



Project Highlights

AFGHANISTAN

“Programme for the increase of agricultural production by the improvement of productivity in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Phase-II)”

Project code: OSRO/AFG/102/JPN

Donor: Government of Japan

Contribution: USD 11 306 284

Implementation: 9/6/11- 30/11/12

Target areas: Balkh, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangrahar and Takhar

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Objective:

To support and improve the food security of 40 000 vulnerable farming families affected by high food prices and drought through the provision of key agricultural inputs, including quality wheat seed and fertilizer for the autumn 2011 and spring 2012 planting seasons in Afghanistan.

Key partners:

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; and service provider Non-governmental Organizations.

Beneficiaries reached:

The direct beneficiaries of the project were 44 874 farming families, exceeding original target by 12 percent.

Activities implemented:

- Each of the 44 874 beneficiaries was provided with 50 kg wheat seed, 50 kg di-ammonium phosphate and 100 kg urea to plant on 0.4 hectares.
- Using funds from beneficiary distribution copayments, the project helped local communities to implement micro-projects which addressed local agricultural needs.

Impact:

- The average yield was 3.5 tonnes per hectare (40 percent higher than local average yields) for a total of 62 824 tonnes of wheat grain worth USD 21 988 260 – more than double the project cost.
- Secondary beneficiaries are expected to benefit from cash injections into the local economy from locally procured inputs.
- An increase in wheat production and farmer to farmer exchanges of improved wheat seed is expected for the next calendar season.
- In addition to smallholder farmers who received crop production inputs, private seed enterprises and their contract growers (mainly smallholders) have also benefitted from the project through the sale of certified seeds.