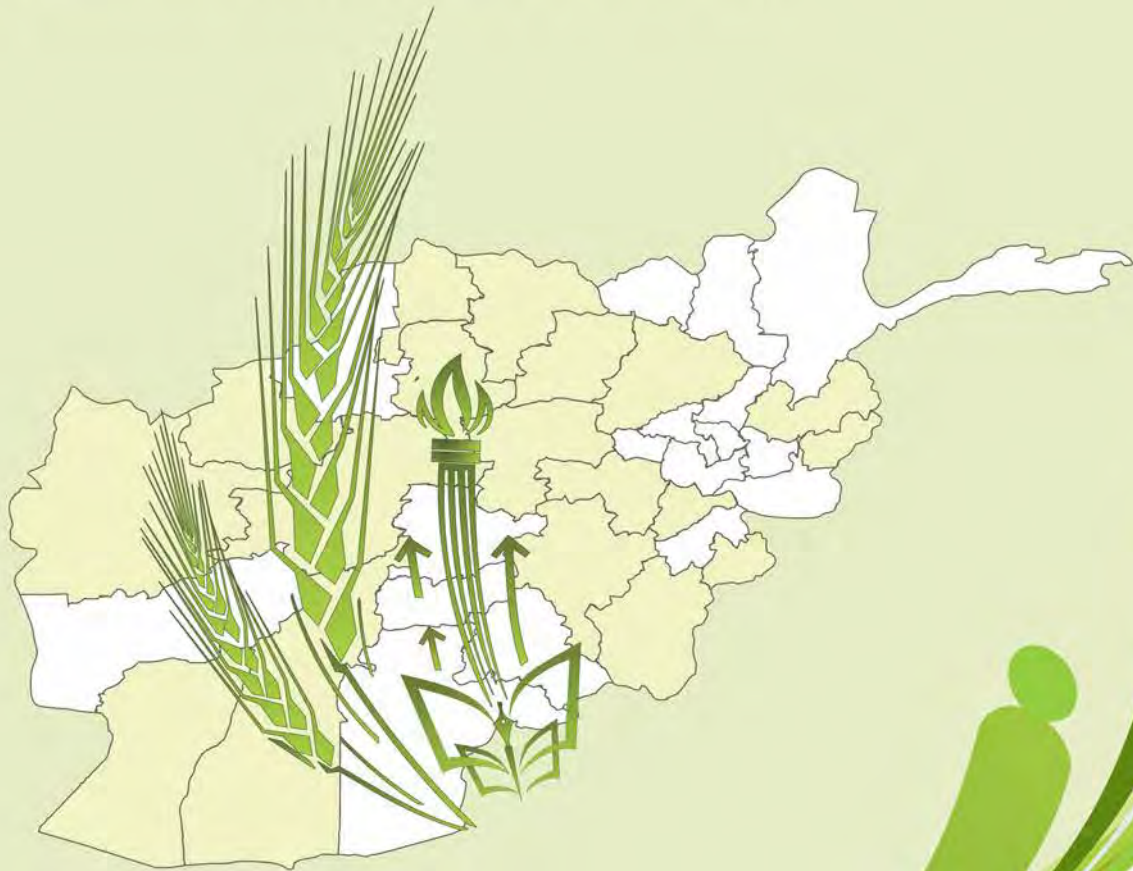




MONITORING REPORT OF
REGIONAL AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM -
SOUTH (RADP-S), KANDAHAR

Afghan Development Association

Taking Pride in Development & Rebuilding of
Afghanistan; Where We Put People First”



Monitoring Mission Conducted By:
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Date of Submission
21st May 2015

Introduction:

The Afghan Development Association (ADA), M&E and Internal Audit Unit planned to monitor all ongoing projects across the target provinces during 2015 on regular basis. According to this plan, a mission had been carried out to monitor the Regional Agricultural Development Program - South (RADP-S) project being implemented in Kandahar province.

Monitoring Team:

The monitoring team consisted of the following staff:

- Mr. A. Malik Rahmani; Monitoring, Evaluation and Internal Audit Unit Head
- Mr. Sharif Fayez; Donors Reporting and Projects Coordination Unit Head

Objectives of the Mission:

The main objectives of the mission were to:

- Know the progress of project
- Know the coordination mechanism between ADA/RADP-S with government and other stakeholders

Methodology of Monitoring:

The following steps were followed during the monitoring mission:

1. Study of the project documents and action plan
2. Individual meetings/ interviews with officials and beneficiaries
3. Site visit

Summary of the Mission:



A view of meeting with RADP-S Kandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan Provincial Directors and other field staff of Kandahar present at the meeting

The mission started from Kabul on 6th May 2015 to Kandahar province by air and completed on 9th May 2015. According to the plan a meeting was held with Project Director (Eng. Wali Khan) and other provincial staff at ADA Kandahar office to share the mission objectives with them and prepare an action plan for project site visit in Arghandab, Dand and Daman districts.

During the mission we held separate and joint meetings with project staff. The main objectives of the meetings were to hear about the progress of project activities, coordination with local authority, challenges against the project implementation, and future plan. Also the team visited five Demo Plots (two in Arghandab, Two in Dand and one in Daman district)

Project Background:

Afghan Development Association (ADA) as a Key Implementing Partner (KIP) with Chemonics in RADP-S project has been implementing the activities in three southern provinces including Kandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan. It's good to mention that this is the first time that ADA is implementing a big project in partnership (as KIP) with Chemonics.

The overall objective of the RADP-S project is "to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in the targeted areas of Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces. Focus will be on improving the production and productivity for targeted value chains to be selected from the wheat, high-value crop, and livestock sectors. This sustainable agricultural development program will support the

consolidation of licit economies to fuel economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation.” which will be achieved through proper activities mentioned in the proposal during the five year project period.

Activities during the monitoring mission:

According to the action plan during the mission two main activities have been done: -a) meetings held with “Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) – South project” director and other technical staff to know about the project progress and challenges and -b) site visit to Arghandab and Daman districts to observe the status of demo plots established for training of farmers in various villages..

Meetings held:

During the monitoring mission, a meeting was held with RADPS project staff including Director of Kandahar Province RADP-S project and Value Chain Specialists. Main agenda of the meeting was progress of the project, security situation of some demo plots, and the effect of late or no provision of equipment and materials by Chemonics on the project progress.

Project progress:

Progress of the project; the project progress was according to the plan. The main focus of the staff was conducting and completion of training workshops for farmers and establishment and planting of demonstration plots and follow up of the activities with lead farmers.

Demo Plots:

- 30 Demo plots which had been identified for demonstration activities were established and fruit trees sapling were planted and improved wheat seed (Darulaman-7) was cultivated at all demo Plots . 6 demonstration plots were established in each five targeted districts that included: Daman, Dand, Arghandab, Panjwai, and Zhari.



Demonstration Plot of Sher-i-Surkh village of Dand district of Kandahar

Farmers Training:

- The farmer’s training was in progress on regular basis and according to the plan. Total 3711 farmers were targeted to be trained in all targeted district in 6 (theoretical and practical) topics during the 12 months including (712 in Daman, 660 in Arghandab, 784 Panjwai, 794 in Dand and 761 in Zhari). It is worth to mention that the farmers are registered; therefore the average percentage of presence of farmers in the workshops was around 81% during the last months.

Gender Training:

- 600 women were targeted to be trained in Basic Nutrition in all five districts of Kandahar province, 100 women /district + 100 in Kandahar city. Up to date 503 women were trained and the training of 96 women were in pipeline (84% training was completed(100 women were trained in Daman,100 in Dand, 96 in Kandahar city, in Arghandab, 67 in Zhari and 70 in Panjwai)

Coordination with Stakeholders:

Coordination of the ADA/RADP-S staff was very good with all stakeholders especially with government related departments both at district and provincial levels most of the security and other issues were solved through coordination meetings. It is worth to mention that the relationship between ADA staff, community elders, and farmer's beneficiaries was good and the entire project related issues have been solved with joint efforts.

Site visit:

The monitoring team visited the following five Demo plots that were established in three districts including Arghandab, Daman and Dand:

Two Demo plots in two villages (Bagh-i-Sardi and langar) in Arghandab district. One demo plot in Shorandam village in Daman district and two demo plots were visited at Shir-i-Surkh and Arazi villages in Dand districts.

According to the observation all the demo plots were established in 2000 m² land and was divided into three part; including: Horticulture (planting of 53-56 sapling of different fruit trees) in one part of the demo, cultivated improved wheat seed (Darulaman 7) in 400 m² land was another part of the demo plots, also greenhouses were established at another part of all demo plots. It is worth to mention that Chemonics provided storage with stands for all greenhouses but the stands were not that strong to bear the load of 5000L water, the lead farmers were not happy with the stands.



All the demo farms were established in an identical shape and design. The growth of the wheat was very good but the growth rate of fruit tree saplings was around 70% in average and the dryness rate of pig sapling was more than others. It was expected that there is still chance for improvement of the growth rate of the sapling till end of the month of May 2015. The main reason of dryness was the late provision of saplings by Chemonics. The monitoring team did not see any tents erected at the demo farms., when the team asked the reason, the lead farmers and ADA staff told the team that the tents provided by Chemonics were of low qualify and even damaged at the time of delivery to ADA, therefore all the tents collapsed and were out of use after one month use.

Bagh-i- Sardi Demo Plot in Arghandab district

Total 93 sapling were planted; 53-56 as a demonstration orchard and 37-40 as a nursery at each demo plot that included: Apricot (Nari) Apricot (Charmaghzi), Almond (Starbayee Bakhmali), Almond (Cardinal), Peach (Flowerpot), Plum (Pormusa), Plum (Grangaej), Figs (Labonese), Figs (Vista), Pomegranate (Wonderful), Pomegranate (Early wonderful) Grapes (Kishmishi- Kandahary), Grapes (Haita), Grapes (Shendokhani)

Main challenges:

1. Long process of Procurement or late provision of equipment and materials for project by Chemonics was the main challenge that may affect the project. For instance late provision of sapling for Demo-plots will affect the growth of the sapling.

2. Provision of low quality equipment for project. For example provision of low and bad quality tents and low quality stand for water reservoir at demo farms.

Recommendations and Solutions:

1. The issue of late provision of necessary material and equipment and the issue of provision of low quality equipment by Chemonics should be discussed with Chemonics through main office.



A view of meeting held with lead farmers of Dah Sabzi demo plot in Arghandab RADP-S office in presence of project staff



Lead farmer of Langar village is being interviewed about his responsibilities in the demo plot



A view of Bagh-i-Sardi wheat growth demo plot, Arghandab district of Kandahar province



The lead farmer of Langar village expresses his concerns over the water stand reservoir



A view of demo plot of Shorandam village of Daman district



She-i-Surkh village demo plot owner with his father expressing their happiness about project activities



5000L water reservoir with its stand provided for each demo plot owner by Chemonics



Demo plot of Arazi village



A view of She-i-Surkh village demo plot



The owner of Arazi village demo plot explains the benefit of training provided for demo plot establishment



Meeting with RADP-S Kandahar director and managerial staff



Meeting with Gender Specialist of Kandahar RADP-S office about the activities carried out during the last few months