

Capacity Building to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock Provincial DAIL staff in the Provinces of Herat, Balkh, and Nangarhar

Donor / contractor	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Budget	US\$ 461,646
Period	September 2012 – September 2014
Area	Provinces Herat , Balkh, and Nangarhar

The purpose of the **Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Project (AAEP)** is to help building the capacity of Afghanistan's Ministry of Agricultural, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) to deliver effective extension services to the local farmers. AAEP is developed by a consortium of US Land Grant Universities, i.e. University of California-Davis (the lead institute), Washington State University, Purdue University, and Iowa State University. Donor is the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The project includes professional training in horticulture, conservation for wheat and other cereals, and practical management of ruminants and poultry. It is designed to stimulate immediate impact in improving household food security and income generation.

DCA-VET takes care of the livestock component of the AAEP project. The goal of this component is to improve knowledge and skills of the MAIL extension and veterinary staff on the current livestock extension activities, so that they effectively can fulfil their role to the livestock owners of Afghanistan. The capacity building also contributes to strengthening of the links between public and private sectors.

During the first year of implementation, the capacity building program targeted 90 public sector staff of DAIL in the three focal Provinces of Herat, Balkh, and Nangarhar. Thanks to this programme the DAIL extension staff developed a better of understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

The second year, DCA focused on developing a self-sustaining system of livestock production. Besides DCA facilitated, through capacity building, the MAIL/DAIL extension department to maintain and implement effective extension programs in the target areas. DCA worked closely with the trainees in the field, established practical demonstration models, provided more knowledge to the extension agents, and cemented the links between service providers, livestock producers, and market.