

Project Evaluation Series

[11/2022](#)

Evaluation of the project “Promoting Value Chains – Western Afghanistan”

Project code: GCP/AFG/089/USA

Follow-up report

Evaluation of the Project “Promoting Value Chains – Western Afghanistan” – Follow-up report					01/2024
Evaluation recommendation	Management response Accepted, Partially accepted or Rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken	MAR Score	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions
Recommendation 1. In FAO’s future engagements in support of value-chain development in Afghanistan, especially while incorporating novel equipment and cost-sharing grants, extended support should be factored into multiple phases or projects, as well as at programme level.	Accepted	This recommendation shows the importance of long-term support especially for (development projects) that need systematic support at planning and execution phases, this project brought many important points as a lesson learned for FAO consideration in future implementing projects especially in 2nd and 3rd phases (planning and execution)	Although the project achieved all its objectives by project closing date i.e., Sep 2021, But the political turmoil in Afghanistan in August 2021 limited the access to the development programme in Afghanistan due the sanctions. At present, the international community is funding the emergency response programme.	Advancing	FAO has been executing development projects started before political upheaval such as GEF funded projects, Household Food and livelihoods security project funded by Luxembourg, and rural food security and Livelihoods project funded by USA where the projects extended and/or their execution period designed for 4 to 7 years.
Recommendation 2. FAO needs to develop clear protocols on how to sustain engagement with the private sector in Afghanistan.	Accepted	Under this recommendation the main barriers the project faced dealing legally with private sector specially provision of in-kind support as well as delivery of the machineries needed for VC development. Based on the lesson learned and success of this project and others in the region, RAP made a major contribution to the development of a new Manual Section on grants and risk sharing for VC and SME’s which is now operational.	Based on FAOAF’s lesson learned and sharing experiences, FAO developed a robust Strategy that is “FAO’s Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025” detail available at: https://www.fao.org/documents/card/fr?details=CB3352EN and published Beneficiary Grants Manual Section 3 and detail available at: http://intranet.fao.org/faohandbook/area/projects/operational_modalities/bg_handbook/	Excellent	The FAO’s strategy, manuals and guidelines ensured the engagement of private sector in Afghanistan and globally.

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Recommendation 3. In future value-chain projects that include delivery of inputs to beneficiaries, more attention should be paid to collectively reviewing the requested equipment with the beneficiaries in terms of compatibility and needs.	Accepted	<p>Overall, this recommendation is proper to be implemented in all projects especially in development projects like PVCW, under this project more than 90% of inputs were aligned with needs of businesses and stakeholders, in all cases businesses requested related inputs and machineries in their own proposals while the project specialists reviewed and technically advised the business.</p> <p>The aim of providing extra inputs for business was the introduction of new technology for example vacuum packing machine which is a key device for all food and non-food business to enhance long terms marketing and sustainability.</p>	<p>The engagement of beneficiaries in wheat Value chains covered by the project, significant and very effective support was provided for the development and improved the productivity. With reference to the project document, the introduction of the System of Wheat Intensification (SWI) increase yields and productivity of wheat at least by 15%. Fortunately, the result of crop cutting samples survey indicated that implementation of SWI system increased wheat yield by 31%. Provision and distribution of tractors, seed drill, manual weeders, power tillers, laser leveller and harvester pulse conducting training resulted in the increase of production and productivity up to 31%.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance, Conflict Resolution and Accountability Mechanisms enacted in FAO and part of standard project documents and agreements.</p> <p>The engagement of stakeholders at every step and phase is mandatory and need to be recorded and reported on black on white. Hence, FAO proceed with this recommendation in case of implementing value chain and developing project in Afghanistan in the future.</p>	Excellent	<p>The stakeholder engagement in all projects and programme increased the ownership of beneficiaries and contribute to the sustainability and scalability of the projects/programme.</p>

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Recommendation 4. When supporting a commodity supply chain in Afghanistan, some support needs to be directed to farmers to help improve quality standards and increase productivity to meet national and international market demands and standards.	Partially accepted	<p>In the Wheat Value chains covered by the project, significant support was provided for the development and improved productivity (and profitability 15-20% if memory serves) as well as the introduction of climate smart practices and technologies such as laser levelling (reduces water consumption by at least 30%). This is all now managed by the local private sector.</p> <p>This level of impact and documented results should be subject to upscaling and could be very useful for other initiatives such as GEF/GCF, GCP or other production focused government or development partner approaches.</p> <p>When funds allow, additional support could be important especially for high value crops which involved a big portion of producers under its umbrella.</p> <p>The following are some crops which need such support in west region: saffron, hing, climate smart agriculture/horticulture, pistachio and jujube.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been fully met and considered during the implementation of project in Afghanistan, in 2023 FAO has supported and provided start up and essential kits directly to the farmers specially providing dairy kits, saffron, fruit tree suppling, vegetable seed, pullets, mushroom and all mentioned equipment increase the farmer productivities and national standards.</p> <p>Capacity building of farmers on increasing the productivity of wheat and wheat-based products in Afghanistan, is boosted and injected the idea that Wheat is only used for bread but can be diversified into other high demanded products. Therefore, it needs more and long term efforts to change the mind set of farmers related to wheat and flour marketing, processing for sustainable profitability.</p>	Advancing	<p>Crops productivity and self-reliance of farmers increased. The farmer/producers provided in the ongoing programme of FAO Afghanistan with long term support in case of good agriculture practices and education of farmers through FFS for quality/marketable and quantity production, to meet the market demand. Meanwhile farmers need to become group for enhancing of their economic of scale.</p>

Office of Evaluation
E-mail: evaluation@fao.org
Web address: www.fao.org/evaluation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy