

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan





Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development

ANNEX 2: INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM (GAFSP)



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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the process and results of consultations with various stakeholders as part of the formulation process of the funding proposal for the Global Agricultural Food Security Program (GAFSP). The stakeholders included public institutions, international partners, the private sector (agriculture traders and processors), male and female farmers and their organisations.

Initially, the GAFSP formulation team held individual meetings with key staff from the most relevant institutions such as MAIL, MRRD, MEW, ANDMA, Kabul University, FAO country staff and other stakeholders in Kabul during the period of June – September 2019. These individual meetings were followed by *a one-day workshop* with participants from the same institutions *and* with a broad range of other stakeholders including those representing development partners such as GIZ, IFAD, WB-financed project staff, NGO's and CSO's. Concurrently, a local community and institution consultations was conducted (June -August 2019) in support of the GAFSP formulation process. Finally, a validation workshop with all relevant stakeholders was organised in August 2019 in the capital Kabul.

1. STAKEHOLDER INSTITUTION CONSULTATIONS

A one-day workshop was conducted at MAIL on 20 June, 2019. The workshop was attended by technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Kabul University Department of Agriculture, FAO country office, FAO Regional Office and international consultants. Appendix 1 presents the full list of the workshop participants. During this workshop, discussions focussed on the scope and objectives of the GAFSP and related project experiences in MAIL, MRRD and other institutions. Following some initial discussions with authorities, farmer groups and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in three provinces, namely Nangarhar, Balkh and Kabul, a second consultation meeting was held with the same group of stakeholders in Kabul. The discussions in the second joint workshop focussed on the project architecture and the nature of key activities as well as the implementation arrangements.

1.1. KEY DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop concluded with the following key decisions:

- The HFLS project approach has been one of the most effective in addressing extreme poverty and food insecurity;
- The approach has been particularly successful in targeting the most food insecure and vulnerable, in particular women and other socially and economically disadvantaged groups;
- The GAFSP project design should build on the HFLS approach and adopt its successful aspects;
- Without water, in some locations, agriculture is nearly impossible. Lack of water for both agriculture and human/livestock consumption has already made many households internally displaced;
- MRRD has rehabilitated a number of Kareezes with promising impact on lives and livelihoods.
 Detailed plans have been drafted to rehabilitate all remaining Kareezes under the leadership of a newly established department for Kareez Rehabilitation in MRRD;
- The GAFSP project in addition to adopting the HFLS approach should also focus on Kareez rehabilitation and small-scale flood protection and irrigation infrastructure;
- The Kareez rehabilitation and livelihood development should go hand in hand to ensure best use of Kareez water and more resilient agriculture practices;
- The project should focus on a few provinces/districts with high levels of food insecurity and vulnerability among the population to ensure impact and sustainability, focussing in provinces and districts that are the most food insecure and vulnerable.

The subsequent one-day workshop (*the validation workshop*) was organised on 28 August 2019 to present the first draft of the proposal and solicit stakeholder views, comments and suggestions. Prior to the workshop a

zero draft of the workshop had been shared with key stakeholders. Furthermore, key questions on the project design, expected outputs, outcomes and activities as well as implementation arrangements were shared with stakeholders with a view to solicit not only written comments and suggestion but also prepare for discussions in the workshop. The workshop was attended by the same institutions but included more staff, who carefully deliberated on the project components and key activities as well as implementation arrangements and other details. Appendix 2 presents the list of workshop participants.

1.2. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP

The validation workshop was held in the MAIL premises on 28 August 2019. The main purpose of the workshop was to present and discuss salient features of the proposal among key units in MAIL and MRRD as well as the staff from several donor-funded projects. The workshop made the following suggestions, which were subsequently reflected in the proposal:

