DFID Department for International Development

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Overview of the RALF Program

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ICARDA

National Saffron Workshop: Production, Processing, Quality Control, Marketing

Nov 14-16, 2006, Herat

www.icarda.cgiar.org/RALFweb/RALF.html

RALF is a "Competitive Research Fund"

-Operates through a competitive research fund to attract a range of innovative proposals for applied research into natural resource-based livelihoods,

-Projects are proposed and implemented by '**mini-consortia**' comprising partnership of:

- **international or non-Afghan research institution**, and
- **an Afghan-based partner** with experience in the proposed area
- This combination is intended to maximise **synergy** between international research practice and knowledge of local Afghan context.

-Project Review Panel: Projects were selected by an independent panel

Research in Alternative Livelihood Fund - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by ICARDA v04-03-2005

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About RALF
RALF01 Projects
Second Request for Proposals
Guidelines for Proposers
Proposal Evaluation
Project Implementation
Reporting Formats
Minutes of Meetings
Workshop Presentations
FAQs

The Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan has adopted a National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) with objectives of reducing poppy cultivation by 70% in five years and complete elimination in ten years. The United Kingdom coordinates international counter-narcotics in Afghanistan, and has adopted a plan to support implementation of the NDCS.

The Research in Alternative Livelihoods Fund (RALF) is a component of the UK's development assistance programme to Afghanistan which is administered by the Department for International Development (DFID) (http://www.dfid.gov.uk). The purpose of RALF is to develop and promote innovative alternative livelihood options for rural Afghans currently economically dependent on opium poppy, which will contribute to the overall goal of sustainable elimination of opium poppies in Afghanistan.

The overall scope of RALF is applied research and promotion of natural resource-based livelihoods, including post-harvest processing and services, specifically directed at farmers and other rural stakeholders in areas currently affected by poppy production.

RALF is managed by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) which has its headquarters in Aleppo, Syria, and an office in Kabul (http://www.icarda.cgiar.org). ICARDA is the lead center of the Future Harvest Consortium for the Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Afghanistan (FHCRAA) (http://www.icarda.cgiar.org/Afghanistan/index.html).

RALF is using a competitive research grant mechanism to mobilise innovative ideas for the development and promotion of alternative livelihoods opportunities in Afghanistan. The following pages on this site provide:

- further background and rationale for RALF,
- outcome of the first request for proposals (now closed),
- details of the second request for proposals (now open),
- guidelines for submitting proposals,
- details of the review and selection process;
- initial information on project implementation, monitoring and evaluation,
- a facility for registering interest and/or seeking partners, and
- responses to frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Internet

FHCRAA Partners in RALF Mini-Consortia

01-03	Village Decision Driven Research Project	Laghman	Washington State University DACCAR MAI
01-04	Introduction, Evaluation and Promotion of Appropriate Crop Legumes and Vegetables	Nangarhar	World Vegetable Centre (AVRDC) Relief International Nangarhar University MAI, IDE
01-07	Restorative Agriculture & Rural Economy Research Project	Helmand Kandahar	Mercy Corps Afghanistan MAI Centre for Arid Zone Studies, UK
01-08	Innovative financial mechanisms	Badakhshan	Natural Resources Institute, UK Agha Khan Foundation MAI
01-09	Marketing of livestock and livestock products	Kabul Kandahar Kunduz	Macaulay Research Consultancy, UK Mercy Corps, MAI
01-11	Improved rural incomes from better forage production and sales of milk products	Baghlan	ICARDA Agha Khan Foundation; MAI; Macaulay Research
01-16	Western Afghanistan Agroenterprise Action Research Program	Herat Ghor	Catholic Relief Services (CRS) ICRISAT CIAT MAI

FHCRAA Partners in RALF Mini-Consortia

02-02	Research in sustainable production and successful marketing of saffron	Herat	DACCAR Washington State University MAI
02-05	Increased productivity and profitability of wheat-based cropping system	Balkh Baghlan Badakhshan	Joint Development Associates (JDA) CIMMYT, AKDN Cornell University Balkh University Balkh Credit Union (BCU)/World Council of Credit Unions. (WCCU) MAI
02-07	Multi stakeholder program on natural ingredients for food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics	Paktia Takhar Faryab Bamyan Balkh Badakhshan	Novib-Oxfam, Netherlands Faculty of Pharmacy, Kabul Univ AKF, CHA, TLO, MAI Anadolu University-Turkey
02-11	Cultivation of mint as a viable alternative livelihood in East and North East of Afghanistan	Nangarhar Kunduz Helmand	ICARDA MAI Kabul University Iranian Research/Industrial Institutions

