The IPC Afghanistan team based in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) carried out the IPC analysis 2016 for the country from 24 to 31 of July 2016.

The main objective of the workshop was to guide decision makers with recommendations regarding food insecurity interventions. Findings of the mentioned analysis are used by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) 2017.

Based on IPC protocols, the evidence from various sectors and sources available in the country was collected, integrated, and analyzed to reach technical consensus among the various stakeholders and agencies active in the food security sector. The preliminary findings were shared in the final report.

The IPC assessment in Afghanistan is funded thanks to the generous contribution of European Union funded project, under the supervision of MAIL and with the technical support of FAO, WFP, FEWSNET and other national and international NGOs.

The 4 to 5 October 2016 Brussels Conference on Afghanistan that included two side events focusing on Women’s Empowerment and Regional Economic Cooperation was not only an opportunity for Afghanistan to be at the centre of global attention, but also a platform for the international community to show their support and commitment.

About 75 countries and 26 international organizations and agencies came together to establish and strengthen their professional ties, to promote and their activities and accomplishments, to explore funding opportunities, and to monitor future assessments of countries like Afghanistan.

FAO Afghanistan was one of the few technical agencies represented in Brussels. Its participation, with the support of the Brussels liaison office and FAO Headquarters, allowed for greater visibility and promotion of the agriculture and rural sectors in Afghanistan. FAO Deputy Director-General, Dan Gustafson together with Tomio Shichiri, FAO Representative in Afghanistan stressed the importance of food security and nutrition, which heavily links to the eradication of poverty.

This was also emphasized by H. E. President Ashraf Ghani who stated that “leaders need to commit to uprooting destitution and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”.

It was the occasion for FAO to showcase its activities in the field of food security and nutrition, irrigation and water management, extension and livelihoods, value chain development, and animal health. It also provided an opportunity to encourage collaboration with donors and other partners to design efficient strategies in line with the long-term development plan of the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity analysis workshop

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In This Issue

FAO and Brussels conference...
Integrated Phase Classification...
Practical training in sorghum ...
Establishment of Irrigation Association
Her success begins with one cow...
Establishment of irrigation associations

FAO through the Capacity Development of Irrigation System (CDIS) established two irrigation associations in Mirbachakot and Dehsabz Districts of Kabul Province to manage water in an irrigation network. The irrigation associations are a volunteer group of real and legal persons, including Mirab, Malik, farmers and other community members, which are organized in accordance with the provisions of IA’s standard procedure and as per water law.

CDIS project has been providing On-the-Job-Training (OJT) for the Irrigation Directorate (ID/DAILs) staff at MAIL focusing on various practices to establish and strengthen irrigation associations. The CDIS project provided other training for the IAs to enhance the capacity of farmer communities on irrigation agronomy and on-farm water management, such as field days on laser land levelling technology, the installation of drip irrigation and a workshop on grapes and orchard.

The establishment and strengthening of IAs are key activities of the CDIS project, which has established two irrigation associations in Kabul Province since its inception.

Success Story “Her success begins with one cow”

Six years after her marriage, Mrs. Roshan realized that her family business was about to collapse. Her father-in-law and husband, who were the breadwinners for her joint family in Qarabagh District, no longer had the finances to feed the entire family. That is when Roshan decided to take the plunge.

“Although, my husband was a farmer and owned a few cattle he could not support the entire family. So, I decided to adopt social farming business to increase the number of cows and production of milk,” she said.

Mrs. Roshan says that instead of offering subsidies and other temporary benefits, the government should ensure proper electricity and water supply, and set up marketing facilities for farmers.

FAO rehabilitated two animal vaccine storage cold rooms worth 120 000 USD to MAIL

FAO through the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and other Trans-Boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) project, funded by the Japanese Government, rehabilitated two cold rooms equipped with all necessary tools to store vaccines in cold condition for a long time, at a total cost of 120 000 USD.

The cold rooms - suitable for biological products - created storage capacity of 7-8 million doses of vaccine sufficient for supplies across the country.

The rehabilitation and utilization of these cold rooms will enhance improved vaccine management and storage capacity at MAIL, ensure maintained potency of vials, and enable better management of future national vaccination campaigns.

Tomio Shichiri, FAO Representative in Afghanistan, and H.E Abdul Qadeer Jawad, Deputy Minister for MAIL, attended the inauguration ceremony at the General Directorate for Animal Health and Livestock (GDAHL) in the presence of experts and officials from MAIL and FAO.

FAO will continue to support the most effective strategies to increase immunization coverage, through supplemental campaigns to ensure that animals are protected against all types of Trans Boundary Animal Diseases (TADs).

Practical training in sorghum crop production for students of Parwan university agriculture faculty

In September 2016, the FAO Integrated Dairy Industry Development Project in partnership with Parwan Province Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (PAIL) started a training programme for 48 students of Parwan Agriculture University, about sorghum production and scientific research.

The training provided the students with the practical knowledge of field harvesting techniques, preservation and processing technologies.

Sorghum is a recently introduced crop in Afghanistan, used as livestock fodder, which improves dry matter availability. It is particularly well suited for Afghanistan’s semi-arid climate, thanks to its higher water productivity.

Mr. Zubair Qazizada, Parwan Agriculture University Faculty acting director thanked FAO for the practical collaboration on capacity development and practical training of students in fodder production.

According to him, “Such efforts will go a long way towards training of young extensionists to support livestock production in Afghanistan”.

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