



Afghanistan National Nursery Growers Organization (ANNGO)

Monthly Report



ANNGO technical staff visit of micro-propagation units in India.

August 2016





Nursery Industry Development Transition Project



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List of acronyms used in the report

- NGAs; Nursery Growers Associations
- MSNs; Mother Stock nurseries
- MAIL; Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock
- NHLP National Horticulture and livestock project
- HPS-SO1; Horticulture Private Sector-Sub objective one
- MTs Mother Trees
- DHD Directorate of Horticulture Development
- FMs Field Managers
- DAIL; Director Agriculture Irrigation & Livestock
- TA Technical assistance
- MAIL; Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock
- CPNs; Certified Production Nurseries
- NHLP National Horticulture and livestock project
- HPS-RI; Horticulture Private Sector-Relief International
- BoDs Board of Directors
- MoU Memorandum of understanding
- PHDCs Perennial Horticulture Development Centers
- NC National Collection
- CA Certification Authority
- CPGM Citrus promotion Group Meeting
- BG Babur Garden
- ARIA Agriculture Research Institute of Afghanistan
- AAEP Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project
- USAID United State Agency for International 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:	Nursery Industry Development Transition Project
1.5.	Contract number:	DCI-ASIE/2012/295-861
1.6.	Start date and end date of the reporting:	August 2016
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

2.1. Executive summary of the Action

ANNGO is umbrella organization supporting nursery growers throughout the country. The organization also supports national & international NGOs in their services in the horticulture sector which includes orchard establishment & management services. NHLP is one of the MAIL projects working in close coordination with ANNGO. The project is also the biggest customer of ANNGO which has agreed to establish a tissue culture facility to private organizations for the clonal rootstocks production of high value crops like, almond, cherries, pears & pistachios. ANNGO is the potential customer to establish the facility & produce certified, disease free saplings in the country. The micro propagation unit will help ANNGO to increase production of important fruit crops, sell seedlings of clonal root to member NGAs & also micro-propagate seedlings of high value ornamentals which cannot be produced through common methods of reproduction. To know more about tissue culture & micro-propagation, a study tour was arranged by USAID to visit micro-propagation units in India. Two ANNGO staff were supported to visit the micro-propagation facilities.

ANNGO staff has completed the budding programme of MTs in PHDCs. The budding of MTs in the PHDCs were monitored by ANNGO inspectors. The seedlings produced in PHDCs could not fulfil ANNGO needs to produce the required MTs in PHDCs. According to the new MoU with MAIL, ANNGO will have nurseries in PHDCs to fulfil the need of MTs. Similarly the budding plan for Babour Garden nursery is completed & the seedlings will be budded in the coming days.

ANNGO technical staff attended the CPGM in HPS/RI office. ANNGO staff shared the list of available certified saplings with the participants of the meeting. Discussions held on the quality & nursery of available certified saplings produced by 3 NGAs in the eastern zone. Also more discussions held on Eureka lemon and their MTs production programme by ANNGO/PHDCs. It was also decided by the participants to visit the citrus certified saplings produced in September and find out major problems & weaknesses of certified citrus nurseries.

ANNGO staff also attended National Horticulture Strategy workshop. ANNGO staff representing fruit trees nursery sector. The workshop was opened by H.E. Mr. Assadullah Zameer, MAIL minister. The participants had more detailed review of the first draft of the strategy. ANNGO had its key contribution in the nursery sector.

ANNGO staff conducted the second seasonal training of Field Managers. The training was in cooperative building located in Badam Bagh for 3 days. The subjects of the training were according to the demand of trainees. Because of poor security conditions in west, north east provinces the field managers of Helmand, Badakhshan, Takhar & Kunduz could not participate.

All the collected data from the field are inserted in ANNGO database & the website is improved & inserted the pictures of fruits.

ANNGO technical staff participated in AAEPII fieldday which held in Badam Bagh research station with participation of MAIL different directors and senior officials.

