

RALF ANNUAL REPORT
January 2004 – January 2005

ANNEX 1
RALF PROJECT SIX MONTHLY REPORTS
December 2004

RALF PROJECT SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Date: December 15, 2004

RALF Project Number: 01-03

Project Title: Village Decision Driven Research Project

Project Leader: Chris Pannkuk

Organisation: Washington State University

Collaborators:

1. Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

Start Date: June 1, 2004

End Date: December 31, 2006 **Budget:** \$399,943

Management Issues (if any)

The agreement between Washington State University (WSU) and ICARDA took many iterations before a final contract could be agreed upon. I concluded from this that WSU was not familiar with the wording of the contract and went through a learning process of language from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). Because of the late contract agreement we did not begin work until August.

Upon contract agreement WSU's Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) began work on the development of a training and survey for both DACAAR and the MAAH. However, because of the elections in Afghanistan in October it was suggested that we wait until after to carry out the training. Ramadan this year began after the elections until mid November and where we thought the training could still occur it may not be the best of timing. Further security issues arose where a village in which DACAAR has offices in the region we were to carry out our work was attacked. DACAAR then requested that we postpone our training until January when security may change.

Research Process

The SESRC and DACAAR have been developing a training and survey for both DACAAR and MAAH staff. We have involved the Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit in discussion because of their recent work in the area. We agreed that a survey that would develop case studies for each of the villages we have selected would give a richer picture and we would then be able to better draw a picture of the current situation in the villages. Presently we have a training and framework for the survey to take to Afghanistan. The training will be for the DACAAR and MAAH staff on survey technique including interviewing, enumerating, entering data and analysis of data. The workshop will further develop the survey that will be used in the spring.

Planned Modifications to Project Implementation (if any)

Because of the delay in beginning as well as security issues the timeline was adjusted. While developing the proposal, we anticipated the likelihood of delays and thus created gaps so that the timeline could be shortened. However, we obviously cannot keep compacting the timeline without compromising the research. Therefore, we are adjusting the some activities so that they may be carried out at the same time while travelling to Afghanistan. If these changes occur we will keep ICARDA apprised of the changes.

Dissemination Outputs

After the first workshop we will have a draft survey for review.

Other Comments:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at ICARDA for their patience with both the negotiations of the contract and realizing the problems of working in Afghanistan under circumstances where security is an issue. We would also like to relate to ICARDA our strong support for our collaborators in DACAAR. They have shown their professionalism and dedication to development in Afghanistan under circumstances when many NGOs would have left the region.

RALF PROJECT SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Date: 15 December 2004

RALF Project Number: RALF01-04

Project Title: Introduction, Evaluation and Promotion of Appropriate Crop Legumes and Vegetables for Eastern Afghanistan (CLVEA)

Project Leader: John Maris

Organisation: Relief International

Collaborators:

1. Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC) - The World Vegetable Center
2. University of Nangarhar, Darunta, Jalalabad, Nangarhar, Afghanistan
3. International Development Enterprises, USA/

Start Date: 1 June 2004

End Date: 31 December 2006

Budget: US\$ 400,000

Management Issues (if any)

Relief International's Principal Investigator has been changed to Senior Operations Officer, John Maris.

Research Process

Workshop Set-Up

A joint RI/AVRDC/IDE/NU mission was fielded to Jalalabad from 8 to 13 August 2004 in order to start up the RALF project. The Mission visited Nangarhar University and various villages of Besud, Shinwar and Rodat district of the province (Nangarhar). A workshop on the project was organized in Jalalabad on August 9, 2004 with all attendees in collaboration. The strategy was framed and decisions had been made regarding various relevant issues of the project implementation including:

- An assessment of the current status of agricultural practices (including land availability, input availability and irrigation sources)
- An analysis of the current status of the Agriculture Faculty of Nangarhar University, focusing on institutional and professional capability in the context of the RALF program implementation
- Preparation of Operational Research Design for model research plot and 23 field sites

Training Workshops at Nangarhar University

Following the logistical set-up at Nangarhar University, two training programs were conducted at NU. The first workshop included AVRDC and IDE experts who provided training to 16 Nangarhar University professionals on how to carry out the monitoring, supervision and data collection of 23 operational research plots in the Province in order to establish a model research plot at the University. In addition, an overview of drip irrigation system, its layout, operation and maintenance management was presented. A detailed description of various agronomic and economic aspects of the program, methodology, designing and establishment of research plots was followed by a thorough discussion among the members.

The second training program was organized in August 2004 involving 23 lead farmers selected from the ten target districts in Nangarhar, which are the ten largest opium-producing areas in the Province (Surkh Rod, Turghar, Khogiani, Rodat, Behsud, Kot, Chaparhar, Sherzad, Shinwar, and Achin). This training addressed the fundamentals of irrigation and drew on the lead farmers' extensive experience with canal and karez systems. A pressure treadle pump was demonstrated along with different configurations of drip irrigation from the simplest 20 m² drip kit to customized systems applicable to smallholder vegetable growing.

NU and RI staff trained in layout and installation of drip irrigation systems

Very basic training was carried out for two staff persons for setting up drip irrigation for variety trials at the NU. The variety trials were designed by AVDRDC and NU staff to include three replications of each variety.

The drip system design allows easy measurement of the quantity of water applied and enables uniform water distribution.

Preliminary Assessment of Existing Irrigation Systems and Practices in Nangarhar District

In August, a series of short field visits was used to review existing irrigation practices in three different environmental settings. The following points highlight the assessment and actions to be undertaken:

- *Benefit of drip irrigation versus flood.* To gain practical experience with the viability of drip irrigation, IDE will provide 20 m² drip kits to the lead farmers who attended the training session for field-testing. These will be installed in a small section of their existing vegetable field and used to irrigate the same variety vegetable as in the larger field as a way to get feedback on the benefits and problems that farmers will face in using this water conserving technology on a wider scale.
- *Opportunity/need for treadle pump.* In all cases observed on these visits, groundwater is too deep for suction lift by treadle pumps; however, there will be opportunity for pressure treadle pumps to lift water from storage to drip distribution tank.
- *Test acceptability and usefulness of rope and washer pumps.* IDE will install one or several rope and washer pumps to evaluate their usefulness to lift water from the deeper wells.
- *Build water storage for 2000 m² vegetable production system.* Where canal water is available, the rotation period (time between delivery days) can be anywhere between six and 12 days. It is clear that water storage will be necessary if there is to be a switch from furrow/flood irrigation to drip irrigation. For 2000 m² plot at four mm/day application for ten days between delivery would require 4 l/m² x 2000 m² x 10 days = 80 m³ storage. This could be a clay or plastic lined pond that fills each time irrigation water is delivered. Alternatively, large volume plastic bag storage as are currently being tested by IDE in India will be used. A higher cost masonry tank will be a quick way to test this storage idea. A pressure treadle pump will be used to lift the water from the storage pond/tank to the drip system tank. These options will be planned in detail during the next consulting visit.
- *Demonstration sites.* Demonstration sites will be established in numerous locations. These will serve both to demonstrate drip irrigation technology and also to investigate the requirements for incorporating field level distribution by drip irrigation in conjunction with a continuous flow water supply from the karez. This will require a combination of water storage, water lifting (using a pressure treadle water pump) to the drip system tank, and drip system infrastructure.

Assessment of equipment and hardware needs and availability

The field visits confirmed that a combination of water storage basin, pressure treadle pump, and field-level drip irrigation distribution system will be necessary wherever wells are not available to tap groundwater directly. Field-level storage is required to capture the water delivered to a farmer's field during his turn to access the flow from the karez systems and make it available during the eight to 16 day period between turns. Storage will allow frequent applications that meet crop water requirements and provide optimum yield per unit of water applied. An alternative to be examined that will reduce the size of the storage basin required is to shorten the turn and increase the frequency of each farmers turn.

