



Overview of RALF Programme

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Introduction:

Research in Alternative Livelihoods Fund (RALF)

Funded by:

Department for International Development (DFID), UK

Managed by:

International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Duration:

January 2004-January 2007

Purpose

- The purpose of RALF is to develop and promote innovative alternative livelihood options for rural Afghans currently economically dependent on opium poppy.
- Livelihood options identified may benefit other farmers and sectors of the rural population in Afghanistan.

Poppy Production Statistics Alarming



2004 Survey by UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

	2004	Variation on 2003	2003
Net opium poppy cultivation	131,000 ha	+ 64%	80,000 ha
% of agricultural land	2.9%		1.6%
number of provinces affected	32 (all)		28
Average opium yield	32 kg/ha		45 kg/ha
Production of opium	4,200 mt	+17%	3,600 mt
Households cultivating opium	356,000	+ 35%	264,000
People cultivating opium	2.3 million		1.7 million
% of total population (23 million)	10%		7%
Average farm price of fresh opium	US\$92/kg	- 67%	US\$283
Afghan export value of opium	US\$2.8 billion	+ 22%	US\$2.3 billion
% of 2003 GDP (US\$ 4.6 billion)	~60%		50%
- gross profits of Afghan traffickers	US\$2.2 billion	+69%	US\$1.3 billion
- farm value of opium production	US\$0.6 billion	- 41%	US\$1.02 billion
Yearly income to opium families	US\$1,700	- 56%	US\$3,900
Per capita income to opium families	US\$ 260	- 56%	US\$600
Gross income from opium per ha.	US\$4,600	- 64%	US\$12,700
Gross income from wheat per ha.	US\$390	- 17%	US\$470

Focus of RALF

- 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.

The Competitive Research Fund (CRF)

RALF operates through a competitive research fund managed by ICARDA 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 area that fieldwork is to be carried out.
- combination is intended to maximise **synergy** between international research practice and knowledge of local Afghan context.

Project Review Panel (PRP)

- **An independent panel reviews proposals and selects projects.**
- **PRP Comprises:**
 - Representatives from DFID
 - Representative from MAAHF
 - Independent Experts.
- **Round-1 Announcement:**
 - 21 Proposals Received
 - 7 Proposals accepted for funding

RALF-01 Projects: Implementing Agencies

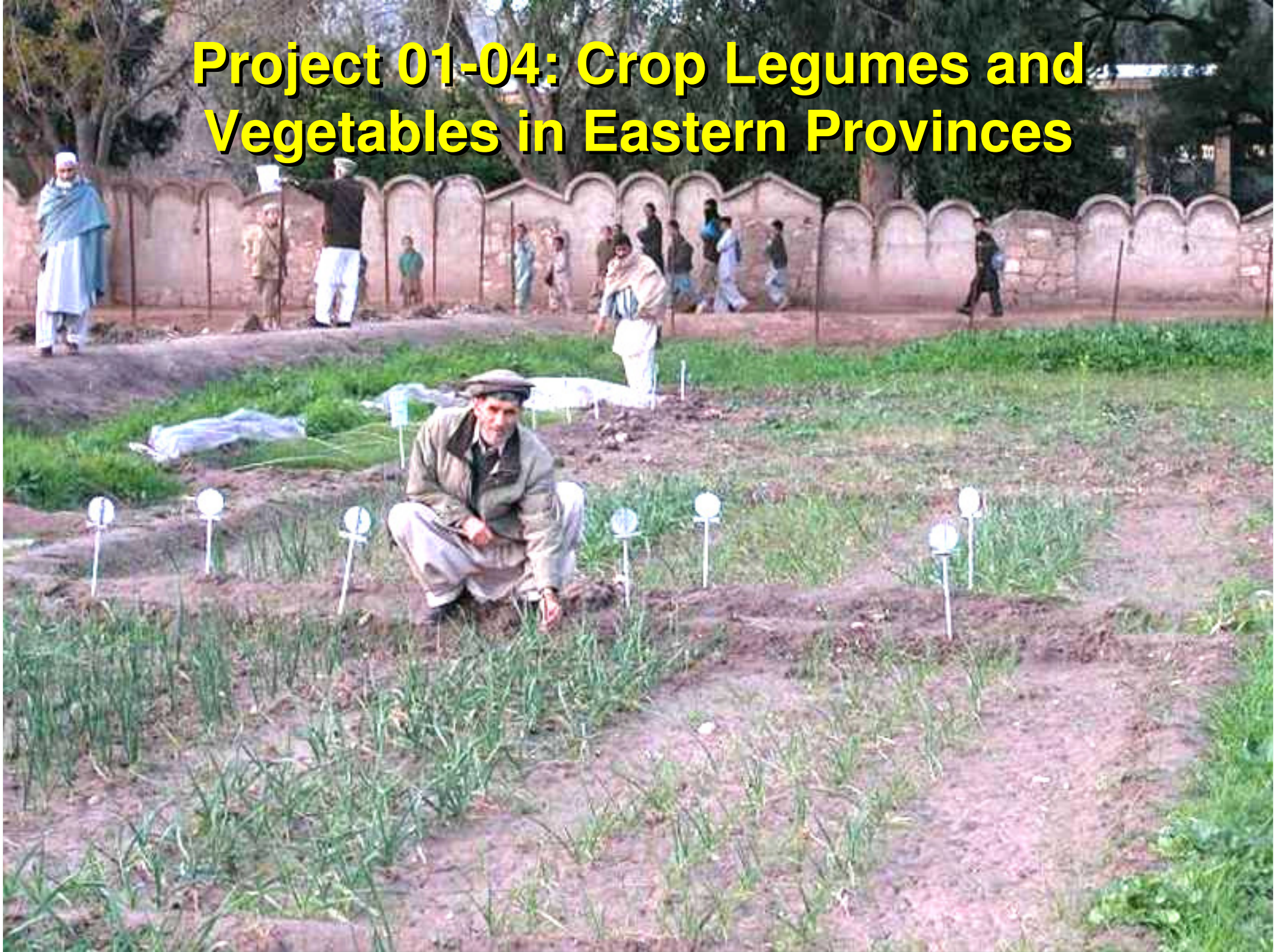
June 2004-January 2007

01-03:	Washington State University Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACCAR) Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (MAAH)	Village Decision Driven Research Project
01-04:	Relief International World Vegetable Centre (AVRDC) Nangahar University International Development Enterprises	Introduction, Evaluation and Promotion of Appropriate Crop Legumes and Vegetables for Eastern Afghanistan (CLVEA)
01-07:	Mercy Corps Afghanistan Centre for Arid Zone Studies, UK; MAAH	Restorative Agriculture and Rural Economy Research Project
01-08:	Natural Resources Institute, UK Aga Khan Foundation	Innovative financial mechanisms for improving the livelihoods of rural Afghans currently economically dependent on opium poppy
01-09:	Macaulay Research Consultancy Services Ltd., UK: Mercy Corps, MAAH, ICARDA	Marketing of livestock and livestock products: Market demand, potential returns to producers and constraints to market access.
01-11:	ICARDA Aga Khan Foundation; MAAH; Macaulay Research	Improved rural incomes from better forage production and sales of milk products
01-16:	Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Afghanistan ICRISAT	Western Afghanistan Agroenterprise Action Research Program

RALF-01 Projects: Location and Focus

	Short Title	Location	Focus
01-03:	Village Decision Driven Research Project	Laghman	Village organizations, livelihood analysis and identify alternatives, marketing
01-04:	Introduction, Evaluation and Promotion of Appropriate Crop Legumes and Vegetables	Nangarhar	Legumes (soybean, mung bean) and vegetables; market analysis and market promotion
01-07:	Restorative Agriculture & Rural Economy Research Project	Helmand Kandahar	Specialty crops; testing methods of intensified production; agro-processing enterprises; feasibility study of organic export market
01-08:	Innovative financial mechanisms	Badakhshan	Micro/small enterprise development; financial mechanisms; micro-finance/credit;
01-09:	Marketing of livestock and livestock products	Kunduz, Takhar, Daikundi, andahar Helmand	Investigation of marketing chains for livestock and livestock products; quantifying trade in livestock products; identifying market opportunities
01-11:	Improved rural incomes from better forage production and sales of milk products	Baghlan	Increasing livestock productivity; forage and milk production; milk processing and marketing,
01-16:	Western Afghanistan Agroenterprise Action Research Program	Ghor	Development of market linkages and agroenterprises: high-value crop production and small-scale value-adding activities.

