

Global Partnership for Afghanistan at Work Restoring Land and Livelihoods

Spring 2010

“For every 50 farmers GPFA helps, a thousand more are encouraged.”

- Member, Paktiya Provincial Parliament

THE NUMBERS

- 12 Provinces
- 425 villages
- 150 Afghan employees
- 12,000 farm businesses created
- 84,000 beneficiaries, half of whom are women and girls
- 8,000,000 trees planted

THE IMPACT

- Many farm families' incomes have doubled.
- GPFA farmers earn more than they would growing poppies.
- Small poplar woodlot owners can earn \$60,000 after seven years from sales of trees for construction.
- Revitalized apple orchards have increased farmers' incomes up to \$4,000 annually.
- Underground fruit storage facilities extend sales beyond harvest time and can increase incomes by 150%.



2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: EXPANDING OUR REACH

- [Growing Orchard and Woodlot Enterprises](#)
GPFA continues to expand farmer-owned tree businesses. In conflict-ridden Wardak Province, 90 new timber-producing woodlots have been started recently, tripling the number established in the prior three years. The forestry program in Paktiya Province has expanded five-fold and has moved into neighboring Khost Province for the first time. In apple orchards, the focus now is to increase fruit quality, yield and profitability.

- [Training the Next Generation](#)

GPFA is working with Kabul, Albironi, Khost and Paktiya Universities' agricultural faculties to provide practical training for their students, both on campus and at our Tree House Horticulture, Forestry and Entrepreneurship Training Center in Guldara, with its demonstration farms, farmer-owned enterprises, classrooms and dormitories. Most horticultural and forestry training in Afghanistan is theoretical. Students tell us that the practical component we add is the most useful part of their education.

- [Managing Water](#)

More efficient water management is essential to increase arable land and farm productivity. GPFA staff work with farmers to clean and repair underground and above-ground water channels, create catchment basins, and use affordable drip and other technologies to increase water use efficiency. GPFA expects to undertake a new water project every week in 2010.



- [Diversifying Income](#)

The typical Afghan family relies on several sources of income. GPFA trains farmers and their families in a host of on-farm activities that add value. Vegetable gardens, most tended by women, provide healthy food for families and for sale in local markets. Solar dryers help farmers preserve more produce and earn more off season. Beekeeping provides additional income, even for those lacking access to arable land. Poultry raising and production of fuel briquettes from farm wastes provide additional income for farm families.

- [Empowering Women](#)

GPFA has worked since our beginning to help women farmers collaborate and build a better future for their families. We have helped establish or revitalize nearly a thousand orchards, woodlots and other women-owned farm enterprises. We now have 40 women on staff and are involving more women as consultants and program participants.

- [Building Communities](#)

GPFA works to strengthen local institutions that support community economic development and to build farmers' technical and management skills. As a result, Afghan involvement and control grows, and local leaders find solutions. As communities are strengthened, resistance to the forces of instability increases, and security improves.

The focus on farming is “the most successful thing we’ve done so far.”

-Ambassador Richard Holbrooke
U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan

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