- Increase the number of social mobilisers to ensure and encourage women participation beyond 30%;
- The provincial unit of Home Economy Directorate of MAIL should be an active partner in the implementation of the project, in particular through the female social mobilisers in support of nutrition education, household food processing and supporting female CIGs;
- **Reduce the number of components** by merging some key activities and dropping some issues to ensure project focus and simplicity in the design and implementation;
- Ensure that the components are inter-related and activities are planned jointly in the same areas;
- The steering committee (SC) is an important arrangement to ensure cross-ministerial coordination and address key policy and implementation bottlenecks;
- Ensure that relevant departments in MAIL and MRRD are integral to the project implementation.
- Federation of CIGs at district and province level: Targeting national and international markets requires
 larger economies of scale beyond the 20-25 person CIGs. It would be necessary to federate some CIGs
 at district and province level to build adequate economies of scale for marketing and processing
 purposes.
- Organize traders: Most of Traders are also very small to operate at an efficient scale. The project could also organize traders into groups to build economies of scale and facilitate efficient marketing within and outside the country.
- Support food processing SMEs: food processing is key to managing price fluctuations and facilitating consumption smoothing. Food processors may be supported to access improved technologies and technical knowhow in food processing.
- Capacity development: the FAO-developed FFS methodology has been highly successful among farmers, the project should adopt these experiences and methodologies for farmer capacity development.

2. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultations are held with the understanding that communities are best placed to identify and prioritize key factors contributing to their poverty and food insecurity. Furthermore, communities are usually best judges of identifying potential solutions and how best to address root causes of deprivation. In this regard, a team of seven experts was selected to conduct community consultations in key districts. Table 1 presents details of the consultation team.

<u>Table 1:</u> The Consultation Team

Full Name	Current Designation	
Aziz Arya (Mr.)/ ¹	Proposal Team Leader, Policy and Program Officer, FAO-RAP	
Wakil Ahmad Sarhadi (Mr)	Lecturer at Kabul University, FAO-National consultant	
Najibullah Hassanzoy (Mr.)	Lecturer at Kabul University. FAO-National consultant	
Farzaneh Razmjo (Ms.)	Lecturer at Kabul University. FAO-National consultant	
Ahmad Sina Sabawoon (Mr.)	FAO National Project Staff	

Mohammad Ayoub (Mr.)			Senior FAO National Project Staff.
Khalil	Rahman	Yousufzai	Chief Technical Advisor and National Technical Officer for FAO-
(Mr.)			Food Security Projects.

1. Mr. Arya only participated in some key discussions in Nangarhar, Balkh and Kabul.

Prior to field visits the consultation team went through a one-day training in participatory rural appraisal (PRA), key informant and individual interview techniques. The one-day training also included agreement on a number of set questions as well as the scope of consultation with key expected results. In addition to the consultation team (see <u>Table 1</u>) the district extension workers in each of the three selected provinces also supported the consultation process by consulting with farmers and farmer groups. Separate consultations were held with women in each district to ensure unimpeded participation of women.

2.1. DISTRICT LEVEL CONSULTATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The consultation team held extensive consultations with provincial and district level public, private and civil society institutions between June and August 2019. Extensive discussions were held with the Provincial Development Committee (PDC) members, which include all public institutions, civil society organisations and international partners that are active in the province. Separate meetings were held with key staff from the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (PAIL) and the Provincial Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD).

At the district level, the team held extensive discussions with the institutions representing MAIL, MRRD, Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), MEW and the Ministry of Education. Furthermore, consultations were also held with some NGO's and members of the District Development Committee (DDC) under the chairmanship of the district governor. The district level consultations were followed by extensive consultations with the communities, community based organizations and the CDCs. Taking into account the cultural sensitivities, separate consultations were held with women groups.

The team also consulted with community groups as well as individual male and female farmers in the villages with a view to understand the underlying causes of poverty and food insecurity as well as suggestions on how to address key factors contributing to food insecurity in rural areas. Female district staff and representatives from the civil society organisations supported the female member of the consultation team to hold separate meetings with women in each district.

The consultations were highly successful in soliciting views and suggestions on several aspects related to main problems and constraints encountered by the rural communities. Appendix 4 presents selected photos of the consultation process. The main recommendations of this assessment informed the GAFSP proposal formulation process.

2.2. KEY FINDINGS

The selected provinces and districts (see Appendix 3) are representative of the main agro-ecological zones in the country, which was also part of the reason for their selection in the consultation process. The following are some of the key issues raised by institutions and communities during the consultation process.

2.2.1. PRECIPITATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Precipitation has increasingly been erratic and unseasonal over the recent past. The predicted patterns on which much of the cropping seasons depend have increasingly been disturbed causing significant damages to crops, livestock and related livelihoods. Furthermore, unseasonal bursts of rainfall coupled with early and rapid

snowmelt, the latter related to high temperatures, causes heavy floods and significant damages to property. Improved water management is, therefore, no longer an option but a necessity. In this regard key recommendations include:

- Watershed management plans and interventions: This would include managing water throughout the
 micro and macro-watersheds, which would equitably distribute water among all inhabitants and reduce
 the risk of discrimination among downstream inhabitants. Surface water harvesting (rainwater and
 river flow) when water is plenty would not only ensure water availability throughout the growing
 season but will also improve water table through increased percolation but also reduce the damages
 caused by flash floods.
- Adopt policy measures to control excessive use of underground water by use of pump engine deep
 wells at least in vulnerable areas and preferably throughout the watershed. The use of deep-wells for
 irrigation purposes has affected the functioning of Kareezes and reduced groundwater to levels not
 accessible for domestic use. Most households in rural areas rely on shallow wells for domestic water
 use and the tube-wells are drying up most of the shallow wells and hence limiting access to water by
 many rural households.
- Kareez is one of the main sources of water for irrigation in a large number of districts. Many years of neglect, civil strife and number of consecutive droughts as well as the increasing use of deep-wells have caused the majority of the Kareezes to dry up. In districts with Kareez water system, many communities requested rehabilitation of Kareezes as their top priority.
- Seasonal floods have increased in frequency and intensity over the recent past. The damages form floods are highly significant and require additional measures. Many communities requested flood control measures as their top priority, which they cannot afford on their own.

2.2.2. AGRICULTURE SYSTEM ADAPTATION TO EMERGING CLIMATE REALITIES

- Existing skills and farming systems are ill prepared to adapt to new climate realities. Crop losses, low yields and stunted crop growths are increasingly common. Most farmers requested support for additional skills and inputs to adapt their farming systems and cropping patterns to current and emerging climate realities.
- Farmers and extension workers in the districts requested access to drought and frost resilient varieties. The underdevelopment of the seed system coupled with low skill levels among farmers were mentioned as key reasons for low productivity per unit of land.
- Lack of skills and a physical place where farmers can consult for improved technologies and farming
 practices contributes to the low-input low-output farming systems. Better skilled and more mobile
 extension workers as well as a physical location for demonstration of new technologies are necessary
 for improved farming systems.
- Mixed livestock-crop systems are common but have been weakening in the recent past due mainly to lack seasonal fodder following a localised drought or reduction in grazing capacity of rangelands.

2.2.3. MARKETS AND MARKETING

- One of the main issues reported by almost all stakeholders was weak market and low prices of
 agricultural and livestock products. The farmers mentioned that they receive a very low price for their
 products, which often does not cover production costs. The great majority of farmers are too small to
 have any significant bargaining power to obtain appropriate prices from traders and other
 intermediaries. Small farmers do not have timely and adequate access to market information, in
 particular prices.
- Sometimes it is very difficult for individual farmers to take their produce to markets or attract traders
 to their field, simply because the amount of marketable surplus is too small. This inhibits many farmers
 to access markets.
- There are no cold storage facilities, making the sale of agriculture produce immediately after harvest
 a necessity within a small window of opportunity. This has caused a significant reduction in farmer
 income and increased post-harvest losses.

2.2.4. FOOD PROCESSING

- A number of small and medium size enterprises (SME) for food processing have emerged over the past few years. However, they lack access to improved technologies and technical knowhow to improve the quality of processed food and reduce loss and waste. The association of food processors in Nangarhar, Balkh and Kabul expressed the need for capacity development and exposure to improved technologies to improve the efficacy of their operations. The food processing SMEs are far too small to be able to access improved technologies and efficient processing methods individually. Some initial support will be needed to facilitate such access. Food processing is key to stabilising highly perishable
- Food processing at home is key to consumption cushioning conserving food after harvest and consumption during lean season when food prices are high. Food processing and preservation at home is of significant importance for household food security and nutrition. Capacity development in food processing and preservation, especially to women, was on high demand among communities.

