



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

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# FACT SHEET

## Alternative Licit Livelihoods Initiative (ALLI)

### OVERVIEW

Some 60 to 80 percent of Afghan households depended on agricultural production and off-farm agricultural activities for much of their income. Low-income, small-scale farmers, in particular, depend on agriculture for subsistence and cash income. Often, they are unable to take advantage of opportunities to increase the benefits from what they produce, or they are negatively affected by the risk and volatility of agricultural markets in Afghanistan.

To assist farmers in Hirat and Bamyan provinces, USAID launched the Agro-Enterprise Development Alliance (ADA). The activity provides training, inputs, and other agriculture services to small-scale farmers, traders, and processors in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. ADA also works with medium-income farmers, traders, and stakeholders, since they are often the catalysts for effective marketing or pioneering technological innovations. ADA works in four broad agriculture value chains: fresh produce (fruits, vegetables, and herbs), drought-tolerant field crops, seed multiplication for vegetables and grains, and small-scale animal husbandry and dairy production.

In June 2010, USAID consolidated the ADA project with its Village-Based Watershed Restoration project to form the Alternative Licit Livelihoods Initiative (ALLI). The combined project is a catalyst for sustainable land management where communities take the lead in restoring and protecting their natural resources and increasing vegetative cover. The project aims to provide communities with sustainable use of natural resource management to enhance their licit economic productivity.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Use soil and water conservation techniques to restore arable areas and protect pasture areas.
- Establish mud walled greenhouses and iron framed greenhouses in FY11, building on previous greenhouse success and lessons learned
- Establish new collective centers, linking new farmers into marketing cluster, providing ongoing business and marketing training to beneficiaries
- Provide income to women via poultry raising
- Increased livelihood sustainability via improved wheat production
- Create gravity-fed water supply systems, as well as creating the local capacity and social structures to maintain the systems
- Create new irrigation structures to help provide uninterrupted or increased irrigation water to village farms

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Increased the productivity of crops on rain-fed and irrigated lands by 68 percent
- Increased the productivity of animals by 125 percent
- Increased biodiversity, vegetation density, and positive vegetation on rangelands by 12 percent
- Increased sales of licit farm and non farm products in U.S. Government assisted areas by \$3.5 million
- Supported more than 1,900 households with safe water for domestic use and consumption