Projects on Medicinal Plants

- **Cultivation and Value Addition of Mint as an Alternative Livelihood**
- **Target Provinces: Helmand, Nangarhar, Kunduz**

- **Sustainable Production & Marketing of Saffron**
- **Target Province: Herat**

- **Western Afghanistan Agro-enterprise Research**
- **Includes saffron and carabia**
- **Target Provinces: Herat, Ghor**

- **Natural Ingredients: Licourice, Hing, Terkh, Caraway, Cumin/Carabia, Onab/Jubjube**
- **Target Provinces: 9**

RALF Project 02-02: Sustainable Production and Marketing of Saffron

Project 02-11
Cultivation of Mint as Viable Alternative Livelihood
Nangarhar, Kunduz, Helmand

Project 02-07: Natural Ingredients for Food, Cosmetics & Pharmaceuticals

Value Chain Development of Natural Ingredients for Sustainable Livelihoods in Afghanistan

Species Targeted

- **Glycyrrhiza glabra (Licuorice)**
- **Cuminum cyminum (Cumin)**
- **Ferula asa foetida (Devil's dung, hing)**
- **Carum carvi (Carabia/Caraway)**
- **Artemisia sina berg (Terkh/ wormseed)**
- **Ziziphus jujuba. (Onab, Ber, jujube).**

Geographical occurrence of medicinal plants

Province		Products					
		Artemisia	*Caraway*	*Cumin*	*Hing*	*Liquorice*	*Jujube*
Khost		xx	xx	xx	x	X	
Paktia		Xx		x	x	x	
Badakshan		Xxx	xxx	xx		xx	
Baghlan		xxx	xx	x	xxx	Xxx	
Bamyan		Xxx	x	x	x	X	
Herat		Xxx	xx		xxx	Xxx	xx
Ghor		Xxx	xx	x	xxx	Xxx	X
Farah		Xxx			X	Xx	Xxx
Faryab		Xxx	Xx	X	Xxx	Xxx	Xx

