

# Social Dimensions of saffron

## Research Methods

- Interviews with Individual Farmers = 31 (both males and females)
- Group Interviews of saffron growers, leaders of saffron association and other NRM - based associations
- Field visits by saffron experts and informal discussions
- Discussions with the concerned government officials
- Discussions with saffron trader in Herat and Dubai
- Discussions with saffron sellers in Herat market

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## Land and Water Resources

**Landholdings:** Average 52 jeribs, 3 (out of 31) landless, minimum 4 jeribs (2 farmers), maximum 500 jeribs (2), 25 less than 50 and 7 less than 10 jeribs

**Water rights:** Two (out of 31) families 720 hours a month, two 180, seven less than 10 hours. On average one hour is needed for 1 jerib

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## Family Size and Income

- **Family Size:** Maximum family size is 21, minimum, 4 and average 12
- **Working:** Maximum 9, minimum 1 and average 4. 23 families have less than 5 working members
- **Sources of Livelihoods:** 17 (out of 31) exclusively depend on Agriculture, 9 also from off-farm labor

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## Land Tenure

- a. Ownership
- b. Sharecropping
- c. Leasing

In 2005, 8 (out of 31) farmers had given land to sharecroppers, 7 sharecropped-in and others cropped their own land

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## Crops and Cropping

**Present crops:** wheat, barley, millets,, pulses, peas, corn, saffron, vegetables and fodder like alfalfa, and clovers, etc.

**Changes:** Instead of previous more water demanding crops, eg rice., cotton and watermelon, drought resistant crops like saffron, rain-fed wheat and alfalfa etc. are preferred.

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## Knowledge of Saffron

11 out of 19 men 8 out of 12 women interviewed knew about the life and basic technical aspects of saffron. However, they seemed less concerned about the social aspects of saffron, 1

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## Criteria for Making Crop Choices

**Criteria:** Rich are more concerned about price and poor about daily subsistence needs.

**Decision-makers:** 7 said landowner and sharecropper mutually decide, 13 said sharecropper, 2 said depends and 2 do not know.

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## Winners and Losers

**Rich vrs Poor:** 6 said all traders, rich and poor will benefit, 8 said no idea, 15 said traders and landowners because poor can not wait and take risk.

**Impact on Women:** 23 (out of 31) said women will generate money and will be respected in the family and 8 said no idea.

**Impact on Poverty:** All informants were positive, provided that production is increased, processing improved and market is created.



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## Contribution of Inputs and Share of Produce

- It largely depends on owners and sharecroppers and type of land
- If owner contributes 50% fertilizer and pesticide, he take 50 % produce, otherwise 40 %.

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## Saffron vrs Poppy

### a. Why not poppy?

1. Restrictions from religious leaders and village elders
2. Agreement with DACAAR

### b. A holistic and integrated approach is needed to overcome the poppy problem in Afghanistan