



## Nursery Industry Development Transition Project



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#### List of acronyms used in the report

- ANNGO; Afghanistan National Nursery Growers Organization
- NGAs; Nursery Growers Associations
- MSNs; Mother Stock nurseries
- DAIL; Director Agriculture Irrigation & Livestock
- ANHDO; Afghanistan National Horticulture Development Organization
- NGAs; Nursery Growers Associations
- RI SO1; Relief International Sub-objective 1
- TA; Technical assistance
- MAIL; Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock
- CPNs; Certified Production Nurseries
- NHLP National Horticulture and livestock project
- CA Certification Authority
- MTs Mother Trees
- BG Babur Garden
- PHDCs Perennial Horticulture Development Centers
- FMs Field Managers
- DHD Directorate of Horticulture Development
- AAIP Afghanistan Agriculture input project
- LRRD Linking Relief, Rehabilitation, and Development

### 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: **October 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)**
- 1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): **Afghanistan**

## 2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

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### 2.1. Executive summary of the Action

During the month of October ANNGO has made improvements in the all parts of their activities which were in continuation from the last months. ANNGO plays key role in the development of nursery industry with the implementation of certification scheme.

ANNGO has updated its by-law to increase the members and generate more income to ANNGO through memberships and services to new members. As soon as the new by-law is approved by ANNGO Board of directors and General Assembly, the companies, NGOs and individual members will be able to have membership with ANNGO through NGAs easily.

A historic Babur Garden (BG) is also willing to work under ANNGO for the production of certified fruit trees saplings, ornamental trees and annual flowers to generate income to the garden through sales. ANNGO will have to expand its services from BG to Kabul Municipality.

The sale of budwood in all MSNs are completed and most of the NGAs members have collected budwood from their respective MSNs. Some of the NGAs have purchased budwood from other NGAs. The price for budwood was 1 Afs per bud in all NGAs. In case of more need budwood was also collected from PHDCs.

After the comments from MAIL, CA, the certification manual is improved. The translation in Pashto and Dari are in progress. This manual will be part of seed law. The copies of the law will also be distributed to NGA members and groups involved in the production of certified saplings.

Certifications of fruit tree saplings are in process. FMs as local inspectors have inspected the production nurseries and have made ready all the necessary documents for ANNGO inspectors. ANNGO senior inspectors have during reporting month have been stick during inspection of CPNs.

ANNGO staff provided Technical assistance to Concern World Wide NGO in Badakhshan province for the certified nurseries establishment. ANNGO staff visited the established nurseries and orchards of concern and in the last 2 days training was provided to Concern and DAIL staff of Takhar and Badakhshan provinces. ANNGO had an income of 2400\$ through training and TA to concern. Concern will have a MoU with ANNGO to produce certified saplings with the guides from ANNGO staff.

A tissue culture specialist from India visited ANNGO activities. The specialist was informed about ANNGO certification processes.

ANNGO has started label printing for certified saplings and will be completed before winter starts.

ANNGO had regular meetings with RI, ANHDO, MAIL, DHD, Babur Garden, ANHDO and PHDP2 for better coordination and cooperation.

## 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 800 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.

The individual members of ANNGO are increasing. ANNGO has started working with a historic Babur Garden. The garden is a legal body registered with ministry of economy as an NGO. An experimental nursery will be established where student from Faculty of Agriculture, Kabul will also be involved. The nursery will generate income to BG.

### **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 completed. 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.

Ensuring that farmers have timely access to good Quality planting material which is one of the most important and basic element for successful horticultural production and development.

Despite this reality planting material available in the NGAs' mother stock nurseries but this year demand of some varieties was high, in that case some NGAs faced with lack of planting material by the time ANNGO and ANHDO guys decided to distribute planting material from PHDCs' farms to the nursery growers so in this month of September have been distributed buds from Badam bagh from to the Ghazni, Herat, Shakardara, Paghman and Saidkhil NGAs' members.

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

The important point of ANNGO certification Scheme is filling ANNGO certification forms for MSNs and CPNs by Field Managers of NGAs. All the Field Managers had to fill the forms and send to ANNGO and RI SO1 project manager.

The newly hired FMs were practically trained to fill the certification forms during FMs training programme.

This shows that the certification system is gradually improving and the production of NGAs are according to ANNGO standards and rules.

Work on translation of certification manual is in progress. The English manual is translated in Pashto and Dari languages. THE AFGHNISTAN NATIONAL FRUIT

TREE CERTIFICATION SCHEME from English to Dari to providing official documents for ANNGO certification scheme and submit this document for approving of MAIL/ Certification Authority. The final version will be released as a law to NGA members.

ANNGO has started lifting and sale for 4<sup>th</sup> batch of certified saplings in the country. It is expected that over 1.2 million certified saplings will be planted in the country.

ANNGO senior inspectors have started inspecting the production nurseries in the 22 provinces and 25 NGAs.

The label printing programme is also started. The details for the label printing is given in the below table.

#### Shows updated situation of label printing programme

NGA Name	Date started label printing	Date completed label	Total printed labels	Total members	Delivered to NGA (Yes/No)
Nangarhar	19-Oct-14	20-Oct-14	46096	7	Yes
Laghman	18-Oct-14	19-Oct-14	33229	7	Yes
Kunar	25-Oct-14	26-Oct-14	42367	27	Yes
Paghman	27-Oct-14	28-Oct-14			No
Shakardara	28-Oct-14	on progress	30731	11	No
Paktia	29-Oct-14	29-Oct-14	23703	9	Yes
Heart	22-Oct-14	on progress	65200	6	No

### **3-Workshops, trainings and coordination meetings:**

ANNGO technical staff had meeting with MAIL certification authority for certification manual to be presented to MAIL staff. ANNGO staff presented briefly the manual of the Afghanistan national fruit trees certification scheme to Nusrullah Bakhtani CA Director, Abdul Ghafar Majed from DHD, 2 other staff of MAIL and Mahoob Nang from AAIP.

After presentation and full discussion was held with Mr. Bakhtani for 20 comments and additional points were proposed for complementation of the manual.

Regarding the certification from Mr. Nasrullah Bakhtani comments, on 26/10/2014 Mr. Guliano Masini, Mr. Bakhtani, Noor and Sharaf discussed and brought improvement in the manual.

During the trip to India by ANNGO staff and board members in September 2014. A tissue culture company was visited and the director of the tissue culture company had agreed to visit ANNGO office here in Afghanistan. The director of the company visited tissue culture facility of PBTL, Badam Bagh, apple MSN in shakardara. The company was ready to import certified saplings from Afghanistan.

ANNGO has started supporting concern world wide in the certified nurseries established. Two ANNGO staff were invited to Faizabad to visit concern nurseries and provided training to DAIL staff of Takhar and Badakhshan Provinces from 18<sup>th</sup> Oct to 22 oct.

Concern worldwide has been working with the nurseries development programme since 2002 in the north east part of the country. The organization can be a new member of ANNGO in the north east of the country to work together and provide all possible support to Concern LRRD field staff and DAIL extension workers on district level. ANNGO will work together with concern to provide all possible support to nurseries in Faizabad and Yawan districts of Badakhshan Provinces. Model nursery will be established in faizabad DAIL farm. The Faizabad nursery will be used as a training center for Takhar and Badakhshan provinces nurseries.

ANNGO and concern will develop long term plant for DAIL land to be used by poor farmers of Takhar and Badakhshan provinces farmers and nursery growers in the future. The details of the field visit & training are as follows;

a- Meeting with Concern regional staff;

On 18<sup>th</sup> of October meetings are held with Azima jan and Maqsoud Khan responsible for agriculture activities of concern projects in Badakhshan and Takhar provinces. Azima jan and Mr.Haji Maqsoud Khan provided detailed information about agriculture projects of concern in Badkhshan.