ANNGO staff had trips to Kunduz & Herat provinces to monitor the NGAs activities. During the trip to Herat, The MAIL Horticulture Director, Miss Adela Bakhtiari also visited two NGAs activities in Herat province.

Kunduz General Assembly meeting & coordination meetings held with partner organizations. The annual election of Kunduz NGA is held during the current month & Mr. Bashir is reselected as chairman of Kunduz NGA for one year.

Results and Activities

Outcome1: ANNGO is developed as an independent and self-sustainable organization for the development & improvement of Afghan Fruits, nuts and ornamentals nursery sectors.

- Being an independent organization, ANNGO technical staff participated in the Horticulture Strategy Workshop & represented nursery industry of Afghanistan.
- ANNGO Board of directors and project technical team participate in the different fruit shows that H.E MAIL minister and HE deputy ministers were invited in Hirat and Kabul provinces.

Outcome 2: The technical level of the fruit tree, nut and ornamental nurseries in Afghanistan are raised to standards appropriate to the development of a modern nursery industry.

- ANNGO technical staff conducted 3 days training to Field Managers of NGAs in cooperative building, in Badam Bagh.
- ANNGO technical team were participated in the study tour to India for the production of planting material under tissue culture. This program was organized by USAID.
- The budding of MTs in PHDCs were monitored by ANNGO staff during the month.

Outcome 3: The technical level of ornamentals nurseries in Afghanistan is raised to standards appropriate to the development of a modern ornamental industry.

- ANNGO staff regularly providing technical assistance to ornamental nursery in Babour Garden.
- The NGAs members are training on the ornamentals sectors and the production of the certified saplings and the ANNGO technical team providing the technical assistance and leaflets of the different flowers to them.
- Bagh Babur ornamental plots are monitoring on regular basis and important technical guidance delivering to the staff of Babur Garden and HPS

Outcome 4: The current planting material registration and certification system is consolidated and improved

- Inspection of MSNs are completed & the final result shared with NGAs, MSN owners & MAIL Seed and Planting material Certification Directorate..
- The budwood sale from MSNs are in progress & the certified nurseries are being budded according the ANNGO standards.
- The metal label request data provided by NGAs are under process.
- A survey is in progress for the missing, dead & dry saplings of MSNs.
- The plants for propagating of Mother Trees for ANNGO in the PHDCs are budded under supervision of ANNGO technical inspectors.

3. Workshops, Fieldday, Field trip, Exhibitions, trainings and coordination meetings:

Study Tour to India (1st August 2016 to 5th August 2016)

Duration of the Trip:

Excluding the round trips, the duration of the tour was 3 days.

Participants:

S.Nr	Name	Organization	Position
1	Mohammad Iqbal	USAID	Project Management Specialist
2	Hidayatullah Omarkhail	Samsor Ban	Director
3	Mohammad Muzaffar	ANNGO	Head of Technical Services
4	Nazif ullah Husaini	ANNGO	Senior Inspector
5	Abdul Maqsood	ICARDA/ANNGO	Intern
6	Miss Farozan	ICARDA	Intern
7	Ali dil-i-jam	Private Company	Director
8	Abdul Hasib Iqbal	NHLP	Technical officer

Technical & financial support to the trip:

The technical support was given by TARI GRAM institute, Haryana, India. The trip was financially supported by USAID.

Main purpose:

Establishment of tissue culture facility for the production of clonal rootstock to private sector in Afghanistan.

Details of the trip:

During PHDP1 project, trials were conducted to know the cheapest & easiest ways to multiply clonal cuttings of stonefruit rootstocks. The cuttings included in the multiplication programme were GF 677, Colt, Gisela 5, Mahaleb SL64, Maryana GF 81 & Myrobalan 29C. Unfortunately, the methods applied could not work to produce all the required clonal cuttings through the applied methods.

Micro-propagation is the only solution for regenerating clonally uniform plants under aseptic conditions. Through tissue culture large volumes of superior quality plants of various species can be produced within a short period of time & space. ANNGO will be able to produce the desired rootstocks for member NGAs to improve the standard & value of the saplings for local market & orchard growers.