An assessment was made of hardware available in the Nangarhar market. Many types of plastic pipe, fittings and small storage drums are available. Merchants currently import hardware items from Pakistan, Iran and China. They can place orders to their contacts in these countries by phone. Linking into this procurement and distribution network for drip irrigation supplies will not be difficult once manufacturing is established in India. Currently, shipping supplies from India are not a problem with the establishment of procedures for transshipment through Pakistan.

Collecting Breeding Material

In addition, breeding material was collected for trials and seed multiplication purposes from University of California Davis, AVRDC, and Known You Seed Company in Taiwan. Other local material was brought from Peshawar, Pakistan for the same purpose.

Literature Material

Approximately 30 different references including production manuals and technical information especially on mung beans, IPM for some vegetable varieties, diseases and pests and weeds identification guides, compendium of diseases on some vegetables and Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis were

selected from UC Davis in California and AVRDC and Known You Seed Company in Taiwan. These related literature materials will become the nucleus of the AVRDC/RI library in Nangarhar University.

Experimental Trials

The experimental trial was set up at Nangarhar University Research Farm. An area of about 2,250 m² was fenced off for protection from animals and children. The following trials are either already started or planned for initiation in the near future:

- A carrot variety is under trial for four seeding rates and two fertilizer treatments.
- Four garlic varieties are under performance trial.
- Eight local and imported onion varieties are under trial for performance. All these varieties are currently in a nursery and will be transplanted into a performance trial in the very beginning of the coming growing season under a standard fertilizer and irrigation system.
- Four varieties of chilli pepper from AVRDC will be selected for seed multiplication and adaptation trials and two or three local varieties will be selected for performance trials in the coming growing season.
- One variety of tomato from AVRDC will be selected for seed multiplication as well as adaptation trials in the coming growing season. Three to four local tomato varieties will be selected for performance trials.
- One variety of vegetable/green soybeans will be selected for seed multiplication and adaptation trial.
- Two mung bean varieties, MN92 and MN94, will be transported from AVRDC in addition to three or four local mung bean varieties that will be under trial for performance and production in Nangarhar next year. This will be conducted under standard Nitrogen and Phosphorus fertilizers and shallow and narrow furrow irrigation systems.

Formulating the Baseline Survey Teams

Three separate teams were assembled for the baseline survey including a two-member Data Entry Team, a two-member Consumption Survey Team, and a six-member Production Survey Team.

Planned Modifications to Project Implementation (if any)

During RI discussions with farmers and researchers of Nangarhar University, modifications in some of the selected vegetable commodities have been made. It was noted by both farmers and researchers that the remaining time left in RALF01-04 will not be sufficient to firstly, test the production of sweet pepper on experiment site, then to the farmers' field, and finally to introduce to consumers. Sweet pepper grows with optimal results in winter, and the winter season cultivation has passed for 2004. If testing starts on the experiment station next year, and then on the farmers' field during 2006, there is not sufficient time for market promotion (the project will terminate by the end of 2006). Therefore, based on the farmers and researchers recommendations and considering the availability of time, sweet pepper was replaced with carrot since it is also commonly grown in the area. Moreover, farmers and researchers insisted on the addition of garlic as an additional crop not included in the original plan. Garlic is one of the important vegetable crops in the region. Due to continuous war and devastation in the country, no advancement or improvement concerning its production has taken place in the last two decades. Moreover, farmers are still adopting primitive practices causing low production levels. No additional funds are required from ICARDA-DFID for the addition of this crop.

Similarly, in the summer season, farmers and researchers observed that there was not a sufficient amount of time for the introduction of a new crop, vegetable soybean, since the summer crop of 2004 had passed. Therefore, both farmers and researchers also concluded that vegetable soybean should be replaced with other suitable pulses crop, such as cowpea, which is widely grown in the region.

In summary, the planning workshop and consultations among farmers and researchers produced the following decisions:

- The program duration will be 30 months (from July 2004 to December 2006).
- With the delay in program start-up and due to economic considerations, it is proposed that soybean and sweet pepper will be substituted with cowpea and okra.
- Based on yield potential and economic opportunity two additional vegetable crops, carrot and garlic, will be incorporated in the program as a replacement to sweet pepper, which increases the total

number of crops from six to seven. All partners have agreed to work with an additional crop without any cost to ICARDA-DFID.

- The economic and livelihood assessment baseline survey will be started immediately.
- A CLVEA office will be established at Nangarhar University in order to facilitate the program.
- In the first year only a model operational research plot for varieties and fertilizers trials will be established at the University and will be supported by drip irrigation. Twenty-three research sites on drip irrigation will be established on selected farmers' field in the districts for demonstration. In the next cropping season, the operational research sites will be established on 23 sites selected in the ten target districts.
- Since the sowing of carrot needed to be started in the third week of August and project funds had not yet been released, RI made available the necessary funds to NU to start necessary arrangement so that sowing could be done in time.

Relief International requested changes to RALF Program Manager on 17th August 2004 in order to allow for adjustments in the selected crops.

A revised work plan was sent to the RALF Program Manager on 17th August 2004

Dissemination Outputs

Dissemination output will be prepared after present crop cycle is completed and research findings are obtained.

Other Comments:

The activities under RALF project are progressing. Security problems inhibited the implementation of some activities; however, efforts are underway to achieve the target goals as soon as possible.

15 December 2004

Signature:

Date:

Name of Leader: Farshad Rastegar, President & CEO, Relief International

ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Describe progress of research towards achievement of outputs and activities given in the project logical framework using the form below. Note any milestones completed. Note any modifications to original work plan, if milestones not achieved.

Project Outputs and Activities	OVis (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
Output 1 1. 24 operational research sites (including the model plot at NU) growing vegetable and legume crops providing a minimum 30% profit to the lead farmer.	Cost of seed / input investment vs. return. Output. Cost of post harvest handling. Comparison of return from improved vs. unimproved production methodology. \$ Value of income increase to lead farmer. % Of cash income provided by profit from a particular crop. Comparison of income from each plant to the income potential of an equivalent investment in poppy	Research Design completed on 12 August 2004 One operational site (model plot) has been established at Nangarhar University (October 2004). The following vegetable crops have been sown: onion, garlic and carrot. Establishment of 23 operation research sites is underway in various districts.	All 24 research sites will be established. Remaining vegetable crops and both legume crops (mung beans and cowpea) will be sown as per their planting time (December-04 to February-05)
Activity 1.1 - <i>Narrative from logical framework</i> Demo plots	Model plot built. Demo plots established	One model plot at the university was established in October 2004. The establishment of 23 demo plots is underway.	All 24 demo plots will be established.
Activity 1.2 Market assessment	Women's livelihood surveys designed, teams trained.	The Survey Team has been trained. Due to security problems, the survey work could not be carried out earlier. It will be started in the third week of December 2004.	Survey work will be completed.
Activity 1.3 Information dissemination	Website designed and active.	Website design is underway.	Website design will be completed after the first crop cycle is completed and research findings are obtained in July 2005.
Output 2 2. Drip irrigation tested, training manual produced and network of private sector suppliers / installers established. Field tests comparable to results of studies at NU model plot.	% Increase in production compared to traditionally irrigated crops. % Increase in water use efficiency. Quantity of water used per growing cycle for a given area of each crop. % And quantity of water use reduction as a result of DI introduction.	In August 2004, IDE experts conducted training to University personnel and lead farmers in drip irrigation system training. Efforts to establish private sector and supplier network are underway.	Drip Irrigation will be installed on all 24 operational research sites by January 2005.

