

Village Decision Driven Research in Alingar District, Laghman Province, Afghanistan: Promoting Economically Viable Alternative Livelihoods in Afghanistan

Washington State University
In partnership with
DACAAR and MAAHF





Capacity Building

The alternatives should be practicable in the socio-economic environment of Afghanistan, and that are accessible to rural people. The beneficiaries will be predominantly poor, in the target villages.



Target Areas

Laghman Province
Alingar District

Mango - Kotali

Salab – Sahib Zadagan

Sangar – Masoom Kala

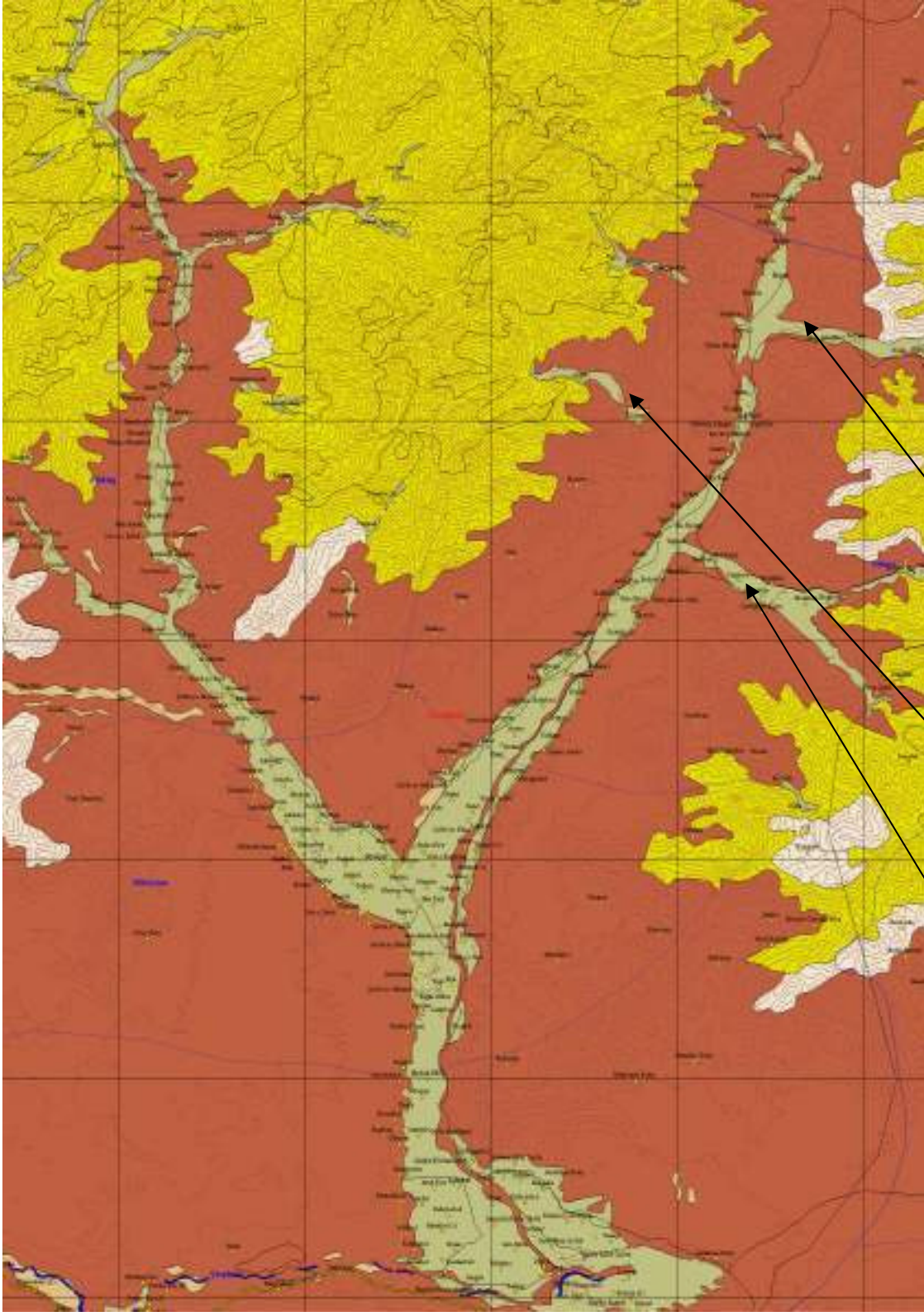






Table 1.1: Village Demographic Profile: Survey Representation

	<i>Total Number of People Represented</i>	<i>Number of Adult Men</i>	<i>Number of Adult Women</i>	<i>Number of Children under school age</i>	<i>Number of school age children</i>	<i>Number of Widows</i>	<i>Number of disabled</i>
Salab--Village One	149	37	34	44	34	1	6
Sangar-Village Two	182	44	50	38	50	2	3
Mango-Village Three	240	46	51	58	85	2	3
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>571</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>12</i>

