



Nursery Industry Development Transition Project



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List of acronyms used in the report

- AKF Agha Khan Foundation
- ANHDO; Afghanistan National Horticulture Development Organization
- ANNGO; Afghanistan National Nursery Growers Organization
- BoD Board of Directors
- BG Babur Garden
- CPNs; Certified Production Nurseries
- CTV Citrus Tristiza Virus
- DAIL; Director Agriculture Irrigation & Livestock
- KM Kabul Municipality
- MAIL; Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock
- MSNs; Mother Stock nurseries
- MoU; Memorandum of understanding
- MTs Mother Trees
- NC National Collection
- NGAs; Nursery Growers Associations
- NHLP National Horticulture and livestock project
- NVDA Nangarhar valley Development Authority
- PBTL; Plant Bio Technology Laboratory
- PHDCs Perennial Horticulture Development Centers
- RI SO1; Relief International Sub-objective 1
- RoP Roots of Peace
- SO4 Sub Objective 4
- TA; Technical assistance
- TLO; A Swiss peace Pilot Project-Tribal Liaison office (Afghanistan)
- LLD

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract: **Afghanistan National Nursery Grower Organization**
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person: **Zainulabudin Noor, General Manager**
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action: **N/A**
- 1.4. Title of the Action: **Support to Afghanistan Fruit Tree Nursery Industry Transition Project**
- 1.5. Contract number: **DCI-ASIE/2012/295-861**
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: **August 2014**
- 1.7. Target country **Afghanistan**
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups: **Nursery Growers / Orchard and vineyard growers (about 600,000 persons and family units)**

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1 Executive summary of the Action

During the reporting period ANNGO has made numerous improvements in all parts of their activities. All the staff has worked to achieve the goals of the project and expend the activities of ANNGO in the country.

Inspections of MSNs are under process and some NGA members have started collecting budwood from their MSNs. Based on the budwood estimations by Field Managers of NGAs, It is expected that over 4 million budwood will be needed this summer. The demand of apple, Citrus, Peach and Pear is very high. The Field Mangers regularly monitor the budding processes in their respective NGAs. For shortage of budwood, all the NGAs are in link with ANNGO technical staff. In case of intense need PHDCs are also used as a source of budwood for NGAs.

ANNGO technical staff has also developed budding plan for production of MTs in PHDCs. The plan was handed over to PHDCs responsible. The plan was according to the budwood sale 2013, NGAs requests and market demand of some accessions.

Supports to the Ornamental nurseries are in progress. A consultant has been invited to assess the ornamental nurseries in the country. Mr.Cosimo Frati from MATI Company, in Pistoia Italy, visited government and private gardens and nurseries in Kabul, Mazar and Parwan provinces. ANNGO staff had regular meeting with Babur Garden Management and decided to establish a research nursery which will have fruit and ornamental saplings.

Coordination meetings held with MAIL, ANHDO, NHLP, RI SO1, AKF, TLO, Concern and ANHDO citrus projects (SO4). The main objective of the meetings were support to nursery industry, involve more NGOs and donors to help the sector, follow ANNGO standards in the production of certified saplings and provide all technical support to nursery growers in the country. ANNGO will soon have MoU with some international NGOs for projects in new provinces.

A fruitful meeting was held with Deputy Mayor of Kabul Municipality (KM), Eng.Khghman "Ulomi", where ANNGO and Kabul Municipality were agree on joint activities and projects in the country. ANNGO will sooner conduct survey of all Gardens and available lands of KM.

Field visits were made with NHLP, MAIL, RI SO1 and Mr.Cosimo Farti of NGAs in Kabul and parwan provinces. The purposes of the visits were to solve the field problems, monitor activities and asses field activities of ornamental plants producers.

Citrus Promotion Group meeting (CPGM) was held in Farm-i-jadid, Nangarhar. The 3 NGAs in the eastern zone have also participated and issues for certified citrus seeds, rootstocks, budwoods and MTs are discussed more in details.

ANNGO Database, website and Facebook is updated with all field activities. Sooner ANNGO is launch the website which will represent ANNGO objectives and aims. The site has all the information and will help visitors to know more about ANNGO.

ANNGO TA staff along with 5 board members had a trip to India. During the trip visited fruit trees and ornamental nurseries and developed linkages with private and govnmantal organizations. Sooner some private companies will visit ANNGO activities in the country.

1.1. Results and Activities

Result 1: ANNGO is developed as an independent organisation for the development of the fruit tree nursery industry.

ANNGO is a non profit organization. Its main objective is development of nursery industry in the country. ANNGO represents 25 NGAs from 22 provinces of Afghanistan. Around 1,000 members are individual members registered with ANNGO. According to new by-law is open for membership to individuals and companies. All the certified producers can be members with ANNGO.

Some international NGOs and government organization are ready to have membership/partnership with ANNGO. ANNGO will sooner have MoU with the organizations and will work together for the development of nursery industry in the country.

Result 2: The technical level of the fruit tree nursery in Afghanistan is raised to standards appropriate to the development of a modern orchard industry

Summer budwood sale 2014 programme is in progress in the country. Most of the NGA members are keen to purchase budwood from their MSNs. The shortage of budwoods of apples, peaches, pears, cherries and persimmons have been reported in the country. Under special cases the nursery growers are allowed to get budwoods from PHDCs Demos.

Developed the budding programme of Mother Trees production in PHDCs. The MTs are produced according to the requests by NGAs, budwood sale record and market potential of a specific accession.

Results 3: A planting material registration and certification system is in operation

3.1-Production of Mother Trees in PHDCs;

ANNGO technical staff has also developed budding plan for production of MTs in PHDCs. The plan was handed over to PHDCs responsible. The plan was according to the budwood sale 2013, NGAs requests and market demand of some accessions. These MTs will be distributed to NGAs in early 2016.

3.2-Budding programme in NGAs;

Some NGA members have started collecting budwood from their MSNs. Based on the budwood estimations by Field Managers of NGAs, Its is expected that over 4 million budwood will be needed this summer. The demand of apple, Citrus, Peach and Pear is very high. The Field Mangers regularly monitor the budding processes in their respective NGAs. For shortage of budwood, all the NGAs are in link with ANNGO technical staff. In case of intense need PHDCs are also used as a source of budwood for NGAs.

3-Workshops, trainings and coordination meetings:

ANNGO technical staff had meeting with Babur Garden Manager and Horticulture Director. ANNGO introduced Fruit Trees Certification scheme and production of certified saplings in the country. ANNGO promised to support Babur Garden in ornamental and fruit trees production sectors or ready to provide all possible technical supports.

Babur Garden GM welcomed ANNGO staff for its support to the Garden. The Manager of the Garden also emprise that all the horticulture activities in the garden are performed under the supervision of Board of directors of the Babur Garden.

Both the organization was ready for joint venture activities. The Director of the garden requested ANNGO to come with a proposal or concept paper, also he promised to forward the proposal of ANNGO to Board of Directors of the Babur garden.

Meetings were held with Deputy Ministers of MAIL and Horticulture Director of MAIL, Miss Adela Baktiary. The main purposes of the meeting were;

- All possible Support to ANNGO and better coordination with MAIL
- Catalogue introduction page to be written by Technical Deputy Minister of MAIL.
- ANNGO focal point in Horticulture Directorate of MAIL
- ANNGO/NGAs activities visit by MAIL staff
- Deputy Minister, Mr.Haidari had to present ANNGO current situation to Minister.

Short information was written about ANNGO updated activates and achievements were written and sent to Deputy Minister, Mr.Haidari.

Meeting held with Swiss project for support to nursery industry in Loy Paktia (Khost, Paktia and Paktika provinces).The project is ready to support 6 districts at the beginning of the project and targets for the districts will be increased gradually. The project is ready to establish MSNs and Demonstration Orchards of only marketable varieties in the area.

Coordination meeting with NHLP staff, the main issues of this meeting was follow:

- Managing certified saplings on rootstocks for modern orchards which NHLP has in the future plan through ANNGO / NGAs
- Managing NHLP propagation of rootstocks through tissue culture by ANNGO / NGAs for production certified saplings for establishing modern orchard of NHLP

- Finding the some problems of orchards which NHLP established form saplings of Sayed Khil NGA members and solving the problems by field monitoring.