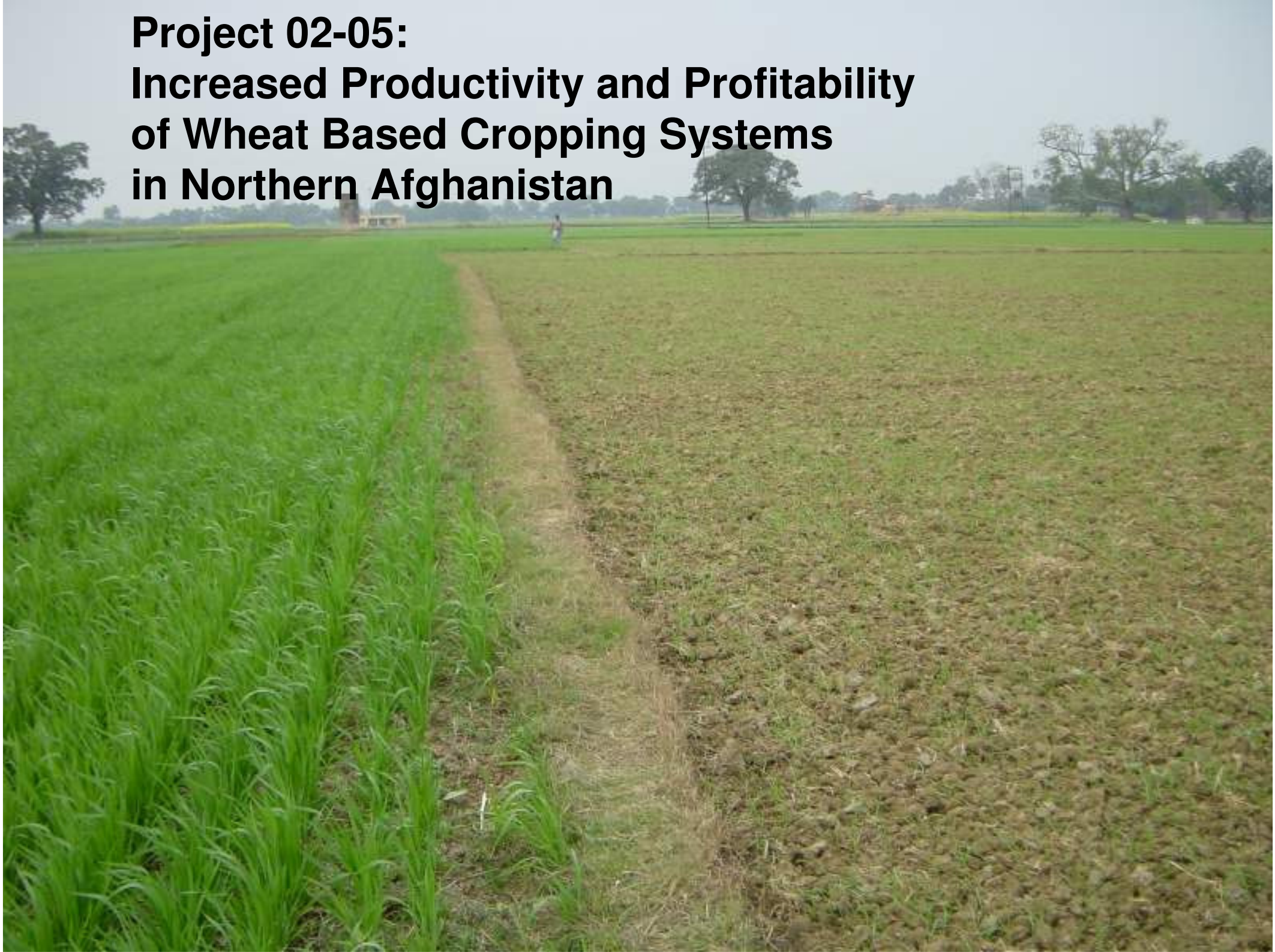
Crop Diversification, Agro-enterprise

- Project 02-05: Introduction of New Olilseed Crops in a Wheat-based Cropping System
  - Focus: Balkh, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Kunduz
  - Agro-enterprise
    - Value addition
    - Preparing women for agro-enterprise
    - Focus: Herat, Ghor
    - Restorative Agriculture
      - **Focus: Helmand, Kandahar**

Project 01-04:

Introduction Evaluation and Promotion of Appropriate Crop Legume and Vegetables for Eastern Afghanistan

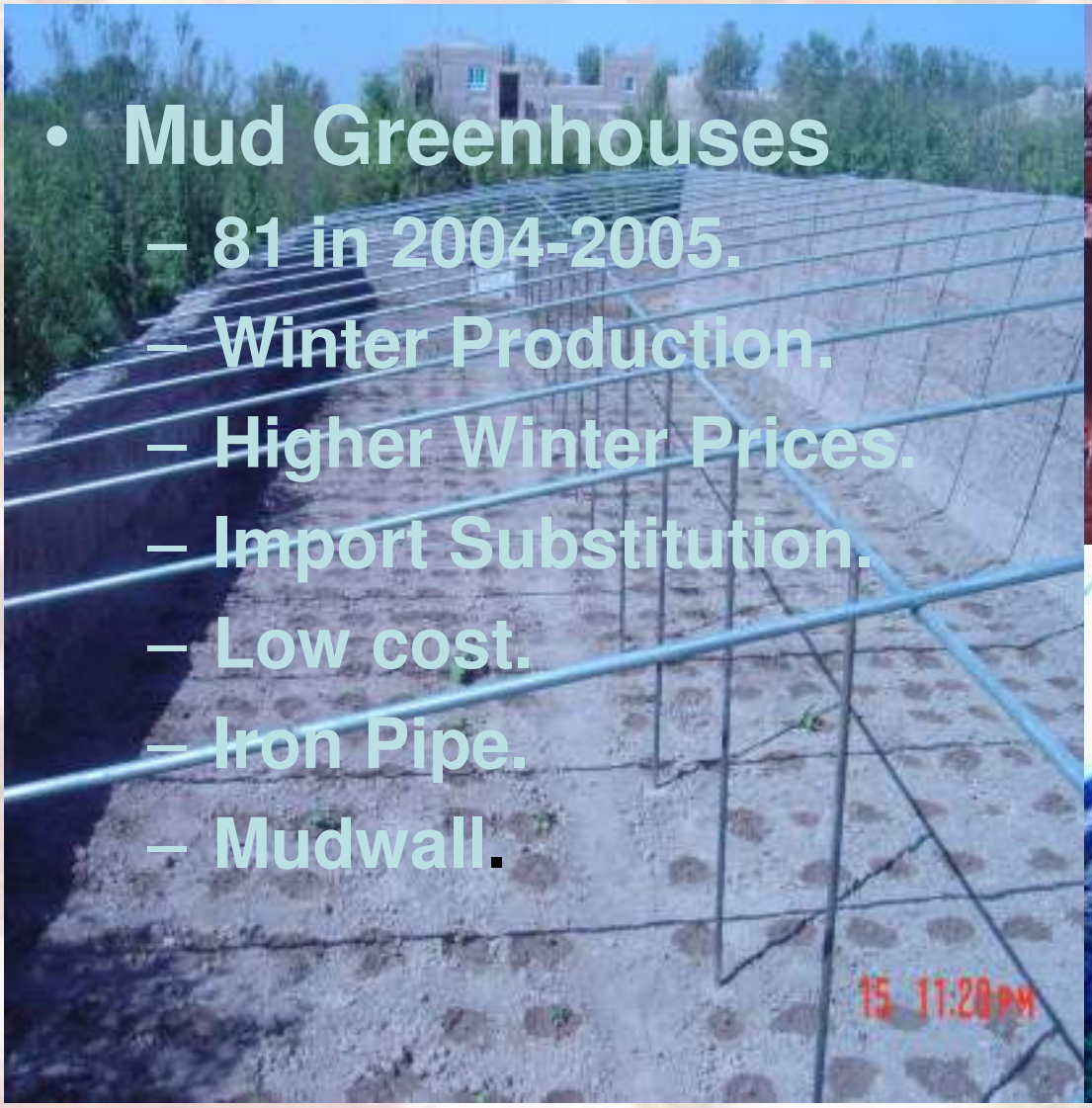
Project 02-05:
Increased Productivity and Profitability of Wheat Based Cropping Systems in Northern Afghanistan