Since long the need for establishment of commercial tissue culture facility was felt to improve the standard of certified saplings produced in Afghanistan. NHLP used to import different species of fruit trees on clonal rootstocks to establish high density demonstration orchards in different targeted location of the country. USAID invited a consultant from India to conduct a feasibility study of the commercial lab for private sector in Afghanistan.

The consultant had several meetings with ANNGO technical team regarding their production and need for control and management of the tissue culture laboratory.

A short trip was arranged by USAID to visit some tissue culture nurseries in Haryana & Bangalore. The tissue culture lab visited on the second day of the trip was TARI GRAM institute, which had the capacity of five million seedlings production of Banana saplings. The saplings produced are sold

between 8 to 12 rupees on orchard growers. The institute also produced ornamental saplings to export to Europe.

On the 3rd day of the trip the team travelled to Bangalore to visit a private company Novel Biotech run by a leady Dr. Geetha Suresh.

The company used to produce over 2 million saplings of banana & Ginger for local market. This company was run and managed by ladies mostly.

Agenda for the trip:

It was the proposed Agenda by TARI GRAM institute of India;

Table # 1. agenda for the study tour

Day 1 (1st August, 2016)
Visit to Delhi
Pick up from Airport to Hotel, (stay at India Habitat Center, Lodhi road New Delhi 110003)
Day 2 (2nd August, 2016)
Taxi from Hotel to MTP lab, Gual Pahari, Gurgaon
Day 3 (3rd August, 2016)
Taxi from Hotel to IGI Airport (no overnight stay at Bangalore)
Delhi - Bangalore
Bangalore Taxi Expenses to and from for lab
Air tickets Bangalore - Delhi
Taxi from IGI Airport to Hotel in Delhi
Taxi from Hotel to IGI Airport
Day 4 (4th August, 2016)
Taxi from Hotel to other research Labs
Hotel stay (4 nights)
Day 5 (5 August, 2016)
Travel Back to Kabul

Visit of Horticulture Extension Director of MAIL from ANNGO Herat NGAs:

Duration of trip: 20 - 22 Aug.2016

Members of trip: Miss. Adela Bakhtiari (Director of Horticulture Extension/MAIL), Zabihullah from Horticulture Directorate, Zainulabudin Noor, ANNGO General Manager, Abdul Sattar Mubarez, ANNGO BoD Chairman, Sharafuddin Sharaf, ANNGO /RSM and chairmen of Hirat and Hariva NGAs

Purposes of trip: Evaluation of Hariva and Herat NGAs as well as to visits of MSNs, CPNs and stool beds of NGAs.

On 21 August 2016 after arrival to Herat city, the delegation had meeting with 7 members of Hariva zonal NGA include Field Manager.

After introduction of participants of the meeting, Mr. Noor, ANNGO General Manager briefly explained the main objectives of ANNGO, current situation of NGAs, strong and weak points, the future plan for better management of nursery industry on the National level by NGA members of ANNGO.

Later Miss Adela Bakhtiary (director of horticulture extension) explained the purpose of her visit from ANNGO/NGAs for better production of certified saplings and expanding the activities of the NGAs activities in the other provinces. She had several questions from members, MSNs, CPNs, ornamental production of NGA members, coordination of NGA with ANNGO, NHLP, DAIL and other relative organizations/stakeholders. She also had several questions asked regarding NGA problems.

Mr. Naser Haidry Hariva NGA chairman and other members answered Miss. Adela questions, they explained about the condition of good MSN of marketable varieties, stool bed of rootstocks for productions of certified saplings, also they mentioned this year they will be ready to provide and distribute around 36000 certified saplings. They appreciate the ANNGO supports for both NGAs and were willing to improve the coordination and cooperation with Herat DAIL, NHLP and other organization which are working in Horticulture sectors.