Table 1.2: Village Demographic Profile: Household to Family Structure

	<i>Number of Surveyed Households</i>	<i>Number of Families in the Household</i>	<i>Number of Surveyed Families</i>	<i>Mean Number of Families per Household</i>	<i>Range: Number of Families per Household</i>
Salab--Village One	6	21	21	3.5	2-6
Sangar-Village Two	6	28	27	4.6	3-6
Mango-Village Three	6	34	25	5.6	5-9
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>2-9</i>

Livelihood Projects Identified:

Forest Management: Forestry products, wood processing, walnut/almond marketing, nursery expansion, sustainable harvesting

Livestock Management/Animal Husbandry

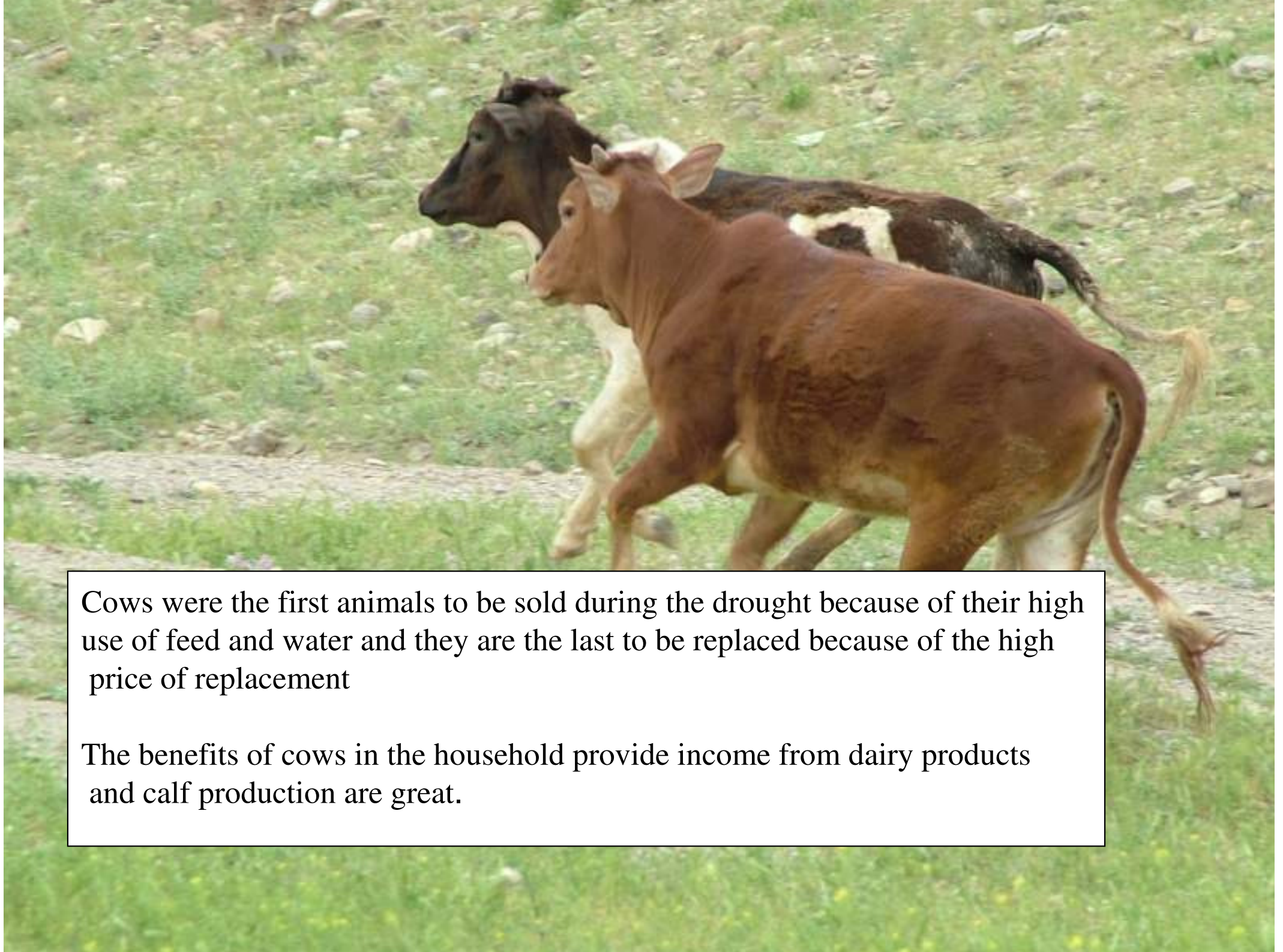
Fruit and Vegetable Processing

Sustainable Farm Improvement

Poultry/Egg Production and Marketing

Women's Resource Centres

Fisheries: Production and Processing



