



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION
CANADA

Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Project (AHRP)

PROJECT REACH

781 women, including 220 women farmers.

OUR GOAL

Improve the food security of Afghans in two provinces by strengthening the resilience of local women farmers.

OUR APPROACH

- Improving the quality and reliability of passive solar greenhouses for women farmers and their households for off-season vegetable production by minimizing production costs and reducing environmental impact.
- Training women farmers on topics such as biological pest management and identification of vegetable varieties suitable for greenhouse production through Farmer Field Schools.

HIGHLIGHTED RESULTS



70 women-owned greenhouses improved and upgraded with polycarbonate sheeting for increased durability against weather conditions.



70 women farmers and their households with direct increased access to nutritious foods through improved greenhouses.



7 Farmer Field Schools established to deliver training on topics such as greenhouse management, construction, and vegetable seed cultivation.



150 women farmers who participated in the Farmer Field Schools.



100% of women farmers with increased knowledge on vegetable production after completing a Farmer Field School.



5,000+ people estimated to be indirectly reached through increased access to fresh produce as a result of increased harvest yields.



GLOBAL PARTNERS

In collaboration with local community organizations, and:



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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The \$150,000 CAD AHRP project was undertaken in 2023 with the financial support of:



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Farmer Field Schools

Rural communities in the Bamyan province of Afghanistan are dependent on agriculture and livestock for sustenance and income. But the mountainous terrain, harsh winters, and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns are just a few of the challenges faced by farmers, impacting the food security and well-being of communities.

Farmer Field Schools provide a non-formal educational approach that empowers farmers with practical skills. These schools allow farmers to gain new knowledge and connect and learn from each other, fostering informed decision-making and sustainable agriculture. As part of AHRP, 150 women participated in the schools, learning about topics such as certified seed selection, irrigation methods, crop rotation, and effective use of animal and chemical fertilizers.

“ When I attended [the Farmer Field School], I learned more things about vegetable production. Then, I shared with my family what I learned, and we practiced in our field.

Our vegetable production, compared to last year, had increased yields, and I am glad I learned new vegetable production skills, and I can carry my knowledge to my family. ”

Rahila

Farmer and Farmer Field School participant in Bamyan

Greenhouses

In remote mountainous communities, inadequate infrastructure, coupled with long and snowy winters, mean that access to markets and services is limited. For communities that depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods, this has devastating consequences on their food security and income generation. Farmers have limited ability to produce and sell crops during the summer seasons, and there is little to no access to vegetables during the off-season.

AHRP has supported sustainable agriculture and food security in these communities by rehabilitating and constructing greenhouses with polycarbonate and fiberglass. This passive solar greenhouse technology allows for the production of vegetables during the off-season. The project has also focused on training the women who own these greenhouses and provided technical advice on topics like land preparation, weeding, irrigation, and disease control.

“ Before, this greenhouse was covered with plastic — every year, I had to change the cover. Through this project, I could cover my greenhouse with fiberglass, and I learned to cultivate different vegetables like cucumber, radish, lettuce, and onion.

I harvested 15 kilograms of vegetables, which is a large increase in production this year, and I plan to increase my production next year so I can sell it in the market. ”

Mahtab

Greenhouse owner in Bamyan