

GPFA Regenerates 30 Plant Nurseries



*“We can benefit from the many things we are learning.”
– Paktya grower Manoo*

In Afghanistan’s south central Paktya and Paktika provinces, Global Partnership for Afghanistan is helping men and women transform their nurseries and improve their lives.

With financial assistance and training from GPFA, nursery owners are employing newly acquired techniques and skills to produce high quality plants for distribution to local orchards. The production and sale of these saplings ensures long-term financial success for the nursery operators and reinvigoration of Afghanistan’s horticulture industry.

These 30 nurseries are not simply small home-based and demonstration nurseries. GPFA has provided quality root stocks and a variety of planting materials that lead to consistently high yields. By 2011 farmers in this nursery program will harvest 150,000 “certified” saplings that meet quality standards set by Afghan institutions and the Ministry of Agriculture’s Perennial Horticulture Development Project.

Paktya grower Manoo says: “We can now hope to increase our yields and earn more. GPFA trainers and extensionists are easy to understand and learn from, and with their continuing support, we can benefit from the many things we are learning.”

Nursery growers also receive training and technical support to establish viable nursery grower associations. Associations help growers improve their business, support the industry, identify new markets, increase bargaining power, and encourage innovation. In short, they help to ensure that growers produce quality plants for local farmers who in turn earn more from higher yields and better quality produce.

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