

Success Story

Potato Enterprise-Hirat Province Established/ Facilitated by MRRD/NABDP/UNDP



Cold Potato Storage SME-Bamyan

Potato is the vegetable which is widely cultivated in the world; potato contains about 80 percent water, 20 percent solid matter, and has a high nutritional value. Starch makes up about 85% of this solid mass and the rest is protein. Potato also provides vitamins including niacin, riboflavin, thiamin, and vitamin. It also contains minerals such as calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, and sulfur. The importance of potato is that it serves as a food source, the easing of its production, storage and transportation are the reasons for raising the production of potato and therefore became a primary food source as wheat and rice.

Bamyan province enjoys few comparative advantages over the other parts of the country; however, it does enjoy the reputation for good quality potatoes, grown in sufficient amount; thus, allowing for the development of more appropriate

strategy for storing and delivering the commodity to the markets within and outside the Afghanistan.

One of the biggest problems of the potato agronomists in Bamyan province is lack of proper storages for their potatoes with enough capacities.

This is why farmers often sell their potatoes in low prices in harvest season every year. Some small quantities of potatoes that have been stored by farmers in the traditional storages are frozen every year and the farmers lose most of their potatoes as a result.

The main markets for Afghan potato, especially Bamyan province potato are Kabul and Pakistan. In Bamyan, every year the harvested potatoes are being sold in the time of harvesting in a nominal low price. The reason stated for this, is that the potato growers lacking proper storage facilities in order to save their potatoes in the harvesting season so that they can sell them off-season with much higher price.

In order to support/enable poor farmers tackle this phenomenon, cold storage facility and technical support (infrastructure, technical training) was required to be provided to the entrepreneur(s)/ association(s). Therefore, the MRRD/NABDP/UNDP has taken the initiative to provide the above mentioned support to the entrepreneur(s)/ associations(s). The mentioned support is being provided through the facilitating partner that is CCA (Corporation Center for Afghanistan) organization to the Sayed Abad Bamyan Ltd.

The enterprise is established to build a cold storage facility with 200 MT storage capacities, which shall be equipped with the proper temperature, ventilation, light, and humidity control. Furthermore, facilitating partner will provide business management, marketing, and practical and technical trainings to the entrepreneur(s)/association(s).

It is anticipated that by providing the required technical and practical support by MRRD/NABDP, farmers will benefit from increased prices for their product which can be stored at the harvesting season and sent to the market in Kabul at a time of optimal market conditions when supply is short and prices are therefore significantly higher. Additionally, a grading system will be established where potato prices will be determined as per quality.