

**Estimated Saffron Costs and Returns, Herat Province, (per jerib) for 5 Years**

Source: Data from farmers, mainly Pashtun Zarghun District, collected and analyzed by M. Hashim Aslami of DACAAR and Peter Wyeth of Washington State University

	Unit	Afs/unit	Net Present Value (NPV)				Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		
			10%	15%	20%	25%	Q/jerib	Afs/jerib	Q/jerib	Afs/jerib	Q/jerib	Afs/jerib	Q/jerib	Afs/jerib	Q/jerib	Afs/jerib	
<b>Revenues</b>																	
Saffron (1)	Kg	15,000	89,178	77,086	67,218	59,078	0	3,000	2	30,000	2	30,000	2	30,000	2	30,000	
Corms good for replanting	Kg	90	111,766	89,492	72,338	58,982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	180,000	
Corms good for fodder	Kg	10	18,628	14,915	12,056	9,830	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	30,000	
Crocus leaves as fodder	Kg	3	1,501	1,313	1,158	1,030	75	225	150	450	150	450	150	450	150	450	
<b>Total revenue</b>			<b>221,073</b>	<b>182,806</b>	<b>152,771</b>	<b>128,921</b>		<b>3,225</b>		<b>30,450</b>		<b>30,450</b>		<b>30,450</b>		<b>240,450</b>	
<b>Variable Costs</b>																	
<b>Material inputs</b>																	
Corms	Kg	90	32,727	31,304	30,000	28,800	400	36,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Urea	Kg	12.5	948	838	748	672	20	250	20	250	20	250	20	250	20	250	
DAP	Kg	17.5	795	761	729	700	50	875	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Manure	Kg	0.2	1,895	1,676	1,495	1,345	2,500	500	2,500	500	2,500	500	2,500	500	2,500	500	
Other (?)	Kg		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total material inputs</b>			<b>36,366</b>	<b>34,579</b>	<b>32,972</b>	<b>31,517</b>		<b>37,625</b>		<b>750</b>		<b>750</b>		<b>750</b>		<b>750</b>	
<b>Labor inputs</b>																	
	<b>Men / Women</b>	<b>Calendar (months)</b>															
Land preparation	ox/men	Mar - Apr	day	500	455	435	417	400	1	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Plant corms	men	Jun - Oct	day	150	818	783	750	720	6	900	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Spread urea	men	Oct - Nov	day	150	46	40	36	33	0.10	15	0.10	15	-	0	15	0	15
Spread DAP	men	Oct	day	150	14	13	13	12	0.10	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Spread manure	men	Oct	day	150	188	166	148	133	0.33	50	0	50	0	50	0	50	
Irrigation	men	Oct - Apr	day	150	1,137	1,006	897	807	2	300	2	300	2	300	2	300	
Weed	men/wmn	Mar - Apr	day	150	11,372	10,056	8,972	8,068	20	3,000	20	3,000	20	3,000	20	3,000	
Harvest flowers (2,3,4,6)	men/wmn	Oct - Nov	day	120	5,763	4,965	4,315	3,779	-	17	2,000	17	2,000	17	2,000	17	2,000
Separate stigmas (3,4,5,6)	women	Oct - Nov	day	30	7,204	6,206	5,393	4,723	-	83	2,500	83	2,500	83	2,500	83	2,500
Drying and packing (5)	women	Oct - Dec	day	30	259	223	194	170	-	3	90	3	90	3	90	3	90
Harvest corms (8)	men	Jun - Sep	day	120	373	298	241	197	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	600	
Sort and pack corms (9)	men/wmn	Jun - Sep	day	150	466	373	301	246	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	750	
<b>Total labor</b>				<b>28,094</b>	<b>24,565</b>	<b>21,677</b>	<b>19,287</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>7,940</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>9,305</b>
<b>Total costs</b>				<b>64,460</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>54,649</b>	<b>50,804</b>		<b>42,405</b>		<b>8,705</b>		<b>8,690</b>		<b>8,705</b>		<b>10,055</b>
<b>Returns over variable costs/jerib</b>				<b>156,613</b>	<b>123,662</b>	<b>98,122</b>	<b>78,118</b>		<b>(39,180)</b>		<b>21,746</b>		<b>21,761</b>		<b>21,746</b>		<b>230,396</b>
Returns over variable costs/day				289	229	181	144		(1,327)		173		174		173		1,701
Hours/kg saffron										376		376		376		376	

(1) Saffron is assumed to be stigmas without styles. Some farmers claim 3 kg per jerib or more but may not remove the styles.

(2) Labor at this time of year is cheaper than in busier periods for most types of labor, including harvesting flowers.

(3) Flowers/kg saffron 150,000

(4) Pick and carry (flowers per hour) 3,000 seconds/flower 1.2

(5) Separate stigmas (flowers/hour) 600 seconds/flower 6

(6) Hours/day picking or separating stigmas 6

(7) Drying takes 10 to 12 days, but there is only a small amount of labor per day.

(8) Digging up corms is much harder work than harvesting flowers and is assumed to command a higher rate per day.

(9) Farmers in Afghanistan do sort corms at present, but they should.