



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives – North, East, West (IDEA-NEW)

OVERVIEW

Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives – North, East, West (IDEA-NEW) is a USAID project that began in March 2009, and is scheduled to be completed in March 2014. This project continues USAID's efforts to provide agricultural incentives and economic alternatives for provinces in the East as well as the northern and western poppy-prone regions of the country.

USAID focuses on increasing and improving agricultural productivity through capacity-building (extension, training, and demonstrations), input supply (vouchers), community-constructed infrastructure activities to rehabilitate irrigation canals, farm-to-market roads, and storage facilities. USAID is supporting agriculture marketing; developing rural enterprise and infrastructure, managing watersheds, accessing finance and building national value-chains and trade for key regional products. USAID collaborates with national, provincial, and district-level officers, and provincial governors and line ministries. USAID works closely with provincial reconstruction teams to coordinate and target activities particularly in areas of USAID priority engagement. IDEA-NEW local procurement practices support USAID's *Afghan First* Policy by prioritizing local procurement and staffing, and working through line departments and private Afghan agribusiness firms.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Create provincial and village-based groups of government and private-sector partners to help farmers grow, grade, and sell their produce, which generates jobs and sales
- Support village-based women's groups with small-scale businesses to strengthen women's involvement in economic activities and thus their ability to participate in civic life

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Benefited 634,200 families through community-constructed infrastructure projects, agriculture-voucher programs, rural-business development assistance, grants, and capacity-building activities
- Created 39,390 full-time equivalent jobs in agriculture, community-constructed infrastructure, and rural-business development projects
- Trained 307,000 farmers on agriculture productivity and 1,058 government line staff in the areas related to their work
- Trained more than 28,000 farmers on melon-fly pest control, improving yields by 113 percent
- Provided technical assistance and training for 5,500 businesses (3,900 women-owned) to improve their business skills and increase their sales
- Employed more than 27,900 persons and paid \$5.65 million in wages for community-constructed infrastructure projects including irrigation systems, roads, and micro-hydro power plants
- Brought 10,170 hectares of productive farmland under irrigation through community labor
- Expanded licit agricultural cultivation by 8,550 hectares
- Provided improved care and management for more than 2.69 million livestock including deworming and balanced feeding programs
- Provided agriculture and livestock-related inputs to 144,760 people through voucher programs
- Facilitated \$2.68 million in agricultural exports to Pakistan
- Increased sales of licit farm and non-farm products from the previous year by \$7.82 million