

Project Purpose

- Improving household income in target villages through agroenterprise
- Identify potential alternatives to opium poppy production

Project Areas – Remote



Research Methodologies

- CIAT/CRS Territorial Approach to Agroenterprise Development
 - Market oriented agricultural development**
 - Explore new opportunities
 - Evaluate and improve existing ag systems
- PEAR
 - Approach to farm practice behavior change**
 - Implementing a farm livelihood analysis
 - research methodologies to support farmer innovation and expertise

Operational Areas

- Pashtun Zargon District, Herat Province
 - 12 villages
 - MoA agronomist leading project in the area
- Shahrak District, Ghor Province
 - 10 villages separated into 3 territories by distance to the Dara-e-Takht bazaar
 - Low land availability
 - Drought prone

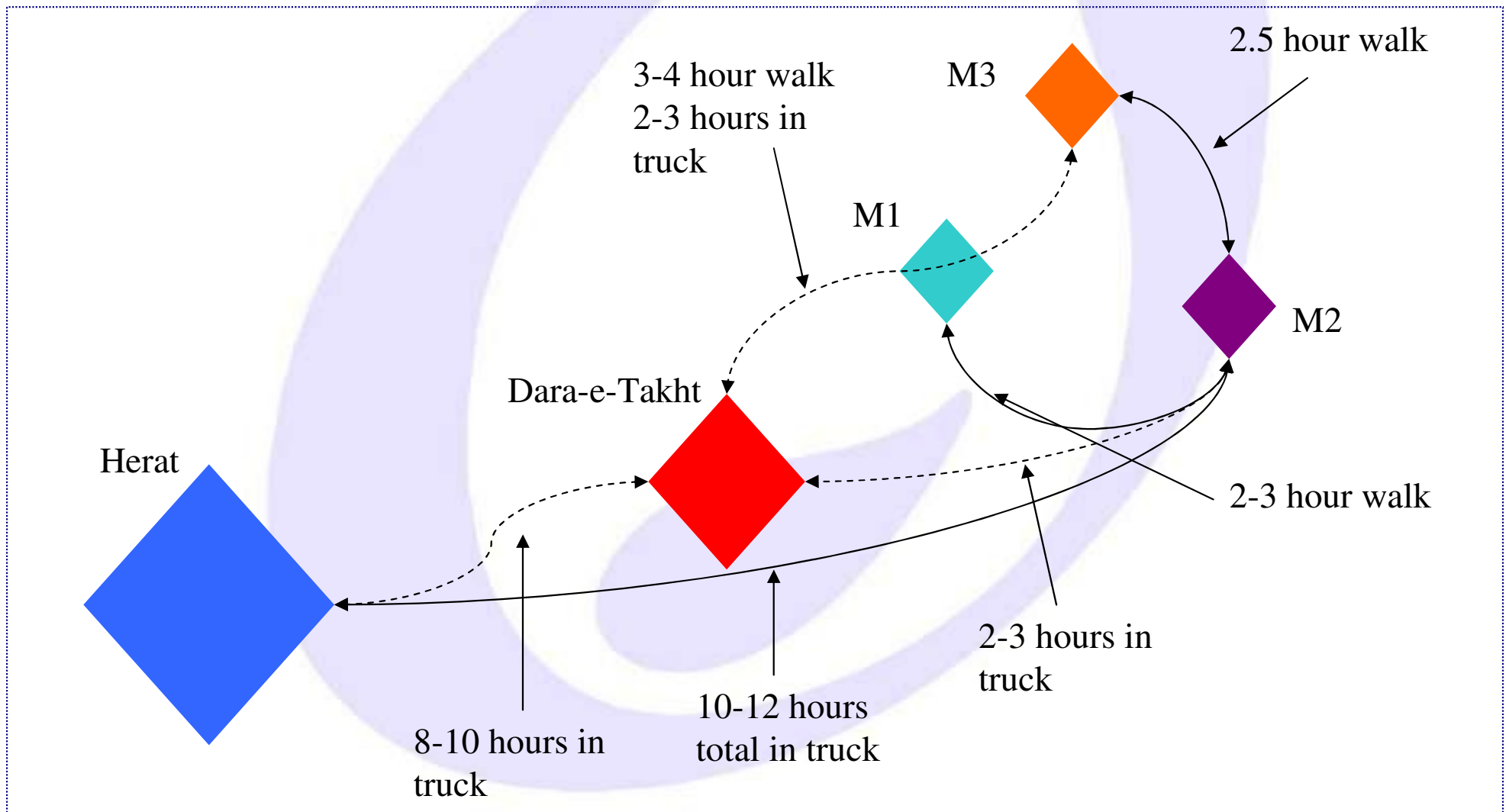
Market Context

- Markets in Afghanistan are structured to benefit those who have existing market share and power.
- Physical access to markets in Ghor is low
 - 88% of residents access bazaars by foot or animal, while 34% might only go the bazaar once per season.
- Shahrak District
 - Dara-e-Takht bazaar
 - Relatively reliable year-round access
 - Importance of credit relationships