ANNGO TA staff got also provided information about the activities of the organization and Badakhshan NGA activities.

b- Field Visit;

The field visited was restricted only Dasht-i-qurgh nursery in Faizabad. The site was under cultivation from 2002. At the beginning 10 jeribs of land was under cultivation by the project. Now all the 35 jeribs are under cultivation of the project. The farm was basically divided into orchards and multiplication area, ornamental and forest trees. The orchards consist of apple, almond, grapes, mulberry, peaches and plum. Some walnut, apricot, persimmon and pomegranate trees were also seen on the side of the paths and slops. The nursery has saplings and seedlings of pine species, peaches, walnut, apricot, apples and mulberries. As per agreement 30% income of the nursery was paid to Badkhshan DAIL. The bud used in the nursery was mostly local cultivars. The plan for the nursery production was mostly based on the market demand. A large green house was also installed for the vegetable production trials.

c- Field problems;

Major problems observed by ANNGO technical team are as follows;

- Regular use of land for nursery and no crop rotation.
- Throughout the year no measures taken to improve the soil structure.FYM and chemical fertilizer used to conserve soil fertility.
- Cutworm (white Grub) could not be controlled with the local available insecticides. Apply cypermethrin insecticide @ of 5 cc per liter of water. This

can only be applied in mid to late summer when the grubs are above the soil surface and actively feeding the saplings roots. ANNGO will work on this serious problem to solve it in the province.

Note that the product of recognized company should be used.

- No regular weeding done in the farm. At least one weeding should be done before weed flowers and seeds develop in it.
- Poor pruning system in the orchards and nurseries are seen. Concern staff needs to work more to solve the pruning problems in the farm.
- Concern has to develop long term contract with DAIL and develop sustainable plan.
- No pest and disease management in the farm.
- Limited numbers of labors are working in the farm, which has created many problems.
- No control on visitors. The visitors should be restricted to limited locations
- Varieties selection in the orchards are not standards and the layout in some locations are very poor.
- The landscape designing is not according to ANNGO standards.
- No proper record keeping and data collection.
- Heavy machines cannot be entered in the farm.
- No boundary wall in some locations to protect the farm.
- Pruning of saplings in the nursery

ANNGO and concern should jointly work to develop long term plan for the DAIL land and develop proposal to use the land as a training center for DAIL staff, farmers and NGOs staff as a training center.

d- Training session;

The training was conducted according to the developed agenda. Hand outs in the form of books and booklets were distributed to the trainees. At the end of training soft copy of presentations was given to the participants. The main subjects of the training were;

- 1) ANNGO Fruit Trees Certification Programme
- 2) Certified saplings production
- 3) Mother stocks nurseries (MSNs) and stoolbed Management
- 4) Standards of MSNs and Certified production nurseries
- 5) Commercial Varieties of Afghanistan
- 6) Official forms of certification process
- 7) Plan production of saplings

e- Practical work;

On the second day of training in the afternoon practical training was given to participants in;

- 1) Nursery layout
- 2) Orchard layout
- 3) Top grafting of an off type tree

f- Group photo & certificate distribution;



At the end of training certificates were distributed to trainees and had a group photo with the participants.

g- Trainees' feedbacks;

Concern should share the result of trainees' feedback with ANNGO technical staff so that for future trainings the trainees should work according to skills of trainees.

h- ANNGO feedback for joint nursery;

ANNGO is willing to develop a long term plan for the 35 jeribs land of DAIL. The long term plan can be shared with Badakhshan DAIL, NGA and concern staff. This plan will benefit all the farmers in Badakhshan province and will generate income to farm. ANNGO and Concern should work together to develop a proposal and find donor for the farm.

i- ANNGO and Concern Memorandum of Understanding;

Soon ANNGO will develop a MoU and will share with Concern. Mr. Shirin Agha Samim from Concern and Mr. Mohammad Muzaffar Athar will work together to develop the MoU. The MoU will benefit ANNGO and Concern.

j- New Concern Nursery in Faizabad;

ANNGO technically instructed concern staff for nurseries establishment in Faizabad. A detailed nursery plan was developed for concern staff to establish certified nursery in Faizabad.

Regular meetings held with RI and PHDP/II and ANHDO for the joint activities and horticulture development programme. During the meeting with RI ANNGO/NGAs internal issues were discussed.

ANNGO staff participate in 2 day's workshop on production of planning for winter crops which is prepared by AAIP and National Board of Seeds.

In this workshops the seed situations in Afghanistan explained by Mr. Panshiri Senior Adviser of MAIL, Mr. Bakhtani Evaluation Monitoring and CA Director. Also Mr. Essa Qudrat AAIP/project Director explain this project activities regarding seed production. Agriculture Directors of Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar and Kunduz Province explained regarding situation of winter wheat seed production, marketing and challenges in these Provinces.

After then the seed companies representatives practically worked on their plan production.

Also Mr. Bakhtani mentioned each NGAs of ANNGO every year must do their nurseries production plan and arrange workshop on national level.

#### **4-Trips Reports;**

ANNGO inspectors busy with inspection of production nurseries of 25 NGAs. In the current month most of the certified nurseries are inspected.

The main purpose of the certified nurseries inspection program is to prevent the low quality saplings production and follow up ANNGO standards still to avoid customers

economic losses resulting from the sale of inferior, off type, defective, or pest-infested nursery stocks.

The quality of nurseries has improved as a direct result of the regulation of nursery stocks.

Usual every year certified nurseries should be inspected so this year also certified nurseries inspection has been started from east zone during this inspection also have been checked those forms which related certification scheme, hard copies of the mentioned documents taken from FMs.

Those nurseries which were not according ANNGO standards have been rejected and for those nurseries which registered, nursery owners want labels as soon as possible because NHLP will start autumn plantation in east Zone.

ANNGO inspectors inspected eastern zone NGAs (3 NGAs), Herat NGA, Paghman, Shakardara, Said khial, Logar and Gardez NGAs.

The approved certified nurseries are included in the label printing programme.



Inspection of certified production nurseries in Herat province





## ANNGO training to Concern NGO and DAIL staff of Takhar and Badakhshan provinces in Faizabad



Practical training in nursery establishment to Concern and DAIL staff in Faizabad

### 3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation

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- 3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the Beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the Coordinator or the affiliated entity statement)? Please provide specific information for each Beneficiary/affiliated entity.
- 3.2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?
- 3.3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:
  - Associate(s) (if any)
  - Contractor(s) (if any)
  - Final Beneficiaries and Target groups
  - Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.)
- 3.4. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.
- 3.5. If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).

### 4. Visibility

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How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

*In line with the visibility policy followed by PHDP and PHDP2, it is the intention of the project not to use EC logos on vehicles due to the increased danger of providing vehicle identification to terrorists.*

1. The Project will be using the distinctive logo for the Afghan National Nursery Growers Organization (ANNGO) in conjunction with the blue EU flag on all stationery, including business cards and letterheads, as new stationery is prepared for the new project. This theme will be carried consistently through all publications and printed materials of the project, excluding labels used for certification of saplings. .
2. The Project provides all invitations to workshops and seminars in the standard project format as above.
3. The Project will continue previous practice of PHDP, where PHDP stands at fairs included a banner with the EU flag.
4. The Project will organise workshops, field days and other similar events under the name of ANNGO and will seek maximum press and media coverage. Following the precedent of similar activities under PHDP, the Project will clearly show the EC funding of the project activities.

The Project will prepare illustrated leaflets in English, Dari and Pashto languages for distribution at shows, and variety catalogues and similar marketing materials in the three languages. These leaflets will include the EU flag to denote the EC funding.

**The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.**

There are no objections as long as security considerations are borne in mind and targets are not pinpointed for terrorists.

Name of the contact person for the Action: .....

Signature: .....

Location: .....

Date report due: .....

Date report sent: .....