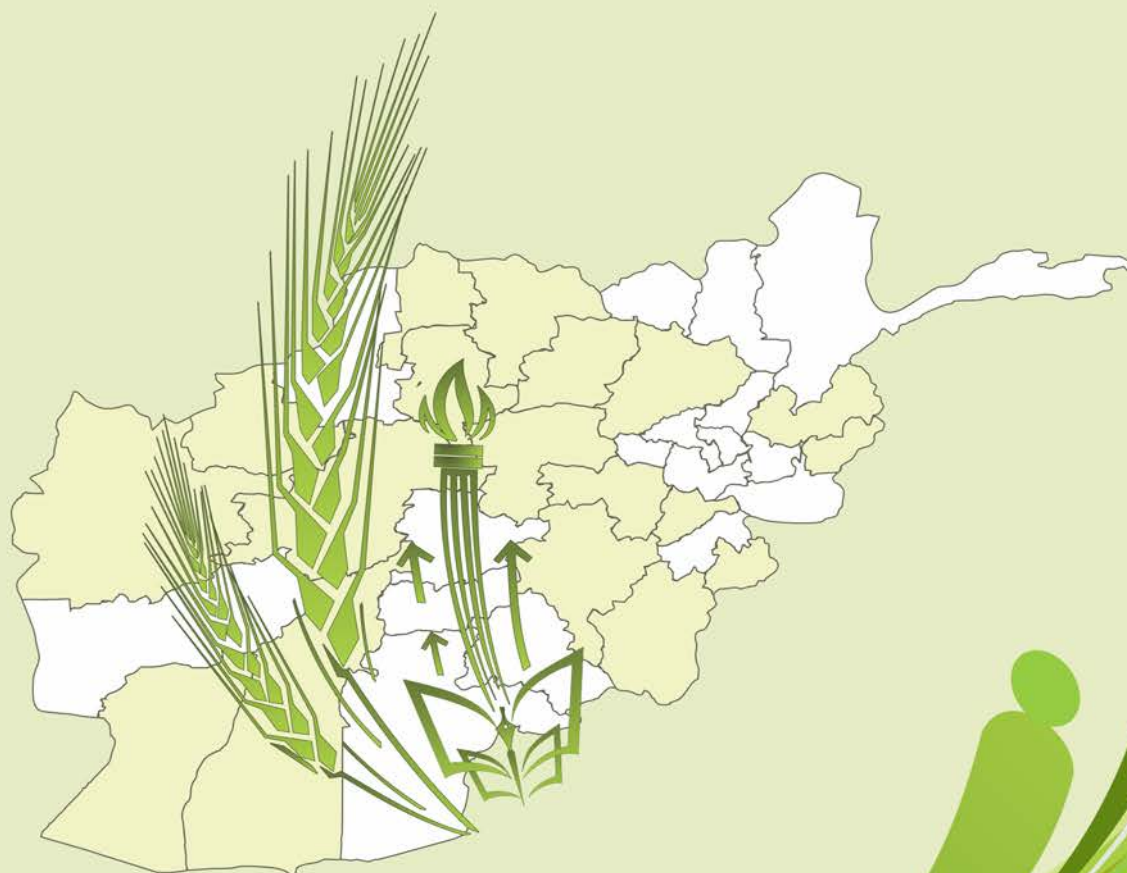




MONITORING REPORT OF
REGIONAL AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM -
SOUTH (RADP-S), URUZGAN

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
31st March 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 bases. According to this plan, a mission had been carried out to monitor the Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP) - South project, which is being implemented in Uruzgan province.

Monitoring Team:

The monitoring team consisted of the following staff:

- Mr. A. Malik Rahmani, Monitoring, Evaluation and Internal Audit Unit Head
- Mr. Ghulam Sakhi Ludin, Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Sector Head
- Mr. Saifullah Saifi, Capacity Building and Training Sector Head
- Mr. A. Halim Hemat, Senior Trainer and Focal Person for NCA peace building project

Objectives of the Mission:

The main objectives of the mission were to know the progress of the RADP-S project in Uruzgan province.