Cows were the first animals to be sold during the drought because of their high use of feed and water and they are the last to be replaced because of the high price of replacement

The benefits of cows in the household provide income from dairy products and calf production are great.



Annual forage/legume production

Feed Production
Cow Calf Exchange

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Artificial Insemination Program

Association Development

Developing women's resource centers.



Women's Resource Centers

- DACAAR'S Objectives
- Must be sustainable
- Must work for:
 - Empowerment of women
 - Support to Livelihoods
 - Provide neutral place sanctioned for women.

Obstacles and challenges

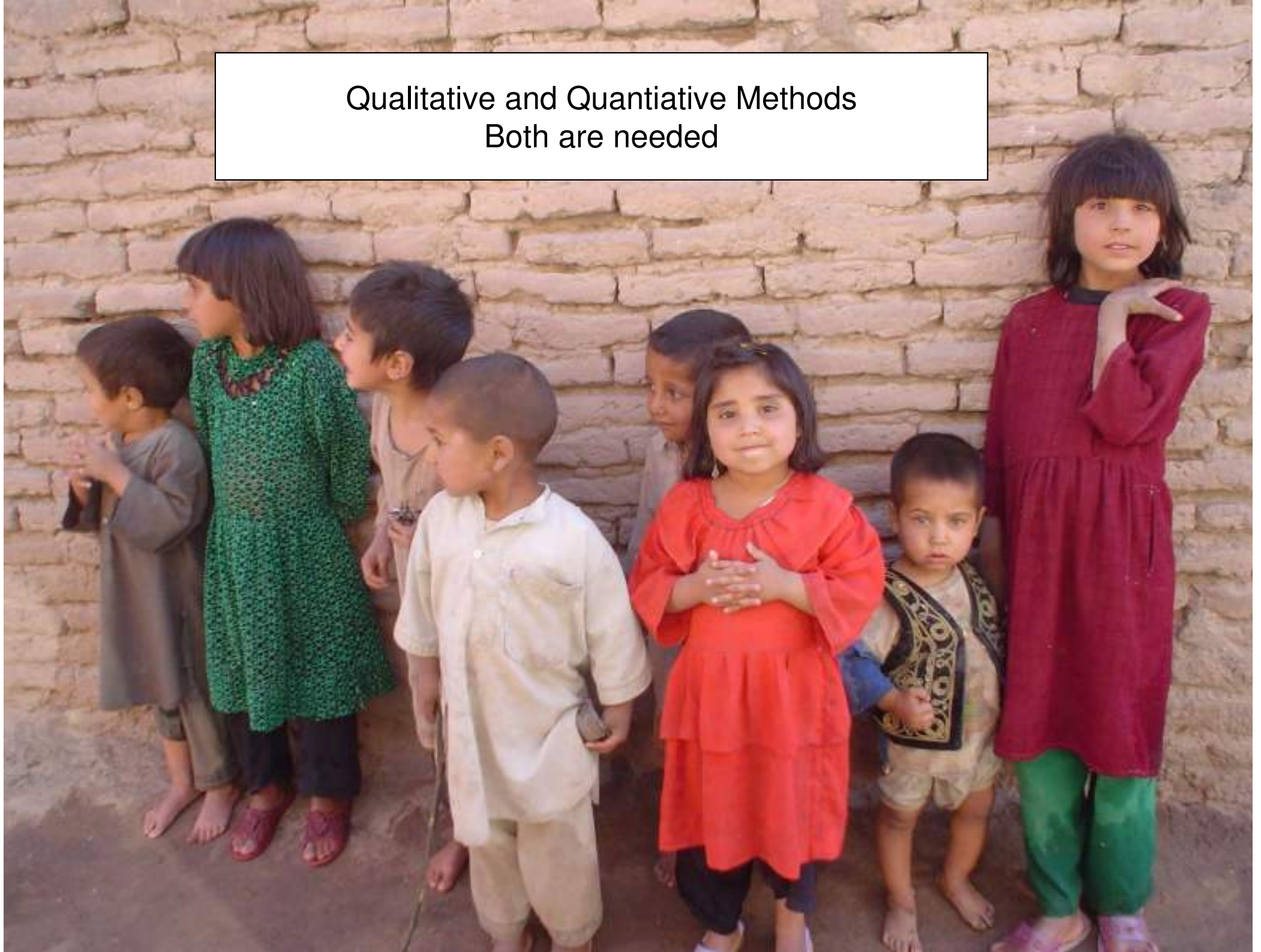
- Security
- Research collaboration
- Participants' expectations
- Data

Quantitative and Qualitative Both are needed.

Table 1.6 Percentage of School-age children currently attending school in study villages.

	<i>Percentage of Female School-age Children Attending School.</i>	<i>Percentage of Male School- age Children Attending School.</i>
Village One: Salab	73%	84%
Village Two: Sangar	100%	76%
Village Three: Mango	72%	100%

Qualitative and Quantitative Methods
Both are needed



DESIGN ISSUES FOR ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS INTERVENTIONS

- How does the program being developed compete with poppy, not only economically, but also in terms of social benefits such as assuring access to land and credit, and in generating employment?
- What stakeholder group will benefit from the intervention (i.e. landowners, sharecroppers, labourers etc), and what will be the impact on other groups affected by a shift from a poppy-based to a licit livelihood strategy? Any specific impact on women should be noted.
- If a new product is introduced, or an existing product developed, what is the market for this product?

DESIGN ISSUES FOR ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS INTERVENTIONS

- What are the risks faced by the new programme (e.g. failure due to natural disaster, market collapse etc)?
- Is the new programme socially and culturally acceptable in the areas where it is proposed?
- If a new crop is introduced, where are agro-ecological conditions suited to its cultivation?









Outputs

- Survey development and training by SESRC with DACAAR and MAAH
 - Village based survey
 - Train the trainers
- First village based survey
- Analysis of first survey and training of DACAAR and MAAH staff on methods used

Broad Sense of Agriculture

- crop and livestock production
- rangeland and forest management
- agri-processing and related services

