



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development
National Area-Based Development Programme
Community Empowerment



Livelihood Success Story

Since April 2010, the National Area-Based Development Program (NABDP) Community Empowerment team has established six Livelihood groups at Shah Toot and Qala-e-Luqman of Charasyab district and Qal-e-Omer Khan, Khowaja Musaffer and Dodamast villages of Paghman district. Of these six groups, two are being trained in gardening techniques, one in vegetable farming, two in poultry production and one in dairy production. The capacity building training has been completed and the professional training should conclude within two months.

Each Livelihood group contains 15 all-female members with one male representative. After successful implementation, the program intends to expand the project to cover all villages of the two districts. Through implementation of the livelihood project the program improves the economic status of rural citizens in order to help them become self-sufficient and self-employed.

Because they cannot access large markets, currently the villagers are forced to sell their products to middlemen who are able to secure a very cheap price, and as the villagers explained, this does not cover their daily expenditures. Although the villagers have abundant resources available to them, they have formerly lacked the capacity to develop these resources into economic livelihoods. The communities are successful in farming tomatoes and apples, for example, but have no cold storage facilities to preserve these agricultural products from spoiling. The Livelihood groups will assist these rural communities in providing preservation facilities and will create the ability to locally convert tomatoes into tomato paste, or apples into jam, allowing for direct exports at the maximum profit possible.

Paghman DDA chairman, Mr. Mahasel Khan, appreciates and welcomes this MRRD/NABDP initiative. According to one group representative from the Dodamast village of Paghman, "We are very hopeful that this livelihood program will have a positive impact." The team leader for one livelihood group expressed his hope that "as a result, this will provide job opportunities to our needy residents."

Community leaders of Charasyab and Paghman districts revealed that despite tight security in their districts, there is still a severe lack of development and rehabilitation activities other than MRRD with its NABDP and NSP programs. Community leaders asserted that there are no obstacles to development projects in these districts and vowed their readiness to support and guarantee any program implemented in the area.



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