Project Outputs and Activities	OVis (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
Activity 2.1 Technology assessment	Technology assessment completed and published.	The technology assessment was completed in the second week of August.	
Activity 2.2 Install drip irrigation (DI) in all research sites and train lead farmers	Installations completed. Trainings completed.	Lead farmers and NU-RI staff received training on DI installation in August 2004.	Drip irrigation will be installed on all operational research sites by January 2005.
Activity 2.3 Creation of informational material for farmers and marketing; creation of annual and final research reports	Appropriate informational materials designed. All reports produced and positively peer reviewed. Technology assessment completed and published	Designing of informational materials is underway.	Designing of informational material will further developed based on the research findings and reports. The material will be reviewed after first crop cycle.
Output 3 38 lead farmers trained (including a minimum of 8 women) and extension training to a minimum of 500 more conducted.	% And # of participants who demonstrate successful acquisition of knowledge. %, # And Output of healthy crop cycles. % And # of Women trainees. # Of secondary trainees working with lead farmers. # Of secondary trainees who adopt knowledge, crops and or technology. \$ Value of co-investment in scale up	Lead Farmers Training was accomplished in the second week of August 2004. The training covered the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of research sites • Technical input and agronomic practices on various crops included under the program • Drip irrigation, its importance and installation 	AVRDC and IDE experts will conduct a second round of training.
Activity 3.1 Extension Training of NU staff	Research design established and incorporated into trainings. Trainings conducted. Communication with field maintained and data periodically analysed for reporting.	NU staff have been trained by the AVRDC and IDE experts on following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research design and demo plot establishment • Monitoring and observation of operational research plots • Data collection and analysis 	AVRDC and IDE experts will conduct second round of training.
Activity 3.2 Lead Farmer Training	Lead Farmer Training completed.	Lead Farmer Training was completed in the second week of August.	NU staff at the operational research sites in target districts will conduct a second round of training.
Activity 3.3 Faculty Training	Faculty Training completed.	NU Faculty Training was accomplished in August 2004.	

RALF PROJECT SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Date: 15 December 2004

RALF Project Number: 01-07

Project Title: Restorative Agriculture and Rural Economy (RARE) Research Project

Project Leader: Dr. Geoffrey Dolman

Organisation: Mercy Corps Scotland

Collaborators:

1. Centre for Arid Zone Studies (CAZS), University of Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Kandahar Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Kandahar City, Kandahar
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Helmand Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Lashkar Gah City, Helmand

Start Date: 1 June, 2004

End Date: 31 December, 2006

Budget: US\$400,000

Progress Report

Please see attached matrix

Management Issues

Principal Investigator

The Principal Investigator named in the Project Proposal, Philippe Chabot, left Mercy Corps on 20 August 2004. Geoffrey Dolman took up his post as Agricultural Advisor and Researcher on 1 November 2004, and took over the position of Principal Investigator at the same time.

Local staff appointments

Project Manager, Samad Barak

2 Agriculturists, Gul Mohammed and H. Paind

2 Extensionist Workers, H. Amanullah and Abdullah Jan

2 Drivers, Abdul Samad and Abdul Hakim

Research Process

- A sub-agreement with CAZS has been signed.
 - A consultant from CAZS, Helen Bradbury, visited Afghanistan for RARE from 6th to 22nd July.
 - As a result of the CAZS visit, a detailed implementation plan has been drafted.
 - The topics for the cropping trials have been chosen. They are a) out-of-season vegetable production, b) mushroom production, and c) essential oil crop production.
 - The topics for the processing trials have been chosen. They are a) edible oil processing, b) apricot processing using sulphur, c) tomato paste making, d) essential oil processing, and e) pomegranate juice making.
 - Terms of Reference for the Organic Production Feasibility Study were drawn up.
 - After a tendering process HDRA (UK) has been identified as the institution to carry out the Organic Production Feasibility Study.
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Planned Modifications to Project Implementation

There was a gap from the departure of the original Principal Investigator on 20 August to the arrival of G. Dolman on 1 November, when the project had no Principal Investigator. Because of this, and some further time for G. Dolman's orientation, some activities will be delayed by up to 3 months. G. Dolman is confident, however, that none of the growing seasons have been missed, and that the full programme of research will take place. A modified Work Plan will be submitted as soon as possible.

Dissemination Outputs None

Other Comments None

ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Project Outputs and Activities:	OVI s	Achievements during period from 1 May to 15 December, 2004 and Comments	Planned Achievements during period from 15 December 2004 to 15 May 2005
<p>Output 1. Economic analysis of a variety of staple, cash and specialty crops (extension publication produced)</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Baseline survey of past and current cropping systems in target clusters</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Crops to be examined are participatively selected with farmers, traders and other relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Activity 1.3: Farmer innovators are identified per cluster</p> <p>Activity 1.4: Testing and monitoring of crops with farmer innovators or farmers currently growing selected crops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ # and type of crops and production methods tested ✓ On farm experiments are visibly underway both on demonstration plots and among participating farmers. ✓ # of farmer innovators and other farmers testing new crops and production methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 18 farmers in Helmand have completed questionnaires – Partner farmers have been identified and sites for testing poly-tunnels for out-of-season vegetable production have been chosen – Vegetable seedlings for planting out in poly-tunnels have been produced. – House for mushroom production has been drawn and costed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Baseline survey of past and current cropping systems to be completed in Helmand and Kandahar – First year trial of out-of-season vegetable production completed. – 2 women trained in mushroom production. – 1 house for mushroom production constructed in both Kandahar and Helmand, and production under way
<p>Output 2. Economic analysis of different types of improved small-scale-irrigation systems (extension publication produced)</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Baseline survey of past and current irrigation practices for key local crops is conducted</p> <p>Activity 2.2: New, small-scale irrigation systems are sourced and tested under a variety of conditions</p> <p>Activity 2.3: Review of efficacy of each system compiled</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ # and type of small-scale irrigation systems tested and in use ✓ On-farm experiments are visibly underway both on demonstration plots and among participating farmers. ✓ # of farmer innovators and other farmers testing new irrigation methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small scale drip irrigation system has been designed. – Most of the materials have been obtained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Trials for grapes, pomegranates and vegetables designed – Participating farmers identified – Trials under way
<p>Output 3. Review of past and current extension services, including recommendations for future market-driven supplies of agricultural support services, including technical agri-enterprise development and group/cooperative development (extension publication produced)</p> <p>Activity 3.1: A review of past, current and future strategies for providing technical, input and agri-business development services is examined at the farmer level, supplier level, current provider level and MAAH level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MAAH verifies historical account of extension services. ✓ Provincial Departments of MAAH adopt some or all parts of recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conduct review

Project Outputs and Activities:	OVis	Achievements during period from 1 May to 15 December, 2004 and Comments	Planned Achievements during period from 15 December 2004 to 15 May 2005
<p>Output 4. Evaluations of at least 10 different small scale agri-processing industries (extension publication produced)</p> <p>Activity 4.1: Baseline survey of current agri-processing in Kandahar and Helmand Provinces</p> <p>Activity 4.2: High-potential agri-processing industries are identified and analysed for profitability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ # and type of agri-processing industries in Kandahar and Helmand compiled. ✓ Income generated and # of jobs provided by each current agri-processing industry compiled. ✓ Quantitative comparison made between current agri-processing industries and identified "high-potential" agri-processing industries identified for start-up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conduct baseline survey – Identify and analyse for profitability high potential agri-processing industries
<p>Output 5. Case studies of agri-enterprises that prove to have value-added through experimental processing (extension publication produced)</p> <p>Activity 5.1: Project acts as catalyst to start or support "best bet" agri-processing industries</p> <p>Activity 5.2: Capital investment and other agri-business development services are sourced in collaboration with entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Activity 5.3: Process of development of agri-enterprises is documented throughout the project cycle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ # and type of agri-processing industries actually started. ✓ # and type of jobs created. ✓ Amount of capital sourced for investment. ✓ % self-contribution by agri-processing industries for start-up ✓ Other agricultural support services demanded and absorbed by agri-processing industries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provisional list of agri-processing industries for case studies compiled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Desk study of economic potential of identified list completed
<p>Output 6. In-depth feasibility study for the development of markets for organic Afghan agricultural products</p> <p>Activity 6.1: Relationship forged with international organization specializing in organic production, certification, and international sales.</p> <p>Activity 6.2: Consultant from above organization hired to conduct feasibility study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Agreement between MC and outside organization formalized. ✓ Study completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) identified as the implementing institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Formalise agreement with HDRA – Feasibility study completed

Project Outputs and Activities:	OVis	Achievements during period from 1 May to 15 December, 2004 and Comments	Planned Achievements during period from 15 December 2004 to 15 May 2005
<p>Output 7. A review of the different types of organic certification and an evaluation of how this might be applied and developed in an Afghan context</p> <p>Activity 7.1: Given Activity 6.2 is successful, a consultant is hired to review and provide a framework for organic certification in Afghanistan</p> <p>Activity 7.2: Findings are exchanged with MAAH and a preliminary work plan to develop organic certification is agreed upon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consultant hired. ✓ Organic Certification Recommendations for Afghanistan is produced. ✓ MAAH, MC, and other project participants and stakeholders are involved in discussion to determine to way forward for policy development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Awaiting results of feasibility study (Output 6.) 	
<p>Output 8. Publication of producer manuals explaining regulation of organics and guidance and instruction on organic agricultural practices</p> <p>Activity 8.1: Given Activity 7.1 is successful, a consultant will be hired to write producer manuals and instructions on organic agricultural practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ # and type of manuals produced. ✓ Manuals reviewed and accepted by MAAH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Awaiting results of feasibility study (Output 6.) 	
<p>Output 9. 30-month study testing the effectiveness of local decision making in encouraging alternative livelihoods (extension publication produced)</p> <p>Activity 9.1: Community leaders, farmers, local traders, residents, youth within the target cluster are brought together to discuss local ways directing local economies</p> <p>Activity 9.2: A committee is formed that is charged with drafting a cluster-based and community-influenced approach to decreasing poppy cultivation and building a new local economy</p> <p>Activity 9.3: Monthly meetings with committee takes place in which project staff and MAAH participate</p> <p>Activity 9.4: Various trainings and workshops take place as necessary (to be further determined during project)</p> <p>Activity 9.5: End of project review by cluster committee detailing the efficacy of the approach and outlining recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community members elect a committee. ✓ # and demographic profile of persons on the elected committee. ✓ # and type of trainings that committee members participate in. ✓ A cluster-based, community-influenced approach to decreasing poppy cultivation and building a local economy is documented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Community committees formed – Committee meetings held

Project Outputs and Activities:	OVis	Achievements during period from 1 May to 15 December, 2004 and Comments	Planned Achievements during period from 15 December 2004 to 15 May 2005
<p>Output 10. Review and analysis of past and current agricultural governance and recommendations for future role of Provincial Ministry of Agriculture in supporting the creation of alternative livelihoods (extension publication produced)</p> <p>Activity 10.1: Review of the past role of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture is conducted</p> <p>Activity 10.2: Participative survey conducted with farmers, traders and other pertinent stakeholders to gauge opinion on the most effective role of Provincial Departments of MAAH</p> <p>Activity 10.3: Provincial Departments of MAAH test new approach to their role in agriculture development and related poppy reduction and document results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MAAH approves the historical account of the Provincial Departments of MAAH past and current roles. ✓ # and type of changes and improvements enacted by Provincial Departments of MAAH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of the past role of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture completed – Participative survey to gauge opinion on the most effective role of Provincial Departments of MAAH completed

RALF PROJECT SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Date: 15.12.04

RALF Project Number: 01-08

Project Title: Innovative financial mechanisms for improving the livelihoods of rural Afghanis currently economically dependent on opium poppy

Project Leader: Claire Coote

Organisation: Natural Resources Institute

Collaborators: Aga Khan Foundation, Afghanistan

Start Date: 1.6.04

End Date: 31.12.2006

Budget: US\$ 334,491

Management Issues (if any)

The management and implementation of the project was affected by the ill-health of the principal investigator, who was obliged to take sick leave for two months between August and October and a subsequent embargo, on medical grounds, on her overseas travel. Prior to this she had been in communication with our partner organisation about the feasibility of rescheduling fieldwork planned for September due to concerns about local security in the period prior to the election. In late August NRI contacted the Aga Khan Foundation to propose a re-ordering of project activities. The main change was to bring forward the design phase of financial options and to reschedule the visit planned to test the financial packages after a reassessment of the security situation following the election. AKF agreed that this was a reasonable course of action.

In late September NRI was then alerted to an incident that had taken place earlier in the month in Badakhshan, which resulted in a demonstration taking place in Faizabad that led to damage to AKDN buildings and vehicles and injury to staff. Two subsequent attacks on AKDN offices in Badakhshan decided the AKDN to withdraw its staff from Badakhshan. A conciliation process was initiated and by the end of October, the AKDN began a staggered resumption of its activities. Such briefing reports and the information posted on the British FCO's website on Afghanistan led NRI to consider very carefully the appropriateness of sending its staff to work in areas outside of Kabul and even to whether it could continue with the project. At this stage NRI's director insisted that management responsibility for the project be taken up by Claire Coote, head of the Enterprise, Trade and Finance Group. NRI then communicated these changes, along with modifications to the workplan and logframe and necessary modifications to the contract, to ICARDA. At the same time a visit was planned to Badakhshan by one of the original members of the NRI team with an NRI associate and microfinance specialist for December in order to meet AKDN requests to get the project started in the field.

Research Process

The first visit to Afghanistan runs from 10th to 22nd December. We have not yet got any feedback on participation and involvement of collaborators, target institutions and beneficiaries.

Planned Modifications to Project Implementation (if any)

The original work plan has been modified slightly:

1. Due to security risks in Badakhshan as well as the ill-health of the principal investigator, fieldwork originally planned for that month was not carried out.
2. In view of the above, project activities were re-scheduled slightly and the production of the design phase started earlier than planned, i.e. Oct/Nov 2004.
3. Fieldwork is underway in Badakhshan, 10-22 Dec 2004, and other project activities will take place more or less as originally planned.

A copy of the revised workplan has been submitted to ICARDA.

Dissemination Outputs

Two project outputs have been completed:

1. Literature review, October 2004 "Financial services and products to improve farmers' livelihoods in Badakhshan, Afghanistan" by Gideon Onumah and Barry Pound
2. Operational Guidelines – Prototype of financial products for Badakhshan, Afghanistan by Ana Marr, 1st draft, November 2004.

Other Comments:

The project did get off to a difficult start and the absence of the principal investigator meant that communication did not flow as regularly as desirable. Notwithstanding the difficulty of identifying appropriate experts to work in Afghanistan we believe we now have a strong, committed team that can work effectively with our partner to achieve the project objectives.

Signature:

Date:

Name of Leader:

ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Project Outputs and Activities	OVI (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
Output 1 To determine the present formal and informal financial services situation, the incidence and importance of indebtedness, financial needs and its influence on the decision to be involved in poppy production.	By end of month 3 (Nov): Aga Khan and MAAH staff have clear understanding of the present financial services/household needs situation in Badakhshan, and its implications for involvement in poppy production	Dec 2004 In-field training of AFDN staff initiated to assist process of in-depth understanding of the issues.	Jan – Mar 05 Comprehensive fieldwork by AKDN staff in at least 12 villages supported by locally-recruited consultant. Risk – winter conditions may limit accessibility and fieldwork coverage.
Activity 1 Review of experience in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and initial suggestion of potential financial options.	Review available by end month 2	Oct 2004 – Literature review report completed and distributed to AKF for comments.	
Activity 3. Fieldwork	Fieldwork by month 4	Dec 2004 Fieldwork initiated in Badakhshan by livelihoods and micro-finance specialists. Time in field limited by availability of personnel, weather and Christmas. AKF are asking for a more continuous field presence and NRI are considering this option through recruitment of local consultant.	Jan – Mar 05 Baseline fieldwork will take place. Risk = weather conditions. Information obtained from fieldwork will be fed into financial products.
Output 2 To identify and design a range of potential financial mechanisms for the provision of micro-finance and other financial products and services appropriate to rural Afghans, using experience from Afghanistan and elsewhere	By end month 6 (Feb): 1. At least 3 potential financial service options identified for testing with Aga Khan Foundation 2. A design package is produced detailing the specific terms and conditions of selected financial products and services.	Nov/Dec 2004 Draft design package proposing 8 possible financial products produced. One financial product is fully developed i.e. terms and condition, target clientele, procedures, links with non-financial services, required information systems and institutional capability.	Jan – Mar 05 Continue refining and adding to the design package. May – Jun 05 Design package completed and ready for implementation on a pilot basis.
Activity 2 Production of design package	Review available by month 6	Nov 2004 Draft design package completed	
Output 3 To produce an action plan for implementation of chosen financial mechanisms on a pilot basis in Badakhshan	By end of month 7: Action Plan in place for the application of options in Badakhshan	n/a	
Activity 4. Preparation of Action Plan	Action Plan in place by month 7	n/a	
Activity 5. Stakeholder workshop	Stakeholder workshop by month 7	n/a	

Project Outputs and Activities	OVIs (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
Activity 6. Implementation of alternative rural finance mechanisms	Training plan, modular description of prioritised alternative rural finance mechanisms. Start of implementation by month 8	n/a	
7. Fieldwork in Badakhshan to test implement financial options	Fieldwork held by month 8 or 9	n/a	
Output 4 To use participatory methods involving communities, NGO and government staff to rigorously monitor, evaluate and document the process and impact of implementation of chosen financial mechanisms.	Ongoing. By end of year 2: 1. Government and NGO staff have joint understanding of lessons learned (successes and failures) from assessment activities 2. Documentation of process and outcomes available in government and NGO offices	n/a	
Activity 8. Facilitation of participatory monitoring and evaluation of financial mechanisms by villagers	Visits for monitoring and evaluation purposes by month 13, 19 and 23	n/a	
10. Documentation of monitoring and evaluation processes and of outcomes	Documentation of process and outcomes available by months 15, 21 and 24	n/a	
Output 5 To disseminate experiences as they emerge using user-friendly formats and media, so that the lessons from successes and failures can be rapidly incorporated into government and NGO policies and programmes.	From month 9 of project: 1. Appropriate dissemination materials available with different stakeholder audiences across Afghanistan From year 2 2. Government rural finance policy includes outcomes from project 3. NGOs using project outcomes in their programmes	n/a	
9. Peer reviews of efficacy of financial mechanisms by government and NGO staff	Peer review workshops held by month 23	n/a	

Project Outputs and Activities	OVI (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
11. Preparation and production of dissemination materials for different audiences	Draft dissemination materials available by month 25	n/a	
12. Final workshop	Dissemination and discussion of results with stakeholders Month 27	n/a	
13. Distribution of dissemination materials to different audiences	Dissemination complete by end of project	n/a	

RALF PROJECT SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Date: 30 November 2004

RALF Project Number: RALF01-09

Project Title: Marketing of livestock and livestock products: Market demand, potential returns to producers and constraints to market access.

Project Leader: Iain A Wright

Organisation: Macaulay Research Consultancy Services
Macaulay Institute

Collaborators:

1. Mercy Corps
2. International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (MAAH)

Start Date: 1 June 2004

End Date: 31 December 2006 **Budget:** \$109,437

Progress Report

On the advice of Mercy Corps the start of the project was initially delayed until after the elections in Afghanistan. An initial visit to Afghanistan by the PI (Iain Wright) the Macaulay Consultant (Euan Thomson) and the Mercy Corps Consultant (Philippe Chabot) was further delayed due to the hostage taking in early November. The team finally arrived in Kabul on 24 November to start the project.

A meeting was held with Deputy Minister Jawad (MAAH) to discuss the involvement of the Ministry. He suggested the establishment of a small Steering Committee, involving himself and the Head of the Livestock Division.

Meetings have been held with the following organisations in Kabul:

ICARDA (Dr Nasrat Wassimi)

FAO (Dr Ole Thieme)

Oxfam (Mr Gareth Price-Jones)

Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (Mr Wim Tondeur, Dr Azim Nasser, Dr David Sherman)

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (Mr Ole Jensen and Dr Ali Gohar)

Mr Anthony Fitzherbert, Advisor, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development

USAID (Dr Daniel Miller)

In addition, meetings of the Alternative Livelihoods Working group and the ACBAR Animal Health and Livestock Production Group were attended.

Following a preliminary review of secondary data and discussions with the organisations listed above it appears that some work has been carried out on the marketing of poultry and poultry products and in the diary sub-sector. However, virtually no work has been conducted on marketing in the beef and small ruminant sub-sector. Therefore to make best use of the resources available to the project it has been decided to focus this project on the beef and small ruminant sub-sectors. This will complement existing work in other sub-sectors.

Preliminary informal interviews have been held with traders in one of the livestock markets in Kabul to inform the design of a trader survey. Draft survey instruments have been prepared for interviews with traders and farmers. These will be field tested in early December, prior to the focus group discussions, surveys and semi-structured interviews taking place in January/February 2005.

The project proposal stated that a final decision on the exact location (i.e. which provinces) the project would concentrate on would be taken at the start-up meeting. This would be determined by security and logistical considerations. Potential provinces were Khunduz, Takhar, Daikundi, Khandahar and Helmand. At the start-up meeting it was decided that it would not be possible to include Daikundi as working there in January/February is impossible due to weather conditions (Oxfam informed us that they suspended their operations in Daikundi in winter). Preliminary enquiries also led us to include Kabul as the main urban centre and market for livestock products. Mazar is also the main centre for karakul pelts. Therefore the project will focus on the following areas:

Kabul (markets only)
Kunduz (markets and villages)
Takhar (markets in villages)
Kandahar (markets and villages)
Helmund (markets only)
Mazar (markets only)

Management Issues (if any)

Due to a change in the ICARDA personnel involved in the project (from Dr Lius Iniguez to Dr Asamoah Larbi) it is no longer appropriate for ICARDA to provide the input to the project that was originally planned. Accordingly it has been agreed with ICRADA (Dr Asamoah Larbi) that the ICARDA input will be reduced and that they will provide input at the proposed stakeholder workshop. Thus the ICRADA budget will be reduced from \$13,451 to \$3,820. The money saved will be used to allow Philippe Chabot, the Agricultural Economist working with Mercy Corps, a greater input into the analysis of the information and data collected. This will allow more in-depth analysis of economic aspects of the marketing chains to be carried out adding considerable value to the output of the project.

Research Process

It has been agreed with the Ministry that a small Steering Group be established. Discussions will take place at the first Steering Group meeting in early December in the involvement of Ministry Provincial Staff, but it is anticipated that two staff from each region will be involved in field work.

A local counterpart (Mr Hayatullah) has been identified by Mercy Corps to work with the international researchers.

A number of stakeholder organisations (see above) have been met to make them aware of the project and to exchange information and seek advice

Planned Modifications to Project Implementation (if any)

Apart from the delay in the start of the project, the major modification has been the decision to focus the project on the beef and small ruminant sub-sectors, as explained above.