Access category CRS	Number of Households	Walking Distance from Dara-e-Takht bazaar	Type of Access
<i>High Access</i>			
H1	30	20 minutes	Main Road/all season/ public transport available
H2	106	1.5 hours	Main Road/all season/ public transport available
H3	250	4-5 hours	Main Road/all season/ public transport available
<i>Medium Access</i>			
M1	109	4 hours	Secondary Road/all season
M2	180	2 hours	Secondary Road/all season
M3	150	3 hours	Secondary Road/all season
<i>Low Access</i>			
L1	110	6 hours	Tertiary Road/variable availability
L2	152	6 hours	Tertiary Road/variable availability
L3	102	3-4 hours	Secondary Road/9 months
L4	105	3-4 hours	Secondary Road/9 months

Alternative Market Access

- Village based traders
 - potential for reduced opportunity cost for producers and opportunistic behavior by transporters



Product Ranking

Product	High Access (2 villages responding)	Medium Access (2 Villages responding)	Low Access (4 villages responding)	Marketing/ Production Constraints
Almond	4	-	-	Low volumes
Apricot	1	4	5	Sorting, drying technology, non transparent market conditions
Carpets	2	2	-	Quality, access to materials, non-transparent market conditions
Korc	-	1	3	Low volume, cleaning
Kurut		4	1	Black salt lowers quality for smaller producers
Male Sheep	-	-	5	Animal health conditions, drought induced animal sales (low volume)
Potato	4	3	4	Low volumes, incomplete knowledge of quality requirements (color, sorting, size)
Walnut	3	-	2	Sorting, size, non-transparent market conditions

Example Apricot

- Market constraints
 - Drying and sorting quality (protected trays)
 - Price incentives—Shahrak producers sell for \$0.50-0.60/kg, Herat prices can be more than \$3/kg
- Other major issues
 - Lack of competition among buyers
 - Credit reducing terms of trade—10-30% premium



Crop Demos & Trials

- **Demonstration purpose and comparability critical**
 - Planting methods
 - Potato
 - Vegetables
 - Nursery
 - Varietal trials
 - Potato
 - Cotton
 - Planting times
 - Early and late vegetable cultivation
 - New crop trial
 - Peanut
 - Soybean
 - Saffron
 - Training
 - Crop cultivation
 - Farmer field days
- **Pest Management**
 - Organic aphid control
 - Fresh ash
 - Sugar solution
 - Rat control methods
 - Adhesive planks
 - Traps



Greenhouses

- Pashtun Zargon
 - 12 iron pipe greenhouses under cultivation
 - Sturdy winter crops have included lettuce, parsley, radish and strawberry
 - Greenhouse field day results
 - Farmers living 5-10 km from Herat have a greater potential for income than those living more than 10 km from Herat.
 - Trials for different cropping in greenhouses depending on distance underway on Urdu Khan research farm



Greenhouses

- Shahrak
 - Mud wall greenhouse trial for the 2005-2006 winter season
 - Cucumber and lettuce planted during the late fall
 - Tomato planted for seedling production
 - germination 45 days earlier than non-greenhouse
 - seedlings distributed in project villages
 - 8 villages will construct greenhouses for the 2006-2007 season



Involving Women

- Recruiting qualified female staff
- Identifying the most appropriate interventions for women's involvement
 - Crops grown near the home
 - Food processing
 - Sericulture
- Sensitivity to the situation of women on a community by community basis
- Ensuring the role of women is included in livelihoods analyses
- Investing in men and women simultaneously

Sericulture

- Building on the “2nd season” research program CRS conducted in 2005, further promotion of silk worm was undertaken.
- Training by RAADA
- Both women and men participate
- Farmer innovations
- Links to more mature silk programs in other districts