Look beyond a simple crop substitution

Village Decision Driven Research Project

**Washington State University
WSU**

**Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees
DACAR**

Purpose

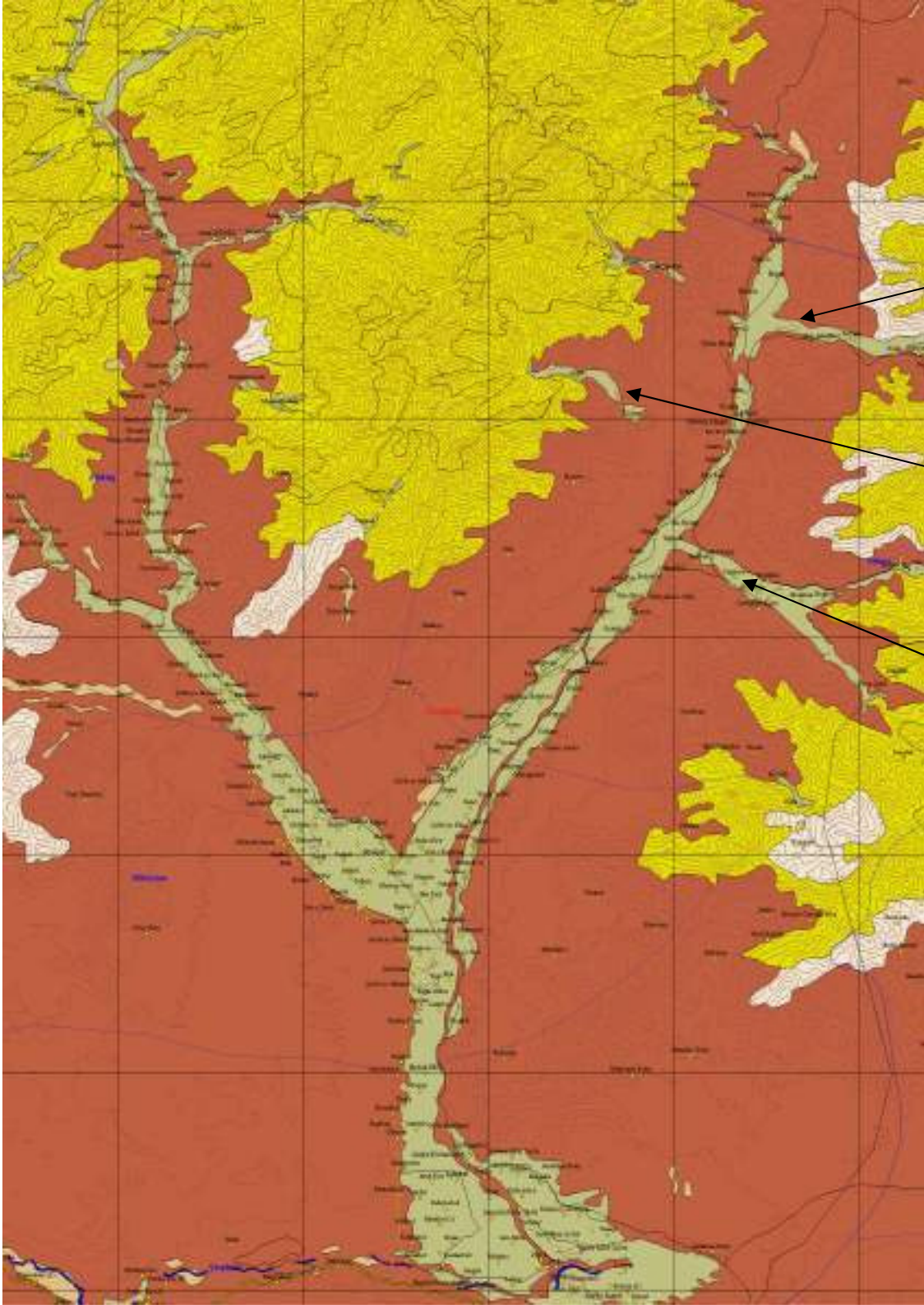
To develop research activities for alternatives to poppy production by building the capacity for the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry from a structure that integrates needs identified by village organizations in Alingar district of Laghman province.

Target Institutions

- Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACCAAR)
- Village Organizations (VOs)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (MAAH)

Target Areas

- Laghman Province
- Alingar District
- Villages
 - Sangar – Masoom Kala
 - Salab – Sahib Zadagan
 - Mango - Ziarat