Dissemination Outputs

No outputs have been produced to date.

Other Comments:

Signature:

Iain A. Wright

Date: 16 December 2004

Name of Leader: Iain A Wright

ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Describe progress of research towards achievement of outputs and activities given in the project logical framework using the form below. Note any milestones completed. Note any modifications to original work plan, if milestones not achieved.

Project Outputs and Activities	OVI (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
Output 1: Market demand for livestock products at local, regional, national and international levels identified	Description of market chains and data on trade		
Activity 1.1: Describing the marketing chains for livestock and livestock products and identification of constraints	Description of market chains for livestock products and constraints	Preliminary secondary data has been obtained in late November 2004. Meetings have been held with the Deputy Minister and several NGOs and FAO. Several informal interviews with livestock traders have been undertaken in Kabul market to inform the design of a trader survey. Draft survey instruments prepared for interviews with traders and farmers	Interviews and focus groups to be conducted with traders and farmers in January/February 2005
Output 2: Promising high value livestock systems identified	Market prices for livestock and livestock products		
Activity 2.1: Quantifying the national and international trade in livestock and livestock products.	Quantifying the national and international trade in livestock and livestock products.	Not started	Data on trade will be collected in January 2005
Output 3: Barriers to participation of rural livestock producers in the market identified			
Activity 3.1: Analysis of information and data obtained		Not started	Analysis of information and data collected will be carried out late February 2005
Output 4: Opportunities and priorities for future research identified			
Activity 4.1: Workshop on research priorities	Workshop report	Not started	Workshop will be held Provisional dates of workshop: 19 Feb 2005
Output 5: Local Mercy Corps and MAAH staff trained in market chains and market research methodology			
Activity 5.1: Local staff participation in field work		Not started	Local staff will participate in field work in Jan/Feb 2005 and participate in workshop.

RALF PROJECT SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Date: 20th December, 2004

RALF Project Number: RALF01-11

Project Title: Improved rural incomes from better forage production and sales of milk products

Project Leader: Asamoah Larbi

Organisation: International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Collaborators:

- Aga Khan Foundation – Afghanistan (AKF)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAAH)
- Macaulay Research Consultancy Services Ltd. (MRCS)

Start Date: 1 June 2004
399,760

End Date: 31 December 2006

Budget: U\$

Progress Report

- The start-up of the project was delayed from June till November 2004 because Dr Luis Iniguez, ICARDA's Principal Investigator was hospitalized, and a Project Coordinator to be based in Afghanistan has not been hired due to insurance and security concerns. Dr Asamoah Larbi took over the leadership of the project from Dr Iniguez in mid-September.
- As part of the team and consensus building exercise at the outset of the project activities, Dr A. Larbi visited Kabul from 24 – 30 September, and Kabul and Baghlan from 4 – 11 December. He discussed the project components, potential roles of various stakeholders and start-up date with the following staff of MAAH and AKF.
 - MAAH:
 - Dr Abdul Qadar Raufi, Director General of Veterinary Services.
 - Mr Mohammad Hanif Padar, Director General, Animal Husbandry.
 - AKF:
 - Mr Rahman Rameh, National Participatory and Diversification Advisor.
 - Dr Henri Sutter, Rural Development Director,
 - Mohammad Ismail Siddiqui, Natural Resource Management Advisor.
 - Mr Sachin Sachdeva, Regional Rural Development Coordinator.
- Based on the consultations:
 - The project workplan was revised to account for the delay in the start-up.
 - Five districts in Baghland Province, including Dahan Ghorri, Doshi, PuliKhumri and Baghlan Center were selected for the implementation of the project.
 - For each district, five communities, and 15 household per community were selected under the leadership of AKF based upon the criteria listed in the project document and existing characterization data from AKF.
- Preliminary farmer-participatory workshops have been started to identify farmers' perceptions of their major constraints to forage and milk production. Draft survey instruments have been prepared for interviews with the selected households in February 2005.
- Seeds of native and introduced winter and summer forage crops have been acquired for on-farm demonstration and testing.

Management Issues (if any)

The start-up of the project was delayed from June till November 2004 for two reasons.

- Dr Luis Iniguez, ICARDA's Principal Investigator needed urgent medical attention and was hospitalized in the United State of America. The responsibility for the project was therefore moved from Dr Iniguez to

Dr Asamoah Larbi in September.

- Due to security and insurance concerns, a Project Coordinator to be based in Afghanistan has not yet been hired. Therefore, it has been agreed with AKF to assign two of its senior staff - Mr Rahman Rameh (National Participatory and Diversification Advisor) and (Mr Sanjer Ziahai, Regional Coordinator in Baghland) to assist with the coordination of the project. AKF will also provide logistical support (transportation) for the project in Baghlan. The budget has been revised to reflect these changes.

Research Process

- AKF and MAAH were involved in the discussions on project components, potential roles of various stakeholders, start-up date, selection of districts and communities, and revision of the workplans.
- It has been agreed with the Ministry to use Baghlan Center where the MAAH has a Veterinary Clinic and a Milk Processing Unit as one of the project sites.
- Community Leaders at Dahan Wakhshak and Tajik Sher Ali villages in the Dahan Ghori district assisted in the selection of households for the project.

Planned Modifications to Project Implementation (if any)

The workplan has been revised in consultation with the collaborators.

Dissemination Outputs

No output has been produced to date.

Other Comments:

Signature: 

Date: 27 December, 2004

Name of Leader: Asamoah Larbi.

ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Describe progress of research towards achievement of outputs and activities given in the project logical framework using the form below. Note any milestones completed. Note any modifications to original work plan, if milestones not achieved.

Project Outputs and Activities	OVI (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
Output 1. Knowledge generated about the current livelihoods, the demand for milk products estimated and marketing chains for feedstuffs and milk products assessed	Characteristics of the livelihoods of households with and without poppy cultivation identified and compared in five communities		
1.1 Stakeholder workshop to select districts and communities in target areas	Stakeholder workshop held in target area in 1 st month after project start; participatory workshops held in 8 – 9 communities	Pre-implementation consultations were held with AKF and MAAH in September and December.	Stakeholder workshops will be completed by March 2005.
1.2 Participatory workshop in selected communities to collect information on livelihoods, agree on project activities and select cluster of households for field activities	Participatory workshops held in five communities in 2 nd month of project; at least 15 farmers identified in each community to participate in field activities	Participatory workshops were started in two districts. A total of 54 farmers were identified.	Workshops will be completed by March 2005.
1.3 Conduct market surveys at community and district level to establish demand, prices, trade and availability of milk and milk products	Key informant meetings held in five communities and 3 – 4 district markets (2 nd month of project); enumerators trained and collecting marketing data every three months thereafter	Not started.	Draft survey instruments have been prepared. Data collection will start in February 2005.
Output 2. Potential of local land and labour resources to grow and harvest more good quality forages and seed quantified, and increase in incomes from selling forage seeds estimated	Higher production of good quality forage by 4 – 5 households in each community and in 4 – 5 households increased earnings from the sale of forage seed		
2.1 Survey local forage crops, test better varieties and alternative cultural and harvesting practices, multiply seeds, monitor farmers' opinions and trade and prices of forages and feedstuffs	Each year five additional farmers selected per community for field work, own crops monitored; trials comparing local and improved genetic material conducted and seeds multiplied; monitoring of farmers' opinions in progress and data on trade in forages and feedstuffs collected	Not started.	Draft survey instruments have been prepared. Data collection will start in February 2005.