Vinegar and Pickle Making

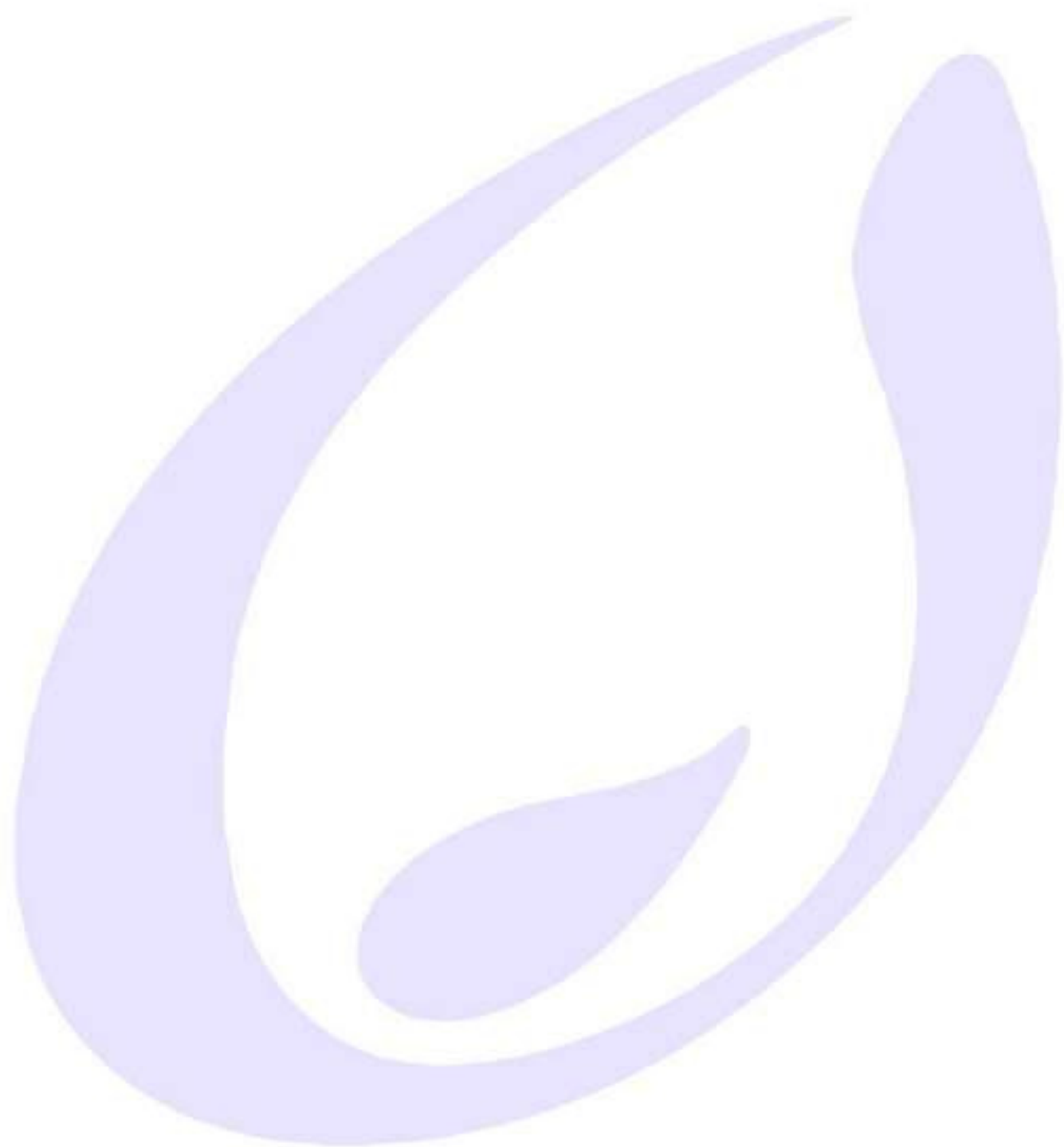
- 4 trainings of 1 month each
- Total of 73 women participating
- Pickle marketing constraints
 - Packaging, transport
- Vinegar marketing under exploration

Challenges

- Opium poppy occupies particular spatial and seasonal niches, many alternatives may actually be complementary
- Poppy is resilient to drought – and is cultivated in the wettest seasons of year
- Drought is persistent in western and southern provinces
- Many poppy growers are sharecroppers – sharecrop/credit arrangements are based on poppy returns
- Orchard and livestock interventions require multi-year commitments (confidence of support)
 - Multi-year funding is scarce in Afghanistan – limits scalability and adoption rates of proven, viable alternatives
- Poppy creates demand for labor – are the alternatives also providing labor opportunities?



CRS



ERROR: stackunderflow
OFFENDING COMMAND: ~
STACK: