos. The improvements will enable them to deliver a higher quality product.



USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program remains committed to improving the lives of Afghan women. An 18-day training in dried fruit and nut processing in Mazar provided women with the tools to work at home and generate greater household income.



Greenhouses extend the crop season for Afghan farmers and increase profitability. The first completed greenhouses by USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program are already yielding bountiful harvests, such as these cucumbers being packaged for local sale.



USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program is addressing the food security crisis in Afghanistan by building links between farmers and buyers. These Ghazni potato and apple farmers recently signed a \$600,000 deal with Herat wholesale buyers.



Afghan food processors face stiff competition from cheap regional imports. USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program provides businesses with graphic and marketing support so their products will stand out on supermarket shelves.



USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program is funding interventions to improve agricultural infrastructure and productivity across Afghanistan. This past week, one women-owned agribusiness received machinery to boost saffron production.



Other USAID grant packages are aimed at combating the food security crisis by boosting production of nutritionally rich foods. In this photo, farmers from Balkh receive training in producing mung beans.



In June, USAID's AMP program supported a fertilizer distribution to 24 potato farmers in Bamiyan. With the harvest now underway, those farmers are reporting a 78% increase in yields compared to farmers who did not use fertilizer.



USAID provided processing tools to a woman-owned jam and pickle company in Balkh Province. Though the incentive was only valued at \$2,115 it will increase production to a level that will more than double the company's weekly revenue.



These before/after photos illustrate #USAID's work to improve the food safety conditions for Afghan fruit processors. A renewable energy system will also save this company \$400 monthly on its electric bills.



Greenhouses constructed by #USAID's AMP program are netting additional income for cucumber farmers in Paktia and Kunduz provinces. The structures will allow the farmers to extend the crop season into the winter months.



Soaring seed and fertilizer costs make it difficult for Afghan farmers to yield a profit. Jawed was one of 60 farmers who participated in a #USAID grant to help sesame growers. This included a variety of sesame seed that yields 70% more than typical varieties.



#USAID is rebuilding an important canal that will irrigate hundreds of new hectares of farmland in Paktia Province. The stone masonry construction is designed to last for generations.



#USAID is helping Afghan households cope with rising food prices and shortages through home gardening. Last week, 1,000 women and youth participated in a grant that provided training and materials for creating backyard vegetable gardens.



#USAID is working to make Afghan farms more profitable. Last year, we helped Abdul Mohammad establish a pear orchard with more than 400 trees. Once mature, they will bring in 2 mil AFN annually.



Farmers in five Afghan provinces are now planting winter vegetables in greenhouses received with #USAID support. These will bring post-season income at a time when most farms are dormant.



Raisin processing firms provide jobs for Afghan women. With #USAID support, one processor in Mazar is now able to employ 200 women thanks to an incentive package that provided much-needed solar power and other upgrades.



A #USAID grant provided training and support for 40 Afghan farmers of cereal crops. The farmers received a home grain silo and knowledge in how to prepare the land, protect against pests and store their crops for maximum profits.



Support by #USAID is helping Afghans weather the growing food security crisis, including Khalid Shirzad's jam and juice factory in Jalalabad where much-needed renovations will help increase output by 40%.



Winter means rolling blackouts through much of Afghanistan. A recent #USAID grant provided a 40kW off-grid solar power system for a major Kandahar agribusiness, ensuring that the lights stay on and production continues during this challenging season.



#USAID is getting water to thirsty Afghan farmers in Paktia Province. The 3.5 km Kani Kulaw canal will improve overall irrigation efficiency by 50%, ensuring that water gets to area farms and orchards.



Women continue to be a focus for #USAID's work in Afghanistan. We're working to ensure that women have a role in income generation and keeping food on the table, such as last week's training for 150 female potato farmers in Nangarhar Province.



#USAID is helping Afghan farmers increase production through mechanization. This paddy cultivator, awarded as an incentive to a Herat agribusiness, will increase rice production dramatically over hand sowing.



This vacuum packaging machinery, provided to an Afghan agribusiness under a #USAID grant, will improve the shelf life of packaged dried fruit and nuts, protect the product from insects and disease and boost revenue.



#USAID has planted thousands of fruit and nut orchards in Afghanistan. While those orchards mature, our training in intercropping enables Afghan farm families to feed themselves with nutrition-rich vegetables.



More than 40 drip irrigation systems have been completed by #USAID in drought-prone provinces of Afghanistan, ensuring that water reaches crops with minimal waste.



Lack of continuous electrical power is a persistent problem for Afghan agribusinesses. A #USAID grant enabled a potato chip producer to install a 28kw solar power system to run its production line, ending its reliance on the unreliable local power grid.



#USAID continues its support of businesses that provide employment for Afghan women. We recently helped a Herat agribusiness renovate its processing facility, providing a safe and hygienic workspace for its largely female workforce.



With an eye toward the spring planting season, #USAID is surveying Afghan nurseries for sourcing the nearly 800,000 saplings that will be needed in planting new orchards.



After establishing new orchards and vineyards, #USAID technical teams meet with hundreds of farmers weekly to reinforce training in good agricultural practices and ensure that these farms are producing at their full potential.



Despite frigid conditions throughout Afghanistan, #USAID continued farmer training throughout the winter to ensure a healthy and vigorous spring budding. These Nangarhar farmers are being trained in winter pruning.



#USAID supports greenhouse installation in several provinces of Afghanistan, extending the planting season and providing increased income for Afghan families.



#USAID is working with Afghan agribusinesses to build their brand. Better graphics and packaging helps saffron processors compete with better-heeled imports.



Female entrepreneurs in Afghanistan provide goods for supermarkets in remote areas and jobs for local women. #USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program supports these women with tools, training and essential machinery.



#USAID is helping Afghan women feed their families and earn added household income right in their own backyards. Kitchen garden training for these Zabul women was accompanied by a full range of seeds, fertilizer and tools.



Buyers really do judge a book by its cover. #USAID provides design support so that Afghan agribusiness processors have professional logos and labels that can compete with imported products.



Food security in Afghanistan starts at the farm level. This peach orchard in Parwan Province was planted by #USAID. The farmer has received ongoing technical support to ensure a successful and lucrative harvest.



#USAID supported 10 exhibitors last week at the Afghanistan Int'l Exhibition in Kabul. The event drew 150k guests and provided buyer linkages for businesses like Kawsar, a woman-owned processing company, that netted a deal for tomato paste.



Each week, hundreds of Afghan farmers receive horticultural training under #USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program. Best practices in the field means better crop yields and increased food security for the Afghan people.



#USAID's kitchen garden training enables Afghan women to contribute to the household's food supply and sell additional vegetables in the local market. The participants receive all necessary inputs and complete training for a bountiful backyard harvest.



With #USAID support, Afghan women are feeding their families from their own backyards and selling the surplus in the local market. 40-yr-old Nafisa uses the training and inputs to feed her family of 12. "Eventually this will enable us to meet all of our expenses."



In an economy where imported products are often cheaper than domestic, #USAID is helping put Afghan products back on supermarket shelves. 15 Minimum Supermarket locations are now selling products by #USAID client processors, who received marketing support to promote their goods.



Work begins at an irrigation canal funded by #USAID. The canal will bring water to 500 hectares of thirsty farmland in Ghazni Province.



This spring, #USAID distributed nearly 400,000 saplings to establish 1,500 orchards. Last week, those farmers received fertilizer to ensure optimum growth for their high-value fruit trees.



AMP supported greenhouses are currently engaged in vegetable production. AMP supported clients reported a total of \$22,291 in domestic sales this week with \$1,159 of those sales specifically coming from AMP supported greenhouse sales.



AMP supported a Kabul based women-owned organization to conduct kitchen gardening training and distribute inputs and tools to 87 female farmers. The training focused on soil preparation, cultivation, and proper tomato harvesting techniques. Each farmer received tomato seedlings, fertilizer, and basic kitchen gardening tools.



Afghan women continue to excel in agribusiness and employ other women. USAID food processing grants enable their businesses to move from traditional methods of food preparation into machinery-driven preparation that delivers higher output and increased incomes.



USAID provided tools and training that will enable 40 Afghan families to grow high-value mushrooms. This provides food at home and surplus income in the local market.



Global Platforms

The article below was drafted by AMP for publication by USAID on its online platform at Medium.com. The article went live shortly after the end of the reporting period.

Link: <https://medium.com/usaaid-2030/rooted-in-resilience-5d53b57be3c3>

Rooted in Resilience: How Afghanistan's farmers defy the odds



A farmer holds the first fruits of the harvest season. / USAID

The world is facing a global food security crisis — a crisis magnified by climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing conflicts, including Putin's unprovoked war against Ukraine. By the end of 2021, 193 million people faced hunger and food insecurity due to the combined effects of recent global shocks — an increase of more than 40 percent over two years.

