

Afghanistan Agricultural Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Project

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| Donor | United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) |
| Contractor | Purdue University |
| Budget | US\$ 198,174 |
| Period | April 2014 – September 2014 |
| Area | Provinces Kabul, Herat and Balkh |

April 1st, 2014, DCA-VET started a Government training project under the “Afghanistan Agricultural Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Project”. This project is funded by USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and subcontracted by Purdue University, Indiana.

The SPS project aims at building the capacity of central and local government employees to implement plant health, food safety, and public health activities. The goal is that Government will have the capacity to certify the safety of agricultural products bound for export; monitor plant, animals, and food systems for pests and disease outbreaks; inspect imported plants, animals, and products on pests and diseases; and maintain accurate records and timely reporting systems.

Under this SPS project, DCA-VET facilitates the support and training of the Hygiene and Food Safety component. The project runs from April 1 through September 30, 2014, and the budget is US\$ 198,174. The target area will focus on the urban centres of Kabul, Herat and Mazar, and the surrounding rural districts.

Based on its long-term experience in training, monitoring of diseases, and food safety, DCA-VET will take care of:

- Reviewing, validation, and translation of the Basic Sanitation and Food Safety educational materials, used by the extension staff of Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL),
- Facilitating the training of trainers for appropriate staff at MoPH and MAIL,
- Creating effective linkages between public and private sectors,
- Facilitating training for public sector staff involved in Meat and Border Inspection.

This project integrated very well into the international “One Health” approach that is part of DCA-VET’s strategy. “One Health” refers to the linkages and important relationships between animal health, human health, and environmental health. Increased knowledge on these relationships helps safeguard the public from animal transmitted diseases. It also formed part of our Veterinary Public health extension package.