



SUCCESS STORY

A Greenhouse Project Helps Ramazan to Return his Farm

Supporting the alternative livelihoods through creating sustainable income opportunities



Ramazan: KFZ beneficiary & interviewer

“KFZ greenhouse establishment training was an altering experience in my life. It increases my income from \$120 to \$300 in a month.”

- Mr. Ramazan

Lack of a reliable and suitable irrigation water supply and innovative agricultural practices were resulted in reduction of agriculture production in Kandahar province. It compelled farmers to shift their fields and moved to other cities. After the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and alternative livelihood activities by USAID’s Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ) program, the agricultural outcome is increasing and the farmers are returning back to their farmlands.

At this critical economic transition, agriculture can be a primary engine of economic growth and poverty reduction in Afghanistan. Contributing in modernization of agricultural and irrigation system in rural area will help in GDP growth, poverty reduction and will promote the licit economy.

USAID’s Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ) intervention program designed alternative livelihood activities to identify and address the root cause and sources of instability in Kandahar province. KFZ established 47 greenhouses and trained 77 farmers in target districts of Kandahar.

Ramazan is one of the 11 beneficiaries in Takhta Pul district, greenhouse establishment and training project. KFZ built the Takhta Pul greenhouse on June 2015 and is cultivated cucumber by Ramazan. The aim of the greenhouse project is to support the alternative livelihoods through creating sustainable income opportunities, introducing new technologies and latest agriculture practices, thereby making licit crops more profitable and decrease poppy cultivation.

Ramazan has been trained in greenhouse establishment project. He moved to Kandahar City due to low income from farming in Takhta Pul district and left barren his six Jeribs of farmland for many years. He was employed by a local school in Kandahar city as cleaner. After the training, Ramazan returned back to his village in order to utilize their farmland based on new agricultural practice

introduced by KFZ. He was paid \$120 per month by school while he is gaining \$300 Afghani in a month from agricultural products in Takhta Pul.

“I attended in KFZ greenhouse & capacity building training for 45 days in Takhta Pul district. At the end of the program, KFZ built us a greenhouse in Abdullazo village, Takhta Pul district. The training was an altering experience in my life. It brings me back to my field and my village after a long period. I expect to expand my greenhouse business and supply fresh vegetable to the market at different seasons”, says Ramazan.