Project Outputs and Activities	OVis (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
2.2 Evaluate novel forage species, multiply seed, expand areas, monitor farmers' opinions	Trials conducted on five farms each year in each community; sufficient seed produced to sell to farmers to do their own evaluations	Not started.	Evaluation of spring forages will start in March 2005.
2.3 Multiply and sell surplus seed, monitor spread of seed to other communities	By 3 rd year total of 15 –20 farmers growing seed crops, surplus seed being sold and follow-up surveys conducted to track destination and use of seed sold to other farmers	Not started.	Seed production will start in spring 2005 and continue throughout the project period.
Output 3: Additional milk produced by feeding balanced diets to healthy livestock quantified, and better income from higher outputs of milk products estimated	Higher production of good quality milk from the cows belonging to 4 – 5 households in each community, with estimates of the additional income generated		
3.1 Participatory workshop to record current feeding practices and problems; design / implement feeding and health program for lactating cows, monitor trade in milk and prices	Participatory workshop held in 1 st year in each community; in 2 nd and 3 rd year feeding trials implemented with cows belonging to 4 – 5 farmers in each community	Participatory workshop was started in three communities.	Participatory workshops will be initiated in all communities by March 2005. Feeding trials to improve milk output will start in May.
Output 4. Improved methods of household and community-level processing of milk tested that add greater value to milk products and result in higher incomes	More efficient methods to process milk in 4 – 5 households in each community and measurable improvements in the hygienic quality of the products		
4.1 Hold participatory workshop to document local milk processing practices, identify needs and constraints	Workshop (one for men, one for women) held in 1 st quarter after project start up. Role of women in households identified	Participatory workshops were held in 3 communities.	Workshops will be completed by April 2005.
4.2 Test alternative household-level methods of processing milk, test milk for contamination and quality, establish small household level processing unit	4-5 households in each community applying alternative methods of processing milk; data on lower labour demands on women and products of better hygienic quality	Not started.	Testing of alternative house-hold level milk processing will start in May 2005.
4.3 Establish community-based milk collection and processing units supported by a credit scheme, monitor cost/benefits of such units	In 3 rd year a community-based milk collection and processing unit established in each community; cost/benefit of units documented	Not started.	Plan for community-based milk discussed with at least 3 communities by May, 2005.

Project Outputs and Activities	OVis (from logical framework)	Achievements During Reporting Period (give dates) and Comments	Planned Achievements During Next Reporting Period (give dates)
Output 5. Communities assessing the alternative technologies and estimating the potential impact of the technologies on household incomes	Participatory workshops held in each of the five communities		
5.1 Using information collected, hold participatory workshop to estimate likely impact of alternative technologies on incomes and livelihoods	At end of 2 nd and 3 rd year data from monitoring of field activities summarised; workshops held to assess the likely impact of improved technologies on household incomes and livelihoods	Not started.	
Output 6. Stakeholders knowledgeable about and trained in the use and impact of the alternative technologies, field days held and technical reports prepared	Training courses and field days held and technical reports distributed to stakeholders		
6.1 Training courses for different stakeholders	Three training courses held: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2nd year on implementing and evaluating on-farm forage trials and seed production - In 3rd year (for men and women) feeding lactating animals, milk processing - In 3rd year impact assessment with farmer participation 	Not started.	Training of AKF and MAAH staff in forage production, milk production and processing will start by April 2005.
6.2 Field days	Field days held as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2nd and 3rd year on forage crop and seed production and on feeding lactating cows In 3 rd year on milk processing	Not started.	
6.3 Occasional technical publications and wrap-up workshop	Occasional publications prepared and wrap-up workshop held late in 3 rd year	Not started.	

RALF PROJECT SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Date: 8 December, 2004

RALF Project Number: RALF01-16

Project Title: Western Afghanistan Agroenterprise Action Research Project

Project Leader: Paul Hicks

Organisation: Catholic Relief Services
Afghanistan Program

Collaborators:

Approved Collaborator: ICRISAT

Proposed change (see below):

- a. International Fertilizer Development Centre (retain Juan Estrada as Principal Investigator)
- b. Centro Internacional para Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)

Start Date: August 1, 2004

End Date: 31 December 2006

Budget: US\$ 399,814

PROGRESS REPORT

Goal: Provide farming households sustainable alternatives to illicit poppy cultivation

Purpose: Identify and promote sustainable agricultural livelihood options for rural farm households in western Afghanistan

See progress against logframe attached

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1. Delay of Project Start-up Date

Security threats in Herat and Ghor Provinces delayed the initiation of project field activities **from August 1 to November 1**. CRS informed ICARDA of delays in an email on August 5th and again in a report on August 18th.

Major Security Threats/Events:

- In July, 5 MSF development workers were ambushed and shot by locals apparently under orders of a local government official in Badgis Province;
- In late July, a bomb was detonated in a rubbish pile on a main road in Herat City, injuring several passers-by.
- In early August, armed conflict between rival warlords in Ghor Province forced CRS to temporarily evacuate national and international staff from its field offices in Shindand and Tulak Districts.
- On August 12, armed militias in Shindand and Adraskan Provinces attacked troops and government buildings loyal to Ishmael Kahn (Governor of Herat). At one point, fighting approached to within 20 kilometers of central Herat City;
- On September 11, the central government replaced Ishmael Kahn (Governor of Herat). That evening, demonstrations were organized by "IK" supporters outside the governor's offices which resulted in armed clashes with the Afghan National Army. On September 12, rioters looted and burned three UN agencies and two local NGOs. At least 14 Afghans were killed in clashes with authorities loyal to the national government.
- National presidential elections were held on October 9. To limit risks to violence expected before and during elections, and at the recommendation of several international security organizations CRS shutdown most of its field operations from October 3 to October 17.

2. Addition of new project area

Given the deterioration of security in western Afghanistan, CRS added the **District of Pashtun Zargon** to its project areas to mitigate delays to project implementation. This was communicated in an email to ICARDA on August 5th (plus follow-up emails). Pashtun Zargon is indicated as a poppy cultivation area on the UNODPS 2003 Poppy Survey and is known in Herat as a poppy growing area. Pashtun Zargon is more accessible than Ghor, particularly in winter months, making it easier for field staff and researchers to conduct work.

CRS is projecting that about 30% of project resources will be allocated to Pashtun Zargon, while 70% of project resources will remain in Ghor Province (Shindand District).

3. Proposal to switch institutional collaborators

In the project agreement, CRS said that it will partner with ICRISAT and CIAT to carry out this project. However, in June, **Juan Estrada** (listed as Principle Investigator under the proposal) resigned from ICRISAT and began working with the **International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC)** in August. CRS received permission from the ICRISAT Project Manager (in Nairobi) to discontinue the CRS/ICRISAT collaboration under this project and in September/October, CRS started negotiating an agreement with IFDC for the participation of Juan Estrada in the RALF project under management of IFDC. An agreement has not been finalized yet.

In the 6 month budget submitted to ICARDA, CRS included CIAT as a collaborator under this project. However, the agreement does not include CIAT as a collaborator. CIAT is planning to bring in a consultant from CIAT in February to assist in the training of CRS staff. Also, the Principal Investigator and the Agribusiness Specialist are attending a conference in Nairobi in January for the Learning Alliance for Agroenterprise, which is a collaboration between CRS and CIAT for building the capacity of CRS staff in agroenterprise.

DAKAAR (Danish Committee for Afghanistan Relief) is working in Pashtun Zargon with a field office. CRS will likely propose a collaboration with DAKAAR for linking with the farmers they support in action research and demonstration trials.

RESEARCH PROCESS

Project activities initiated in November 2004. The project activities have included two field trips to Pashtun Zargon District. The first field trip in early November involved meetings with village leaders conducted by three local field agronomists. In 12 villages, leaders organized meetings in late November with farmers who were interested in participating in participating in cumin and pea trials this winter. In these meetings, the CRS Technical Advisor for Agriculture and Environment led focused-group-discussions with clusters of 3-7 farmers in each village to discuss the project activities and purpose. Farmers were asked to explain the constraints and potential for various agricultural activities in the district. Surprisingly, farmers volunteered information on poppy cultivation and 3 farmers explained their reasons for cultivating poppies in previous seasons.

Interesting initial findings/questions from the FGDs (which require further research)

- About 1 in 5 farms in Pashtun Zargon have grown poppy in recent years, based on farmers' interviews. (Local staff highly question this number and believe that more farmers are planting poppies).
- Growers usually plant about 2-3 jeribs (0.4-0.6 ha), and earn roughly \$10,000 per ha
- Farmers perceive that nothing can compete with poppies
- Farmers do not plant primarily because of the legal ban against poppies.
- Large farmers tend to grow more poppies and grow them more often. Assumption: Large farmers tend to be wealthier and more influential and are able to avoid government intervention through political influence and/or bribes. Even if their poppies are destroyed, larger farms have other food crops to rely on. Small farmers are less able to avoid the legal ban and therefore incur greater risk for planting poppies. The return is large but the risk

offsets the incentive to grow for many small farmers: Balancing household food security versus an extremely lucrative but illegal cash crop.

PLANNED MODIFICATIONS TO PROJECT

1. The Implementation Schedule has been revised to show November 1 as the start of field activities in Pashtun Zargon. Field Activities in Ghor will start in January/February. See Attached.
2. The overall budget remains unchanged as of this report. However, some changes will be proposed in mid-December as we are proposing to replace ICRISAT with IFDC as an institutional collaborator. The participation of CIAT will also affect the budget. Proposed changes will be submitted to ICARDA in writing.
3. CRS is initiating project activities (with private funding) in Sharak District (Ghor) to improve availability and accessibility of water in drought affected areas through promotion of water harvesting technologies in micro-watersheds. These activities will complement the RALF Agroenterprise activities.

DISSEMINATION OUTPUTS

No dissemination outputs for this reporting period.

Signature: Paul Hicks

Date: 7 December 04

Name:

PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES (FROM LOGFRAME):

Activities:	Indicators / Progress
1.4 CRS and CIAT conduct studies on domestic and international markets for high-value crops in western Afghanistan. Identify market opportunities for at least three high-value crops	<p><u>Indicator:</u> At least 3 high value crops are selected within first 4 months of project</p> <p><u>Progress:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cumin and peas have been selected for on-farm field trials in Pashtun Zargon, primarily because these are winter crops and may provide a profitable winter option for agricultural production. Both cumin and peas have relatively good prices in domestic markets. ▪ Based on one field interview in Pashtun Zargon, a farmer that received technical training and inputs from an Int'l NGO is earning well from a tree nursery farm. Economic benefits are comparable to poppy cultivation and year-round marketing provides a more stable income than most crops.
1.5 Contact processors, buyers, traders, and retailers to organize potential supply/value chains for at least 3 high-value crops.	<p><u>Indicator:</u> Potential supply chains for three crops are outlined in the first 6 months of project.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Sub-sector analyses are nearly completed for cumin and saffron trade in western Afghanistan, including trading in Dubai. In February, two consultants will come to Afghanistan to give input on the subsector analyses and conduct import substitution assessments on several products.</p>
1.6 Meet with existing or new community groups of women and men in target communities through focused-group-discussion to discuss constraints and assets and propose livelihood options.	<p><u>Progress</u> In late October and November, CRS met with (male) farmers in 12 villages in Pashtun Zargon District to recruit participants in cumin and pea demonstration trials this winter. Several of the farmers reported to have cultivated poppy in past seasons and shared their perceptions on the pros and cons of poppy cultivation. Staff gathered financial information on cultivation and marketing of cumin, saffron, tree nurseries, and fruit production.</p>
1.7 Form commodity-specific Technical Working Groups (TWG) involving producers, traders, NGOs, government and other stakeholders	<p><u>Progress</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formed a Technical Working Group for saffron producers and traders in and around Herat City (<u>under funding under another project</u>). ▪ Decided NOT to form a technical working group for cumin producers because the trade in the Western Region is dominated by a few large, aggressive traders, whose enthusiasm for the Technical Working group seemed to be inspired by potential control over large amounts of cumin in the western region.
1.8 Conduct feasibility studies for processing and packaging of products with recommendations and requests from rural focus-groups and the producers traders involved in each TWG	<p><u>Progress</u> Cumin Cumin cleaning is confirmed by traders in Herat as potential value-adding component. CRS is pricing cumin cleaning equipment to evaluate profitability and appropriate scale (tons/day). Saffron Consultant in USA is meeting with spice distributors to get input on preferred packaging and quality requirements</p>
1.9 Identify first stage processing activities for selected products specifically for women and men in rural areas	<p>Jams and Juices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In late November/ early December, CRS brought a Kabul-based resource person to Herat for one week. He has set-up cottage-bottling facilities with women groups in Kandahar and peri-urban areas near Kabul. He was brought to assess the potential and economic feasibility for doing cottage-based and/or small-scale bottling company in Herat for processing low grade/surplus fruits and vegetables.

Activities:	Indicators / Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The output of the visit was a proposal which CRS will fund for establishing a few women's groups in Pashtun Zargon for processing jams and juices. The proposal was designed to evaluate the economic feasibility of small scale processing in villages and small scale businesses in Herat for jam and juices.
2.4 Facilitate agreements between organized producers and traders for value-adding activities and trading. Clarify roles for each group.	Nothing to report this period
2.2 Conduct workshops for producers, traders, and members of the TWGs in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grades and Standards for specified crops ➤ Food Safety guidelines for international markets ➤ Packaging and Handling of products for domestic and export markets ➤ Management Quality Systems 	Nothing to report this period
2.5 Work with producer groups and/or traders to access loans or grants to support business plans for developing value-adding facilities (e.g. packaging centers and cold-storage facilities).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Negotiating with FINCA to establish loan portfolios for women groups in Pashtun Zargon for procuring bottling equipment and containers for jams and juices. ▪ CRS NGO partner is assessing potential for a Herat-based entrepreneur to set up a small/medium bottling plant for juices and jams. Part of the source materials may come from Pashtun Zargon, including women's groups set up by CRS-funded local NGO. ▪ CNFA has a large USDA grant to provide grants and matching grants to agricultural entrepreneurs. CRS is working with a cumin cooperative near Herat to submit a proposal to CNFA to purchase a tractor and install two bore-hole/pumps to support cooperative members.
2.3 Provide Technology Innovation Grants to organize producers and traders to encourage quality-driven innovations, (e.g. small-scale green houses, packaging materials, or small storage facilities)	Nothing to report this period
2.4 Producer orgs and traders are provided market information through regular TWG meetings & information dissemination	No TWiGs formed in Pashtun Zargon. No TWiGs formed in Shindand District (Ghor) to date.
2.5 Provide producers with agricultural extension services for improving yield and quality of market-oriented crops	Beginning in month 7 through 30.
2.6 Establish demonstration plots and trials with participating farmers to introduce and evaluate new varieties and/or technologies	Cumin and pea demonstration plots established on 36 farms in Pashtun Zargon in November. 24 cumin fields and 12 pea fields will be sowed in early December.
3.2 Meet with consolidators and retailers in export markets (Dubai, India, USA, UK, EU) to market products	Beginning month 7 through 18

Activities:	Indicators / Progress
3.3 Facilitate agreements between producer/trader associations and buyers in export markets for supplying products from organized producer/trader groups	Nothing to report this period
3.4 TWG develops and implements improved marketing arrangements in local and export markets	Nothing to report this period
3.5 Provide Marketing Improvement Grants to producers/traders associated with TWG for improving access to export and domestic markets	Nothing to report this period