Underscoring the urgency of this crisis, President Biden [announced](#) during the United Nations General Assembly over \$2.9 billion in new assistance from the U.S. Government, including \$2.14 billion in new commitments from USAID, to address the immediate and long-term effects of the global food security crisis.

USAID is focused on making sure people have access to food regardless of where they live. In Afghanistan, home to about 40 million people, [nearly 23 million](#) Afghans are food insecure and [up to 6 million](#) could face emergency conditions as early as November.

Here, in a country where the majority of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, USAID's deep commitment to the people of Afghanistan continues and our efforts to improve food security begin with the men and women who dedicate their lives to serving their communities: farmers.

Afghanistan's Farmers

Decades of conflict, severe drought, restrictive financial regulations, and limited access to markets and resources such as high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and new technologies stand in the way of Afghan farmers, posing what seem to be insurmountable challenges.

Many farmers grow low-value crops like wheat, and in some cases illegal crops like opium poppy, since higher-value crops such as apples, apricots, almonds, pomegranates, and grapes require significantly more time to grow and their quality depends on inputs that most farmers cannot afford on their own.

But Afghanistan's farmers — rooted in resilience and dedicated to feeding their families, communities, and country — defy the odds. They are not giving up and they are not alone.

USAID's Enduring Commitment to the People of Afghanistan

USAID is helping to improve [food security and nutrition](#) and avert a deeper humanitarian crisis by giving farmers and their families — including women-headed households, herders, and smallholder farmers — training, tools, and ultimately knowledge to withstand recurring shocks so they can provide for their families.

In Kandahar, one grape farmer is enjoying the fruits of USAID's assistance. He converted a fallow piece of land to a lucrative grape vineyard in 2014 with USAID support. He has received uninterrupted technical assistance since then.

Many farmers grow their grapes on earthen mounds, a tradition that dates back millennia. This puts the grapes, however, in direct contact with moisture and pests and reduces the amount of sunlight that reaches the fruit. With USAID assistance, farmers learn that modern trellising avoids these problems.



Trellising uses concrete posts and steel wire to raise the vines above the ground. With proper pruning and care, farmers have seen their harvests double.

When neighbors saw trellising being installed in the Kandahar grape farmer's vineyard, they warned him that his grapes would be damaged in high winds. Instead, he saw his grapes double in output after the vines were lifted off the ground and exposed to more direct sunlight. Once a local retailer, he recently closed his shop in Kandahar City so that he could devote himself entirely to his vineyard.

Another grape farmer in Balkh is benefiting from trellising, too. "I saw the benefits of trellising at another farm and I knew this would make my vineyard more profitable," he says.

When USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program surveyed his farm land as part of the trellis pre-installation process, they found that it lacked sufficient irrigation. After installing a solar irrigation pump, his harvest yields have dramatically increased.

"My farm was a desert before [the program] came here," he said. "In two years, it has become a paradise."

With the income from this year's harvest, he plans to refurbish nearby bridges destroyed by war and build a wall around his vineyard for protection.



Sowing Seeds of Progress

These experiences represent just two farmers who have seen their harvests and incomes grow slowly over time. Still, millions of people face an uncertain future with hunger, malnutrition, and continuing violence threatening their health and wellbeing.

USAID recognizes this immense challenge and has worked to sow seeds of progress in Afghanistan. Since August 2021, USAID has helped nearly 2,000 farmers across Afghanistan grow high-value crops, increasing their harvests and income. More still needs to be done to avert a catastrophe.

USAID remains deeply committed to the people of Afghanistan and is working to ensure that all Afghans get the food and resources they need to weather this unprecedented time.

USAID Facebook Posts

Afghan Exporters Ink Deals at Uzbek Trade Show



Representatives from Mohammad Hashim Husain Zada Ltd meet with a supermarket buyer to negotiate a potential deal.

USAID recently supported two Balkh-based agribusinesses at the 20th International Exhibition on Food, Ingredients and Food Technologies (UzFood 2021). Uzbekistan is an important hub for buyers from Russia and Central Asia, and the event enabled the businesses to put their high-value dried fruits and spices before an international audience.

More than 122 exhibitors from 21 countries participated, with attendance by more than 4,000 visitors. While attendance was lower than usual owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the two agribusinesses were able to generate \$306,231 in signed deals for cumin seeds, raisins and licorice root.

Building Afghan Brand Awareness



The "Afghan ... Naturally" logo is shown at the InterFood Azerbaijan trade show in June 2021.

USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP) is working to build the profile of Afghan horticultural products. As many exporters lack the resources to develop a professional logo, promotional materials and a quality online presence, AMP works with these agribusinesses individually to ensure that they put their best foot forward among discerning international buyers.

Earlier this year, AMP also rolled out the "Afghan ... Naturally" brand for the high-profile Gulfood exhibition in Dubai. The logo was made available license-free to all Afghan exporters as a universally recognizable brand identity for Afghan goods. It was featured on booth graphics, promotional brochures, facemasks and product samples.

Through these efforts, AMP hopes to raise the profile of Afghanistan's high-value fruits, nuts, spices and other exportable products, thereby increasing sales and improving livelihoods.

Women's B2B - Herat

USAID's Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP) is helping open up new business opportunities for Afghan agribusinesses. Last week, AMP arranged a business-to-business meeting in Herat to introduce 16 women-owned agribusinesses to a number of local merchants. The meeting provided a platform for the women to showcase their dried fruit, nuts and saffron.

One local buyer was Mohammed Shafi, owner of the Asia's Heart chain of supermarkets. "I was pleased to see that the products are hygienically produced and nicely packaged, perfect for our supermarkets," he said. "We are ready to sign contracts with any of these ladies."



Online Training

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought a halt to many USAID activities in 2020, the Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP) turned a challenge into an opportunity. AMP found that by moving its training programs to an online platform, the program would be able to increase its outreach beyond the limits of in-person seminars. Its online training modules help agribusinesses learn basic accounting principles, food safety, hygiene and other skills.

Sayed Hameedullah Naqshbandi, Food Safety Officer for Tak Dry Fruit, delivered the AMP online courses to more than 85 of his employees. "The trainings were well contextualized to fit our needs, and more importantly, were available anytime."



Gulfood 2021

With today's opening of Gulfood 2021, the world's largest food and beverage trade show, 29 Afghan agricultural exporters began showcasing their products for buyers from around the world. A ribbon-cutting formally inaugurated the Afghanistan Pavilion, funded by USAID. This is the eleventh consecutive year that USAID has supported the participation of Afghan traders at Gulfood.



Mahmoud Mahmoud, founder and CEO of Afghan Red Pomegranate, is one of 29 Afghan exporters exhibiting at the Gulfood food and beverage show in Dubai. Three years ago at Gulfood, he negotiated a large contract with Nestle, the world's largest food & beverage company, for concentrated pomegranate juice. "My biggest customer found me at Gulfood," he said. "It was a total game changer."





USAID | AFGHANISTAN

SNAPSHOT

Small Loan Yields Big Returns for Afghan Woman

USAID provides loan facilitation for new business startups needing money to grow.



Photo: USAID/AMP

Masuma Alizada, founder of Rozhan Dried Fruits, offers dried fruit chips in state-of-the-art packaging for both domestic and export sale.

USAID supports the role of Afghan women as agricultural exporters and business entrepreneurs.

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

When twenty-two-year-old Masuma Alizada set out to start her own dried fruit business, the Afghan banks she met with had few loan options for new startups. "Some banks had loans, but they wanted forty or sixty percent interest," she said.

With support from her family, she raised the money needed to get Rozhan Dried Fruits off the ground. But to realize her dream of becoming an international exporter of Afghan dried fruit, she knew she would need help.

USAID facilitates a loan program that lends a helping hand to women-owned businesses like Rozhan. Through its Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP), USAID works with Afghan banks to develop short-term loan packages at low interest rates. It then mentors the businesses in meeting the necessary requirements for obtaining a loan.

After working with AMP, Alizada was awarded a \$9,000 three-year loan at 5% interest. With the loan she will be able to purchase processing machinery so that she can significantly increase her output.

While agriculture is a male-dominated field in Afghanistan, women are playing an increasingly important role as exporters of high-value agricultural products. AMP is ensuring that those women receive the support they need to compete with larger, more established firms.

Alizada discovered dried fruit chips on Instagram, and realized there was a niche market for this little-known product on Afghan shelves. But her immediate family encouraged her to dream big and seek out the greater returns of export sales. Since her business started in 2020, she has been able to provide full-time jobs for five women and other ten jobs during peak season.

One of AMP's priorities is to link Afghan exporters with buyers at international trade shows, and Alizada is working to ramp up her production capacity so that she can showcase her products at events in India, the UAE and elsewhere in the region.

"Women in Afghanistan have trouble getting loans, buying land and entering into contracts," she said. "Even some friends and family said I should try something easier. Thanks to AMP, I can show them that anything is possible for Afghan women."