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**AFGHANISTAN**

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# FACT SHEET

## Afghanistan Farm Service Alliance (AFSA)

### OVERVIEW

Years of conflict have left Afghan farmers with limited access to quality seeds, fertilizers, and crop-protection products and the know how to use these inputs. The availability of agricultural machinery, veterinary care, and extension services is limited, making it difficult for agricultural entrepreneurs to expand their operations, capitalize on market opportunities, and get the services they need.

Afghanistan has roughly one million commercial farmers and a vastly larger number of subsistence farmers with the potential to transition to commercial production. With the right assistance these farmers could help feed a hungry world and make a tremendous contribution to the Afghan economy.

By working with Afghan partners to develop farm service centers (FSCs) responsive to the needs of the agricultural community, USAID is helping to create a model for a more-efficient supply chain. The goal is to deliver sufficient quantities of high-quality product to farmers at lower costs, improving production, and creating cost efficiencies. The FSCs serve as centers for producer access to market, technical information, trade, and when possible, provide working capital financing to assist rural farmers.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Farm service centers:** Provide ongoing support to develop a network of 17 profit-oriented, privately owned enterprises to provide the agricultural inputs, services, and market linkages Afghan farmers need to transition to successful commercial agriculture
- **Knowledge sharing:** Continued education focuses on the use of improved agricultural inputs, new farming techniques, output marketing, safe use and application of pesticides, production issues, and business practices
- **Access to output marketing:** Assist farmers by introducing them to new marketing channels such as processing facilities, fresh fruits export, local markets, and other sales opportunities
- **Farm service Center Association of Afghanistan (FSCAA):** AFSA has supported development of the FSCAA, an owner's group association to drive the expansion and enhancement of wholesale/retail FSCs

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Benefited more than 50,000 Afghan farmers through increased access to agricultural inputs, training, and access to markets
- Achieved sales and services of \$31.4 million in the FSCs, substantially exceeding the target of \$8.6 million
- Provided improved agriculture inputs as wholesale and retail sales increase farmers' agriculture production by an average of 25 percent through FSCs
- Opened Provincial FSCs in Kandahar, Hilmand, Zabul, Ghazni, Kabul, Laghman, and Kunar, Wardak, Nangarhar, Logar and Kapisa Provinces