ANNGO Participate in Kabul Provincial Agriculture extension meeting which is comprised form Kabul, Panjshir, Parwan, Maidan-wardak and Logar Provinces Extension Managers. The technical team explained ANNGO certified production saplings also explained them about NGAs provide true-to-type, healthy and vigorous saplings with all ANNGO standard for public and private orchard growers.

ANNGO and ANHDO – RI / SO1 coordination meeting is held. The main issues of this meeting were as:

- Proper management of field managers activities and aware them regarding their responsibilities
- Review the appendixes of certification scheme processes of ANNGO
- Managing coordination meetings with relatives organs like NHLP, TLO, Concern, AKF and others
- Managing ANNGO 2014-15 catalogue (4th publication) for publication
- Training programs for field managers of NGAs
- Training of field managers for NGA members
- Ornamental program of ANNGO and managing agenda for ornamental specialist from Italy

Meeting held with Mr.Nasrullah Bakhtani of MAIL for procedure manual of Afghanistan Fruit Trees Certification Scheme. The main point for the meeting was:

- ANNGO has to present the certification manual to MAIL key directors
- The post control should be made clear in the manual
- Each sapling should have serial number
- Associations should work according to the SA standards

Meeting held in ANNGO office with Concern Worldwide and RI/HPS for support to nursery industry in the north east of Afghanistan. The details of the meeting are as follows; The meeting started with the introduction of the new LRRD project that Concern have in Takhar and in which the two main goals are the improvement of production and the connection between market and farmers.

Concern expressed their doubt regarding the past management of Mercy Corps in the north, for this reason ANNGO explain their history and the main goal of the association.

Concern suggest to start with a field mission to check the nursery of 7 Ha that they have in Takhar (the land was belong the DAIL but they have an agreement to establish nursery and use it to produce fruit sapling for the region). Concern will ask the permission to DAIL to create a company to manage the nursery. They agreed to register themselves and the nursery sustained under the LRRD project.

After that there will be an agreement with the different services that ANNGO can provide to them.

Concern asked also for fruit sapling to establish orchard in the area between Takhar and Badakshan. ANNGO will provide the list of available sapling and will put in connection Concern with the local NGA to ensure the possibility to buy certified fruit sapling. Concern asked if they can have a regular completion among the nursery growers to have a better price.

The Project Manager explained the 3 different categories of sapling present in the market and the quality that ANNGO can ensure through the local NGA at a fix price.

Concern agreed to pay what is request from NGA to have better sapling quality and ensure the orchard owner the best possibility for their economic development.

ANNGO and Concern agreed for a monitoring mission at beginning of October and there will be further meeting with the presence of the MAIL horticulture directorates.

ANNGO Head of Technical Services went to Jalalabad for Citrus Promotion Group (CPGM) with RI Project Manager. The details of the meeting are as follow;

Agenda of Citrus Promotion Group Meeting:

1. Discussion with ANNGO to develop a plan for citrus industry
2. Citrus bud wood provision to NVDA and NGAs from MSNs and other sources
3. Establishment of citrus DOs by SO4 together with NHLP
4. Study tour presentation by Aziz and Shams
5. CTV research project presentation by Pablo
6. SO4 citrus packing and storage facility to be constructed in NVDA premises
7. AOB
8. Field visit (citrus net house, citrus NC and citrus rootstock trail...)

Discussion and decisions made during the meeting;

It has been discussed that ANNGO should have a specific plan for the development of the citrus industry. Because there are still some obstacles which cause slowing down the development of this industry such as the un-availability of rootstocks and enough bud woods of good varieties.

It has been suggested that if the current citrus MSNs can't supply enough buds then other sources can be considered as temporary source of buds. ANNGO can't consider the buds from other source certified but those can be considered as the second category saplings (Known source of buds other than MSNs such as NCs, DOs...). Because in ANNGO certification scheme only buds taken from MSNs can be considered certified and if they consider the buds from other sources as certified then they afraid that this kind of exceptions can deteriorate the whole ANNGO certification scheme.

The nursery growers who already have citrus seedlings ready for grafting in Sep-2014 will try to get buds from MSNs of their own NGAs, in case of need the NGAs of Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar can share buds with each other until everyone receive enough buds of good varieties.

In case there is no bud left in MSNs then the nursery growers in coordination with the Field Manager can take buds from the secondary sources such as demonstration orchards originated from National Collection. These saplings can be considered the second category saplings and then ANNGO will decide either to issue labels for these saplings to be considered certified saplings or remain as the second category.

If any NGA needs bud wood from other source than MSN they should inform ANNGO first and ANNGO will process their request and will guide them.

ANNGO and SO1 insisted that imported rootstock must have at least a certificate of origin which can be a document for ANNGO to be sure that a particular rootstocks is imported and it can also be a document for the nursery growers that in case of wrong materials they can complain against the seller.

The nursery growers of East import Rough Lemon seeds from Pakistan and we all know that there is no certification system and no one can certify those seeds in there, but it has been agreed that at least the nursery growers importing the seeds should have a certificate of origin or something similar such as an invoice mentioning the type of seeds, origin and etc..

Meeting with Mr.Ahad from AKF regarding following issues:

- Arrange coordination meeting with public and private organs which are working in horticulture sectors
- Have survey to know how many saplings produced without ANNGO / NGAs and how to encourage these producers to accept ANNGO certification scheme.
- MAIL / Horticulture Directorate must support horticulture private sectors and MAIL/ Plant protection Directorate must have quarantine offices in borders of Afghanistan to stop illegal import of saplings and planting materials to Afghanistan.

Meeting and discussions with legal adviser (Prof.Fariwar, PHDP TA, ANNGO head of technical services and me) regarding checking of renewed ANNGO By-law in this meeting did following:

- Comparing English version with Dari version of ANNGO by-law
- Checked by-law by chapters and articles
- Removed some articles which are came twice
- Regarding structure of ANNGO (General Assembly, DoB, Executive Board of DoB and Executive Board Committee)

4-Trips Reports;

Arranged a trip programme with a consultant from MATI to visit the following NGAs/companies of ornamental plants producers;

- Babur Garden, Kabul
- Gul Rizan Nursery , Kabul
- Bagram NGA nurseries, Parwan
- Noor Agha Asalam Zada Agriculture Services and flowers Production company, Kabul
- Umul bilad NGA nurseries, Balkh province
- Nangarhar NGA nurseries, Nangarhar province

Visit of Bagram NGA ornamental nursery with MATI consultant and PM SO1.The consultant observed complete production cycle of the two nurseries. During the visit the major species produced with the NGAs are identified. The common problems observed are production and management of species in the greenhouse.

Horticulture Director with her staff monitored Parwan NGAs activities. During the visit, meeting with DAIL director of Parwan province also arranged by ANNGO senior inspector in order to know more about project activities and coverage area. After meeting the monitored Sayed khail and Bagram NGAs some nurseries and MSNs.

A study tour to India organized by Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry of the Society for Advancement of Human and Nature (SADHNA), for visiting ANNGO/ANHDO/RI team. The tour planned to meet technical team of different organization and research stations in Himachal Pradesh ,Nauni, Solan, Chandigarh and new Delhi of India from 11 to 19 Aug 2014.

In this tour two technical and five board of directorate members of ANNGO and two ANHDO, two ANNHDO/RI and one member of horticulture directorate of MAIL participated.

The participant visit different location of government and private fruit and nursery producers as well meet many ornamental farms and landscaping in order to know the techniques they are using for the production of the flowers in their country.

It have been decided to send few team members of ANNGO and ANHDO/RI to India for a week study tour to visit research stations and horticulture organization to meet the following purposes:

1. Certified production nurseries true to type, virus free and vigorous
2. commercial nurseries, orchards and demonstration orchards for new varieties
3. relationship and linkage of nursery growers to orchards growers
4. tissue and meristem culture, cleaning of germplasm
5. research farms: multiplication of root and mother stock of fruit trees
6. Introduction of new certified variety to orchards growers
7. Propagation and multiplication ornamental and forestry nurseries
8. certification scheme planting material procedure in India
9. visiting of fresh and dry fruit markets



Meeting held with Deputy Mayor of Kabul Municipality, Eng.Khghman “Ulomi

Name of the contact person for the Action:

Signature:

Location:

Date report due:

Date report sent: