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Lead Farmers Promote Modern Agricultural Techniques

RADP-S trainings aim to increase productivity for rural farmers.



Photo: USAID/RADP-S

Janan inspecting his wheat crop for pests and disease.

“I am getting financially stronger and I can fulfill the basic needs of my family. I am the only trained farmer in my village and people ask me for advice.”

- Janan, a RADP-S Lead Farmer in Tirin Kot, Uruzgan province.

Farmers in southern Afghanistan now have the knowledge on modern farming techniques.

The USAID-funded Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) trains farmers in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul on modern farming techniques for wheat, vineyard, orchard, and vegetable crops. The RADP-S approach empowers local actors to catalyze sustainable agricultural development and promote knowledge sharing.

Janan, a lead farmer from Tirin Kot in Uruzgan province who received RADP-S trainings, grows wheat, grapes, apricots, almonds, and pomegranates. He has led trainings for local farmers in ensuring safe options for weed and pest control, vineyard establishment, and proper irrigation.

“Before when I was using the old traditional methods for vineyard trellising and irrigation, I was losing more than 40 percent of my crops,” says Janan. “After attending the RADP-S trainings, I learned how to apply a T-trellising system which exposes grapes to sunlight and allows air to penetrate the plant,” he adds.

Lead farmers like Janan also play an important role in their communities. They encourage their neighbors to attend trainings and have become resources on RADP-S supported technologies like greenhouses and drip irrigation. Janan said, “Whenever my neighboring farmers have any questions they come directly to me and I help solve their problems by using the RADP-S methodologies.”

To date, RADP-S’s 78 lead farmers have helped train 12,027 farmers in 15 districts across Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces.

Telling Our Story

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