Mango - Kotali

Salab – Sahib Zadagan

Sangar – Masoom Kala









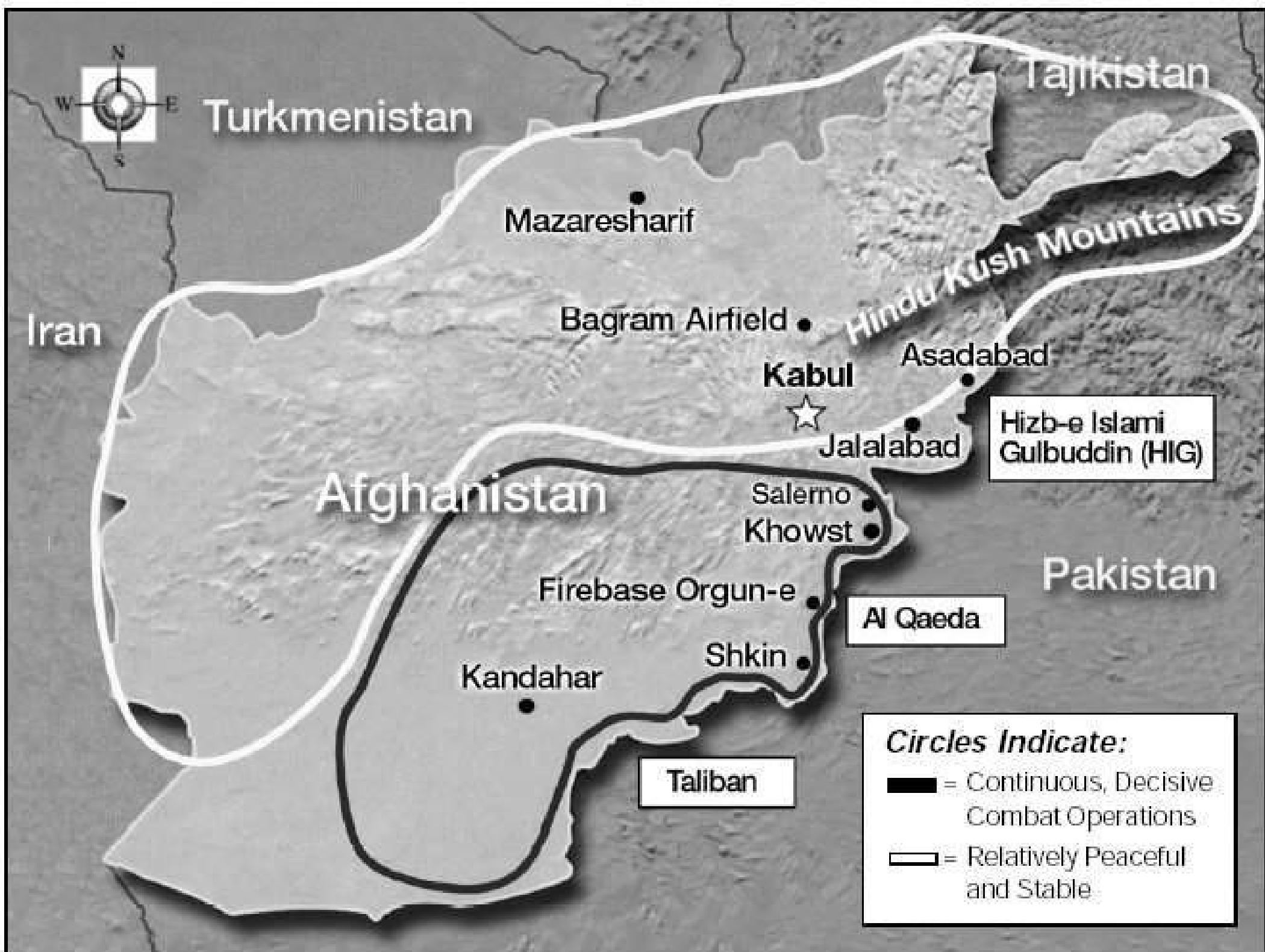
Village Organization Meeting











Turkmenistan

Tajikistan

Iran

Mazaresharif

Hindu Kush Mountains

Bagram Airfield

Kabul

Asadabad

Hizb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HIG)

Jalalabad

Afghanistan

Salerno Khowst

Pakistan

Firebase Orgun-e

Al Qaeda

Shkin

Kandahar

Taliban

Circles Indicate:
— = Continuous, Decisive Combat Operations
— = Relatively Peaceful and Stable

Major Programme Comparative Advantage

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 area that fieldwork is to be carried out.
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- combination is intended to maximise **synergy** between international research practice and knowledge of local Afghan context.

Main Programme Implementation

Approach/Strategy

- ❑ Potential alternative livelihood opportunities must address the reasons why different socio-economic groups (landowner farmers, sharecroppers and labourers) grow poppy, and demonstrate clear benefits in social and economic terms.
- ❑ In rural areas: livelihood alternatives are expected to derive from natural resource utilisation (crops, livestock, forest products) or from related processing or services.
- ❑ RALF focuses on **applied research** into **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.

DACAAR Survey Research Team



Thank you!

Survey Results (Activities Identified)

Livestock Management

- **cow calf exchange**
- **rangeland improvement**
- **forage production**
- **meat and milk products**

Survey Results

(Activities Identified)

Subsistence Farm Improvement

- **improved varieties (wheat, maize, bean, vegetables)**
- **management techniques (water and soil conservation)**
- **livestock-cropping system (rotate pasture and crops)**

Candidates for Later Implementation

- **Small scale juicing and bottling**
- **Milk to yogurt processing**
- **Milk to cheese processing**
- **Small scale poultry production for eggs**
- **Small scale poultry production for meat**
- **Dehydrating chicken litter for use as fertilizer**
- **Sustainable harvesting of medicinal and forage plants**
- **Soap production**
- **Extracting oils from wild species**