

# U.S. Department of Agriculture Reconstruction and Technical Assistance in AFGHANISTAN



Economic Rehabilitation for Conflict and Counterinsurgency  
July 30-31

## USDA's technical assistance in Afghanistan has two goals –

- Provide technical support to USG agencies and the Afghan Government for the physical and institutional reconstruction of Afghanistan's agricultural sector
- Strengthen the capacity of the Afghan Government to rebuild agricultural markets and improve the management of natural resources

Since May 2003, USDA has provided more than 70 different technical specialists on long or short-term assignments and provided more than \$120 million in food aid

## 3 major components of USDA Activities in Afghanistan-

- 1) USDA Staff on Provincial Reconstruction Teams
- 2) Technical Assistance in Specific Areas with financial support from USAID
- 3) Food Aid programs- Both direct to the government of Afghanistan, and to Private Voluntary Organizations operating in country

# PRTs - Provincial Reconstruction Teams

- USDA advisors currently on 12-month assignments (previously were 6-9 month)
- From various USDA agencies (Natural Resources Conservation Service, Food Safety & Inspection Service, Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Agricultural Marketing Service, Cooperative State Research, Education & Extension Service, and Forest Service)
- 42 different advisors deployed since Oct. 2003 (plus some repeats)
- Currently 13 Advisors in Afghanistan



## Broad Areas of Need for USDA PRT Ag. Advisors to address

- Employment and income generation
- Food security and nutrition
- Export agriculture – traditional export crops, horticultural crops, and improved processing and distribution
- Rehabilitation and rebuilding of agricultural infrastructure – both physical and institutional
- Rehabilitation of degraded lands
- Control of livestock disease and improvement of livestock health

# Food Aid

## Programming of Proceeds

- Further the Government of Afghanistan efforts to build human and institutional capacity in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).
- Assist the Ministry of Higher Education (MHE) in improving the quality of agricultural education at Afghan Universities.
- Develop a national system of education, research and extension that can serve Afghan agriculture.
- Assist the GOA to develop sustainable national plant and animal disease diagnostics and control program, a food safety program and programs in water and soil conservation, reforestation and natural resource management.

# Technical Assistance Programs with Support from USAID (in operation since 2004)

- Animal Health Services
- Sanitary-Phytosanitary (SPS) issues and food safety
- Forestry, Rangeland and Watershed Management
- Agricultural Extension and Agricultural Education



Over 40 different technical specialists provided since 2004 (plus many repeats)



USDA helped establish and continues to support the Afghan Conservation Corps, which has employed thousands of Afghans in projects for reforestation, soil and water conservation, and conservation education



USDA monetized food aid proceeds of \$4 million supported the renovation of agricultural and veterinary teaching facilities at Kabul University and the training of faculty

Livestock is vitally important to the Afghan economy and USDA is training Afghan veterinarians in the recognition, diagnosis, and control of important animal diseases



Initiation of a program of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in the dried fruit and nut industry to help Afghanistan in meeting food safety standards in international markets



In collaboration with UC Davis, Cornell and Purdue University, USDA is initiating an agricultural extension program for treecrop horticulture (with a specific emphasis on almonds, grapes and stonefruits)

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