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**AFGHANISTAN**

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# FACT SHEET

## Agricultural Research and Extension Development Program (AGRED)

### OVERVIEW

The objective of the five-year AGRED program is to provide extension and advisory services to Afghan farmers and build the capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's (GIROA) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAILs) to sustainably develop and deploy technology and knowledge-based solutions and provide extension and advisory services.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

AGRED activities will be carried out through two program mechanisms. Under the first mechanism, Roots of Peace, the technical support contractor, will provide technical support services and capacity building to MAIL in support of MAIL-implemented AGRED activities. The second mechanism is an on-budget activity to be implemented by MAIL.

The extension and research activities to be implemented by MAIL with on-budget support include: (1) more effective communication to the Afghan farm community in terms of public outreach and education regarding agricultural best practices and technology (e.g. improved technology and knowledge transfer and provision of advisory services in fifty districts); (2) improved applied research and extension infrastructure in seven target sub-national research stations and fifty target districts; (3) training and capacity building of research and extension staff to deliver services to Afghan farm communities; and (4) applied research and extension activities to support and sustain Afghanistan's capacity to improve production in its agricultural economy. Off-budget technical support will include embedded technical experts (mostly Afghans) and on the job-training to support MAIL's design and implementation of research and extension activities, both at the national and sub-national levels.

### PROGRESS TO DATE

- Established AGRED technical working group consisting of MAIL directorate heads. The Technical Working Group is drafting the MAIL AGRED work plan.
- USAID submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding to MAIL for approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The majority of key Field and Headquarters staff and Technical Assistance personnel have been deployed to target areas.
- An inspection has been completed of the seven regional research centers to obtain firsthand knowledge of the current conditions.