Project 01-04: Crop Legumes and Vegetables in Eastern Provinces



Project 01-11: Improved rural income from better forage production and dales of milk in Baghlan Province



Round-2 Announcements: Concept Notes Received

No.	Proposed Project Title	Lead Institution
02-01	POTATOES: Additional cash for producers and traders in the poppy growing areas of Afghanistan	CIP
02-02	Research in sustainable production and successful marketing of saffron as an alternative to opium poppy cultivation	DACCAR
02-03	Development and validation of replicable participatory processes that facilitate farmers in Ghor to engage in alternative livelihoods	Afghanaid
02-04	Livestock and livelihoods: From participatory market chain analysis to business service provision	Oxfam
02-05	Increased productivity and profitability of wheat-based cropping system in Northern Afghanistan	JDA
02-06	Sustainable Agriculture for Livelihood (SAFAL)	Relief Int.
02-07	Multi-stakeholder program on natural ingredients for food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics in Afghanistan	Novib-Oxfam
02-08	To identify and promote crop production and agricultural product processes as alternative to poppy production in Saighan district	Solidarites
02-09	Horticultural packaging development and consumer market survey	Mercy Corps
02-10	Role of women in livelihood and cropping decision making process	Mercy Corps

Round-2 Announcements: Concept Notes Received

Cont'd

No.	Proposed Project Title	Lead Institution
02-11	Cultivation of mint as a viable alternative livelihood in East and North East of Afghanistan	ICARDA
02-12	Coping with drought- strategies for landless and drought stricken households	CRS
02-13	Development of alternative livelihood options for Afghan farmers through enhancing economic benefits from fruit trees and nuts	IPGRI
02-14	Production and marketing of essential oils	Altai Consult.
02-15	Marketing Afghan spices	Altai Consult.
02-16	Providing alternative livelihoods to rural Afghan families through sustainable maize -wheat rotation cropping systems	CIMMYT
02-17	Sustainable Protected Agriculture techniques for the production of cash crops as an alternative livelihood.	ICARDA
02-18	Valued-Added Livestock Production: Analysis of Karakul and Wool Industries and Organizational and Institutional Frameworks	Univ. of Calif.
02-19	Rehabilitation of marginal and wastelands by introducing profitable and eco-friendly legume-based technology.	ICRISAT
02-20	Promotion of groundnut for better nutrition and rural income augmentation in Afghanistan	MAAHF

RALF-02 Projects: Implementing Agencies

January 2005- January 2007

02-02	DACCAR Washington State University MAAH	Research in sustainable production and successful marketing of saffron as an alternative to opium poppy cultivation
02-05	Joint Development Associates International (JDA), Afghanistan CIMMYT Cornell University Aga Khan Foundation/Balkh Credit Union (BCU)/World Council of Credit Unions, Inc. (WCCU)	Increased productivity and profitability of wheat-based cropping system to reduce reliance on poppy in Northern Afghanistan
02-07	Novib-Oxfam, Netherlands AKF, CHA, Swisspeace- Afghanistan University of Kabul MAAHF-Dept. of Forestry Anadolu University- Turkey	Multi stakeholder program on natural ingredients for food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics in Afghanistan
02-11	ICARDA Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), India MAAH	Cultivation of mint as a viable alternative livelihood in East and North East of Afghanistan

RALF-02 Projects: Location and Focus

January 2005- January 2007

	Short Title	Location	Focus
02-02	Research in sustainable production and successful marketing of saffron	Pashtun Zarghun District, Herat.	Production, processing and marketing of saffron; growers associations.
02-05	Increased productivity and profitability of wheat-based cropping system	Balkh Baghlan Badkhsan	Improving wheat-based system through introduction of high value crops (e.g. oilseeds) and conservation tillage; development of market pathways and business plans for new crops and value added products.
02-07	Multi stakeholder program on natural ingredients for food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics	Khost, Patika, Badakshan, Baghlan, Bamyan, Heart, Ghor, Mazar, Farah and Faryab	Promoting employment and income opportunities through “value chain analysis” of six natural ingredients; processing technologies; analysis of international quality standards
02-11	Cultivation of mint as a viable alternative livelihood in East and North East of Afghanistan	Baghlan, Helmand, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Takhar provinces	Increased production of spearmint for culinary and medicinal uses; introduction of improved varieties of peppermint for value-added products (oil and menthol); domestic and international market analysis.

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