-Agronomic Research on Oilseed Crops in Badakhshan

01-16: Western Afghanistan Agro-enterprise Research Project

Improved Farming Techniques



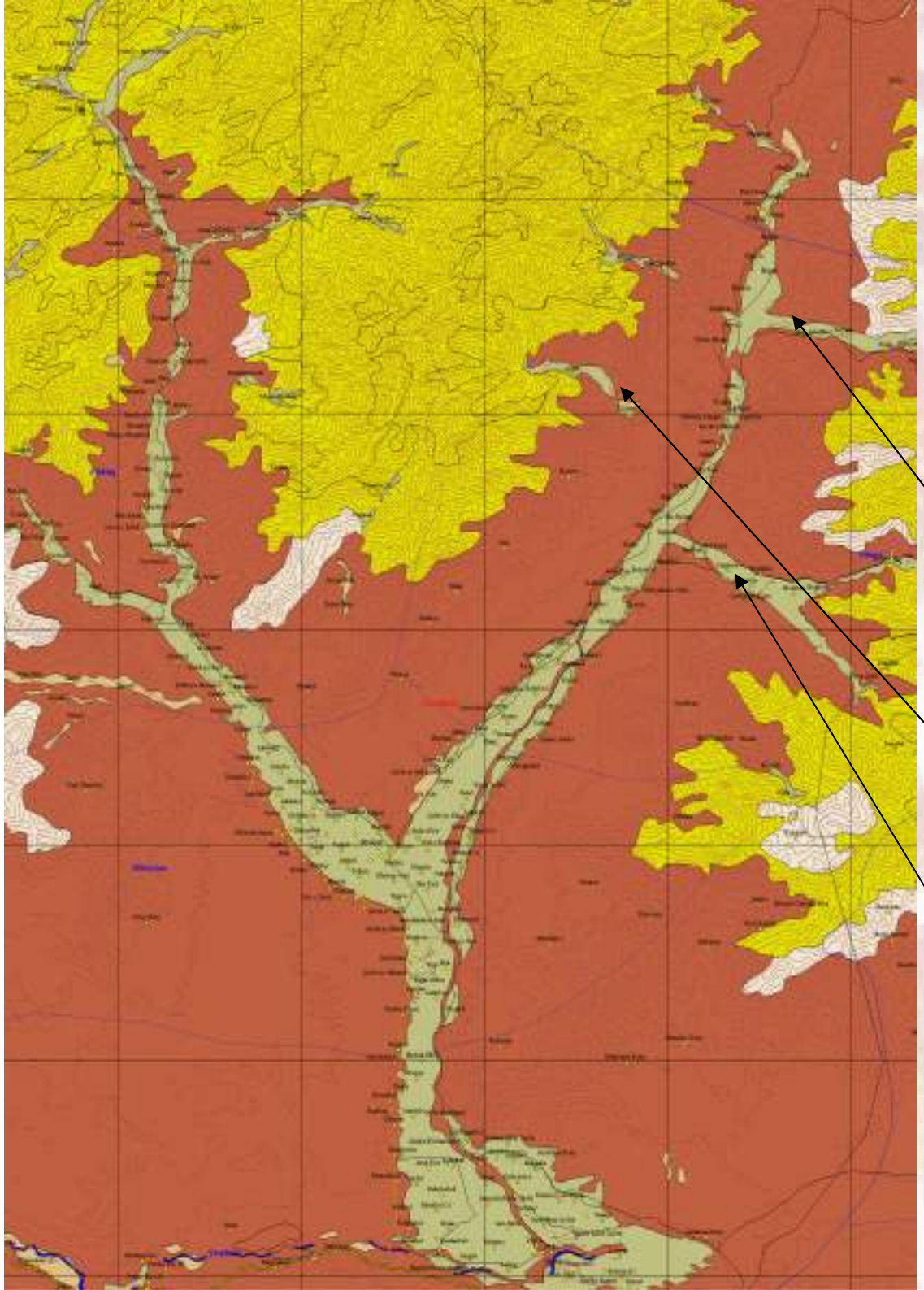
- **Mud Greenhouses**
  - 81 in 2004-2005.
  - Winter Production.
  - Higher Winter Prices.
  - Import Substitution.
  - Low cost.
  - Iron Pipe.
  - Mudwall.

Preparing Women for Agro-enterprise

- Bazaar visits
- Quality and consistency checks
- Exhibitions
- Planning with WDOA for marketing
- Initiating agreement with first shopkeeper

Socio-economis

- Project01-03: Village Decision Driven Research Project
  - Focus: Alingar District, Laghman
  - Innovative Financial Mechansims, Microfinance
    - Focus: Jurm and Ishkashem Districts, Badakhshan



Project 01-03:
Village Decision Driven Research Project

Laghman Province
Alingar District

Mango - Kotali

Salab – Sahib Zadagan

Sangar – Masoom Kala

Project 01-08

Innovative Financial Mechanisms (Microfinance)

Target Area:

Jurm and Ishkashem Districts of Badakhshan Province

Forage/Livestock

- Project 01-11:Fodder Production and Dairy
  - Target: 15 Communities in Baghlan
  - Marketing of Livestock and Livestock Products
    - Target: Survey of Markets in Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz

Project 01-11: Improved Rural Incomes from Better Forage Production & Sales of Milk Products, Baghlan Province

ICARDA

- Survey of 75 households in 15 communities completed
- Forage crops under investigation at Poze-Eshan Research Station
- Feeding trials for dairy cattle in progress

ck
Calvin Klein

Project 01-09: Marketing of Livestock and Livestock Products

Survey of Livestock Markets in Kabul, Kunduz, Kandahar

-

Project 01-09: Market Survey of Livestock & Livestock Products: Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz

Opium resin price ($/kg)	Net income from poppies ($/0.3 ha)	Lambs needed to break even when each lamb earns $23	Lambs needed to break even when each lamb earns $70
350	4660	203	67
280	3660	159	52
100	1040	45	15

Animal Products:

Currently no added value in Afghanistan

Added value of skins and hides gained by tanneries in Pakistan

Is **fattening sheep** an alternative to poppy cultivation?

- More efficient marketing chains could enhance producer incomes
- Fattening of sheep could serve as a partial alternative to growing poppies
- Constraints:
  - Inadequate supply of feed
  - Access to credit

Progress toward ultimate goal: Poppy cultivation gradually being replaced by cash crops (ie, potatoes in this slide in Eastern Provinces)