The Hariva NGA chairman and members explained the need for the establishment of the zonal NGA, the increment in the production of certified saplings and extension of ANNGO activities in the other provinces. Both NGAs members described the existing problems of their NGAs to the MAIL Horticulture extension directorate as below:

- As NHLP has the biggest demand of establishing orchards to the area, so their plan should be coordinate with ANNGO/NGAs in order to produce types and numbers of certified saplings according to the demand of NHLP.
- Mainly NHLP is contracting individual farmers that the NGAs will not be responsible for the quality and certification of the saplings. It is requesting that NHLP should consider the procedure of the NGAs and communicate with the NGAs in order to provide best quality of certified saplings to them and also it will help the NGAs to be sustainable in the future.
- Payment of the purchased saplings by NHLP takes time more than 8-9 months that will affect the interests of farmers for production and future provision of sapling for NHLP campaign.

- NHLP purchasing saplings the same certified saplings in different places with different cost from NGA members.

NGA member suggestions:

- MAIL and DAIL must support ANNGO / NGAs and link all organizations which are working in horticulture sectors to purchase the certified saplings from the NGAs belongs to ANNGO.
- If NHLP coordinate their orchards establishment plan with ANNGO it will be good for providing on time from high quality certified saplings
- For better management and facilitation of sapling distribution in planting season, NHLP should contract NGAs instead of individual farmers who are member of NGA. It will reduce the value of the NGAs and member will not follow the NGAs or their roles in the future.

Haji Abdul Sattar ANNGO BoD Chairman explained to the Horticulture extension directorate delegations, the problems of NGAs members and production of certified saplings in general. He mentioned that the NGA members should follow all the procedures for the payments of services such as (label, planting materials, fees etc.) to the ANNGO for sustainability of ANNGO. Every member and each NGA should focus on the dues of the member to keep the project running in the future. He ask all the NGA members to follow all the instruction giving by the field manager for improvement of the certification system.

Head of regulatory services (Sharafuddin Sharaf) who was assigned to evaluate the Hariva NGAs since establishment to date in order to fill the gaps if any for the better quality production of certified sapling in the zone and province. He had several questions during the meeting from the members of both NGAs such as:

- Reason of establishment of Hariva NGA as zonal NGA, which have members from Ghoor, Badghis and Farah provinces,
- Update list of NGA members by specifications of Name, Father name, village, district, province area of nurseries
- Security situations for working of field manager and ANNGO senior inspectors in the area.
- Registration documents in Ministry Justice like by-law, general assembly, foundation list, BoD list, logo, license for activities, symbol of NGA etc.
- NGA bank account and member payment fees
- Number of certified planting materials for production certified saplings
- Production certified saplings etc.

The questions of the delegation from the NGA chairmen and members answered as below:

- Regarding establishment of this NGA, they answered that the Herat NGA had more members which their control and management were difficult for one chairman and also there were enough demand from other provinces (Ghor, Badghis and Farah) to start working with Herat NGA for the certification scheme and production of certified saplings. They already submit their commitment for following of all rules and regulation of certification program in their provinces and their nurseries.
- Updated list of NGA members were presented to the delegation together with the copy of By-law, NGA license, list of members and other necessary documents.
- The security of the locations where NGA have nurseries are fine and field inspectors and the field managers can easily work and travel there.
- The production of the certified saplings are according to the By-law of ANNGO that in the previous distribution, the NGA provides more than 36000 of saplings to NHLP and also for the coming season they will produce more than the above mentioned number of high value and marketable varieties according to the demand of local farmers.

During the above mentioned meetings and discussions with Hariva NGA members, some issues of ANNGO certification scheme in the field were not clear for Horticulture Extension directorate (Miss Adela Bakhtiari), that was explained by head of regulatory services to all the members as well as to the delegation.