Methodology of Monitoring:

The following steps were followed during the monitoring mission:

1. Desk review i.e. study of the project documents and action plan
2. Individual meetings/interviews with officials and beneficiaries
3. Site visit

Summary of the Mission:

The mission started from Kabul on 25th March 2015 to Uruzgan province (Tirinkot) by air and completed on 29th March 2015. According to the plan a meeting was held with Project Director (Eng. Rahimullah Alikhil) and other provincial staff at ADA Uruzgan office to share the mission objectives with them and prepare an action plan for the project site visit.

During the mission we had 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 plan for field visit (demo plots).

Project Background:

Afghan Development Association (ADA) as a subcontractor with Chemonics in RADP-S project has been implementing the activities in three southern provinces including Kandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan.

- I. The objective of RADP-S is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. The focus is to improve productivity and profitability for targeted value chains selected from the wheat, high-value crop, and livestock sectors. This sustainable agricultural development program supports the consolidation of licit economies to fuel economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation. RADP-S achieves this objective through a relatively long-term agricultural value chain approach designed to address sustainability as well as by supporting policy, legal, and regulatory development.

Activities during the monitoring mission:

As per plan, during the monitoring mission the following two main activities have been carried out:

- Meetings held with RADP-S project director and other technical staff to know about the project progress and challenges

- Site visit to observe the demo plots established in Tirinkot.

Meetings held:

During the monitoring mission, a meeting was held with RADP-S project staff including the Provincial Director and Value Chain Specialists. The main agenda of the meeting was to know about the progress of project and plan for site visit.

Project progress:

The project progress was according to the plan. The main focus of the staff was conducting and completion of training workshop for farmers and plantation in the demonstration plots and follow up of the activities with lead farmers. Thirteen plots were established for demonstration activities that included 6 demonstration plots in Tirinkot, 3 in Chorah district and 4 in Dehrawod district. In each demonstration plot fruit trees sapling were planted and improved wheat seed was cultivated. Also the farmer's training was in progress.

After the meeting, the team visited the office and checked all the equipment, which was provided for the RADP-S project Uruzgan provincial and districts offices. Following is the list of equipment that were provided for the offices by Chemonics in 2015:

1- Bunk Beds	36 (two –story beds) new
2- Simple Mobile set	26 (Nokia) used
3- Color Printer	4 (MFP m2764)
4- Small Printer	3 (1102HPlaserjet)
5- Heating Gas capsule	2 (40 KG capacity)
6- Water color	10
7- Juicer	1
8- Small Water thermos for tea	2 (1L capacity)
9- Fire extinguisher	12
10- Iron (electric)	1

Site visit:

The monitoring team visited a new established Demo plot that belonged to Mr. Juma Khan lead farmer in Toori village. The farmer was happy with new system and varieties of fruit tree sapling. Also the farmer has received a complete agriculture kit.

The plot was established in 2000m² land and was divided in areas for horticulture (fruit trees) demonstration, wheat demonstration, and greenhouse establishment. Also a location was allocated for a tent and nursery of different varieties of the sapling for replacement, if necessary. It is worth mentioning that the tent and greenhouse were not established yet.

Total 93 saplings were planted; 53 as a demonstration orchard and 40 as a nursery: 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).

Also a 320m² land was allocated for wheat cultivation; the land was divided in four small plots 80m² each (10m*8m). The growth of the wheat was very good, but the sapling growth was not started due to late planting.

It is worth mentioning that some of the provided equipment by Chemonics was very old and outdated. For instance provision of very old Nokia mobile set for staff was not working properly due to low power storage capacity.

Main challenges:

1. Insecurity was the main challenge for project staff when travelling between Uruzgan and Kandahar and between Tirinkot and other districts, especially, after the assassination of Mr. Matiullah Khan (Uruzgan Security Commander).
2. Long procurement process or late provision of equipment and materials for project by Chemonics was another challenge that was affecting the project implementation. For instance, late provision of sapling for Demo-plots affects the growth of sapling.

Recommendations and Solutions:

1. The travel of staff between Tirinkot and Kandahar also among the districts for official activities should be reduced and all security measures should be considered before and during the travel.
2. The issue of late provision of necessary material and equipment and the issue of provision of old and outdated equipment should be discussed with Chemonics through main office.
3. Coordination with local authority and community should be stronger and on regular base.



Led farmer of Toori Village is explaining wheat cultivation in the Demo plat



Nursery part in Toori Village demo plat



Specification of sapling in the demo-plot



Led farmer of Toori Village is explaining saplings planting in the demo plat