2.2.5. DISTRIBUTION OF AID AND ISSUES SPECIFIC TO WOMEN

- Some communities in the districts suggested that aid agencies and the government often ignore areas that may have been affected by some active conflict. In other cases, MAIL and MRRD have been able to work in areas under the control of the armed opposition using CDCs and other community representatives as implementers. Communities insisted on the feasibility of working in agriculture and other commonly beneficial sectors even in the presence of active conflict, provided communities are fully involved.
- Most women in the villages complained that aid agencies and sometimes the government ignore the needs of women taking supposed local traditions as a pretext. The design of any intervention should include women as direct beneficiaries and their concerns should be part of the design. If appropriately targeted, women cannot be discriminated. However, if the project interventions do not include activities that are specific to women, obviously women will be left out by design.
- Focus on skill development and access to markets for women and by women are important aspects
 of increasing the economic contribution of women.
- Facilitation of literacy courses for women at home as well as issues related to nutrition and sanitation are very important.

2.3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE NEED ASSESSMENT

Key recommendations and conclusions from these field level consultations include:

- Water management is key to agriculture and life in some districts. The internally displaced population (IDPs) are not able to return to their villages if water supply sources, in particular Kareez, are not rehabilitated;
- Crop and livelihood diversification to adapt to current and emerging climate realities are necessary. However, the great majority of smallholder family farms are unable to finance the diversification costs, which includes skill development and farm inputs;
- Access to markets is an important aspect of livelihood development and has to be part of the
 intervention sets. Building economies of scale among smallholders and increasing a two-way
 information flow are important elements of market linkages. Market information would typically
 include location of markets, market actors, prices, quantities sold, supply sources and potential supply
 dates.
- Direct targeting in support of livelihoods for both men and women are necessary to sustainably address poverty and food insecurity;
- It is necessary to support men and women separately as local traditions and customs do not allow the genders to mix. Besides the division of labour in the villages has defined separate livelihoods for men and women;
- Women are able to participate in projects provided that the project design addresses their concerns and needs;

• Skill development is necessary for sustainable eradication of poverty and food insecurity.

The recommendations from the assessment study and the recommendations of the institutional stakeholders including public institutions, civil society institutions, communities and civil society organisations have informed the design of the GAFSP proposal.

3. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. CONSULTATION WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT LIST

Planning Department, MAIL, 06/04/1398, 8:00 – 16:00

No	Name	Position	Organization	Contact number
1	Mr.Noor Ahmad Popal	Agriculture research specialist	Private sector	0707614181
2	Dr.Abdul Wakeel	M&E Senior Officer	HADARF	0706054252
3	Mr.Abdul Ghafar	G.M of horticulture	MAIL	0744737330
4	Dr.M Fahim Bahaduri	PMU Member	СНА	0729128692
5	Mr.Ahamad Ratib	Plan & Program Directorate	MAIL	0707744988
6	Mr.Said Hasibullah	Horticulture research specialist	ARIA	0700257522
7	Mr.Mariam Wafa	Advisor	MAIL	Nil
8	Mr. Baryalai Helali	Field Coordination Manager	MRRD	0700350830
9	Mr.Shikib Sharifi	Policy & planning Director	MAIL	0706524740
10	Mr.Habib Khan	Irrigation Advisor	MRRD	0777929799
11	Mr.Rafiullah Stanikzai	Kareez Department responsible	MRRD	0776418500
12	Mr.Rahmanullah	Water Management specialist	RP/MRRD	0744442717
13	Mr. M.Arif Mir Khail	Water Specialist	RP/MRRD	0799246714
14	Mr.Sanaullah Sadam	Water Management Specialist	RP/MRRD	0787452308
15	Mr.Said Ahmad Khalid Sahibzada	Pasture Directorate OIC	GD-NRM	0708015628
16	Mr.Ismail Hassanzada	Director of Policy and coordination	Policy /MAIL	0748345135
17	Mr.Qasim Wesal	Mechanization Director	MAIL	0700261242
18	Mr. Najibullah	General Manager of plan & program coordination,	Plant Protection/MAIL	0799283201
19	Mr.Hassan Khan	Coordination responsible	Policy & planning Dept	0782545059
20	Mr.Hamdullah Hamdard	GM/Extension Directorate	MAIL	0785401000
21	Mr.Aziz Arya	LTO, Team Leader	FAO-RAP	Nil
22	Mr.Mohammad Aqa	Assistant FAO Representative	FAOAF	0799668336
23	Mr.Khalil Rahman Yousufzai	National Project Manager	FAOAF	0799311542

APPENDIX 2. VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR GAFSP PROPOSAL

Planning Department, MAIL, 28 August 2019, 8:00 – 16:00

S/ N	Name	Position	Organiz ation	Email
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3	Mr. Rahmanullah	Water Management Specialist	MRRD	r.hamid@gmail.com
4	Mr. Ghiasuden	Head of PPRD	ARTA	g.ghanizada@yahoo.com
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21	Mr.Aziz Arya	LTO, Teal Leader	FAO- RAP	Aziz.arya@fao.org
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26	Mr. Sayed Jamaluddin Hossai	NRM Pillar Head GPPC	NRM- MAIL	jamlhessami@gmail.com

27	Mr. Habib Khan	Water Sector	MRRD	Habib.khan@mrrd.gov.af
		Consultant		
28	Mr. Hashmatullah	Public Relations	MAIL	Hashmat karimi456@yahoo.com
	Karimi	Specialist		
29	Mr. Hashmatullah	Deputy Minister of	MAIL	h.ghafoori@mail.gov.af
	Ghafori	MAIL		

APPENDIX 3. DISTRICT STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION, NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS

Provinces Districts		Category of Respondents	Number of Respondents
	Paghman	Farmers & Livestock Owner	10
		Extension Workers	6
		Women	8
		Farmers & Livestock Owner	15
	Shakardara	Landless Rural People	10
		Women	8
		Farmers & Dairy Keeper	20
Kabul		Extension worker	6
	Istalif	Landless Rural People	10
		Women	15
		Farmers & Livestock Owner	15
		Extension worker	5
	Farza	Landless People	10
		Women	15
		Farmer group leaders and farmers	10
	Khogyani	District Extension Officers	3
		Women	6
		Farmer group leaders and farmers	8
	Rodat	District Extension Officers	4
		Women	8
	Kama	Farmer group leaders and farmers	5
		District Extension Officers	6
	Surkhrod	Farmer group leaders and farmers	10
		District Extension Officers	6
Nangarhar		Women (teachers)	8
	Momand Dara	Farmer group leaders and farmers	10
		District Extension Officers	4
		Farmer group leaders and farmers	6
	Lal Pora	District Extension Officers	4
		Farmer group leaders and farmers	14
	Behsoud	District Extension Officers	4
		Farmer group leaders and farmers	10
	Achine	District Extension Officer	4
		Farmer group leaders and farmers	10
	Khewa	District Extension Officer	6

	Goshta	District Extension Officer	2
	Chaparhar	District Extension Officer	4
	Dara-e-Noor	District Extension Officer	6
		Governor of Nangarhar and his team	1
		General Director of Agriculture and his team	1
	Jalalabad	DAIL Manager of Agricultural Affairs	1
		General Manager of Extension (DAIL)	1
		Women (teachers)	15
		FAO Regional Officers in Nangarhar	5
Laghman	Mehterlam	Psycho analysis advisor	1
	Dehdadi	Balkh DAIL Employees	10
		NGO Representatives	12
		General Extension Manager and his team	6
	Masar-e-Sharif	DAIL Director and his team	4
		FAO Regional Officers	4
Balkh		Extension Officers	8
	Nahr-e-Shahi	District Extension Officer	6
	Dehdadi	District Extension Officer	5
	Chamtal	District Extension Officer	4
	Khulum	District Extension Officer	6



1. Community Consultation in Eastern Afghanistan, some participants are internally displaced persons.



2. Consultation with rural women, Eastern Afghanistan



3. Consultation and group discussions with extension workers and farmer group leaders, Kabul.



4. Consultation and discussions with the Provincial Department of Agriculture (PAIL), director and extension officers.



5. Consultation with women farmers, Southern Hindukush (Shamali plains)



6. Consultation with farmers, Istalif – Southern Hindukush.