The issue of ANNGO certification scheme” draft of Afghanistan fruit trees certification scheme” will finalize soon and will insert as part of Afghanistan Seed Law. The directorate of Seed and Planting Material Certification (SPDC) acting as authorize directorate for all process of certification scheme. Most of SPCD staff in central and provincial level are involved in the process of inspection process of MSNs/CPNs, source of certified planting materials for propagation (fruits National Collections), PBTL and health of certified planting materials, commercial varieties of fruits and monitoring of ANNGO activities. The Horticulture extension director insist to involve their staff in the process of production of the certified saplings in order to be aware of type, number and location of certified saplings under ANNGO for better coordination and collaboration with other projects in the MAIL.

On the next day the delegation had meeting with the agriculture directorate of Hirat province that the director of agriculture welcomed the team and explained that ANNGO activities in the Hirat province have very tangible results and the both NGAs have very close coordination and cooperation with the directorate and related departments of DAIL Hirat. Horticulture extension director asked several questions about the ANNGO activities and achievements in the province that the DAIL director and horticulture department officer replied about the positive action and activities of ANNGO with DAIL and other projects in their province. They appreciate the project and the NGAs for their active staff and members for production and provision of the certified saplings that cover 90% of the demands of the farmers and projects.

As NGAs offices are out of directorates, so the issue raised by ANNGO general manager for providing rooms for NGAs inside of DAIL. The agriculture director promised to provide two rooms for the NGAs and the NGAs should renovate and repair the rooms for their use.

Later the delegation had meeting with officer of horticulture extension in his office. He was very happy from ANNGO NGAs working in Herat province and mentioned that they have very close

cooperation and coordination with the DAIL and specially directly with Horticulture office. He allowed that for any events in the provincial levels, the DAIL is asking NGAs for provision of ornamental flowers and bushes as well as the fruit trees saplings and fruits.

The delegation also participate the grape exhibition of Landle Mill in the Urdo Khan farm where H.E MAIL minister and the MAIL directors were invited.

The NGA members and chairmen also were invited in the grape exhibition of PHDC of Urdo Khan and our NGA chairman of Hariva had also TV interview after the exhibition.

After the exhibition, the delegation had a visit to the MSNs, apple stool bed and nurseries which were ready for inspections. In addition the delegation also visit the ornamentals and forest trees of pine in Muhali Dasht village, Gozara district which were belong to Nasir chairman of Hariva NGA. The team had several questions about the ANNGO support and assistance to them.

The head of regulatory services had a visit to the grape, apple, peach nurseries that were in good condition. Necessary advices given to them for improvement of their nurseries and production of good quality certified saplings.

4. Pictures:



Photo # 1: Banana Saplings produced through tissue culture in TARI GRAM, India.



Photo # 2:-Participants of the trip in one of the nurseries in Bangalore, India



Photo # 3:-ANNGO staff conducted the 2nd training to field managers of NGAs in Kabul.



Photo # 4. ANNGO Chairman, general manager and Mazar NGA Chairman during TVs interview

5. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?
- 4.3. 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.)
- 4.4. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.
- 4.5. 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).

6. Visibility

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. MAIL were organized the workshop for revision of Horticulture strategy that the photos, banners and catalogues of ANNGO with logo of EU and ANNGO were published and fixed in

around the hall. The Catalogues of ANNGO with Logo and flag of EU distributed to the participants.

2. The ANNGO general manager, chairman, NGA chairman of Mazar had interviews with different TV that during the discussion, clearly it was mentioned the project is supporting by EC in Afghanistan and it is the unique project in the Asia that providing the certified sapling for the first time.
3. The ANNGO Chairman, general manager, Chairman of Maidan and Mazar NGAs and Miss Adela Bakhtiari had one hour interview with Radio BBC that the support of EU delegation for the improvement of horticulture and nursery industry raised there.
4. Herat and Hariva NGA chairman had interview with different local and national TVs and Radios that they explained the support of the EU delegation for improvement of certification scheme in the country.

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: Zainulabudin Noor

Signature:



Location: MAIL Cooperative Building, BadamBagh, Kabul Afghanistan

Date report due: August 2016

Date report sent: August 2016