# Restorative Agriculture and Rural Economy (RARE) Research Project

Penny Anderson on behalf of Geof Dolman Hajji Barak, RARE Project Manager

Funded by Research in Alternative Livelihoods Fund





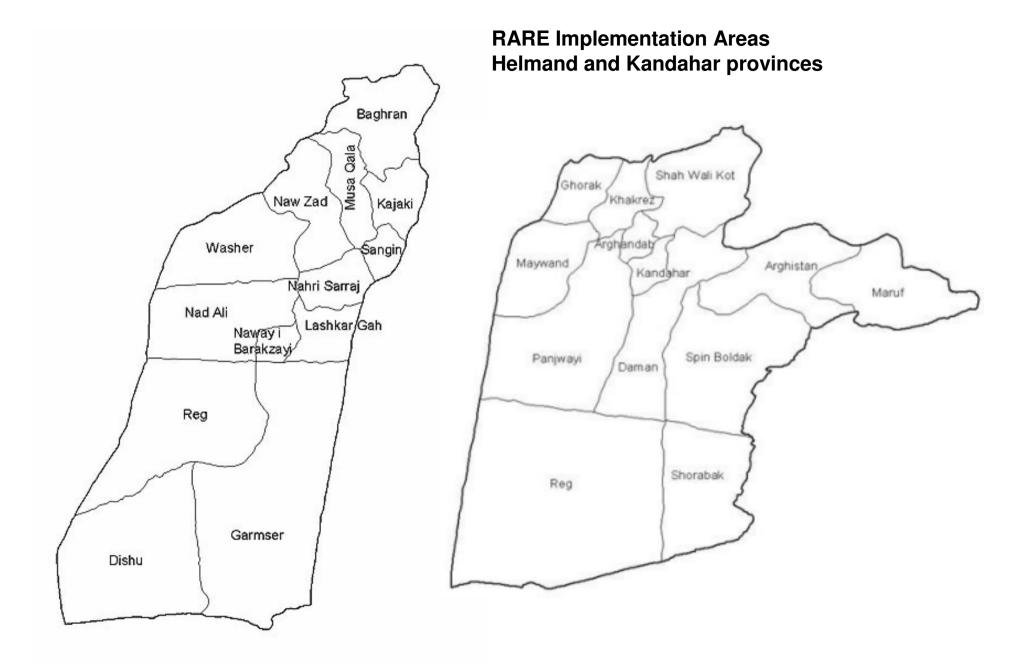


## **Project Goal**

 A rural economy that supports agricultural livelihoods that are legitimate, economically viable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally sound.

### Four research components:

- Farmer-led Experimentation & Extension Services
- Small-scale Value-added Processing
- Organic Export Feasibility Study
- Community Participation and Agricultural Governance



- Output 1: Economic analysis of a variety of staple, cash and specialty crops.
- A. Out of season vegetable production
- B. Essential Oil Crop Production
- C. Mushroom Production
- D. Control Study—Wheat Production
- E. Control Study—Maize Production

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### Poly-tunnel in Sakari Bagh nursery, Kandahar



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# A farmer in Kandahar constructing a poly-tunnel



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# Tomato plants in a poly-tunnel in Lashkagah in February



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# A collaborating farmer showing us his poly-tunnel in late March



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# Farmers interested in a poly-tunnel in Lashkagah



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### Lessons Learned, Polytunnels

- Interest of farmers: some more interested than others.
  - Those less interested delayed implementation, which led to less success
  - Those more interested intend to continue polytunnels with own funding next year
- Quality of tunnels (cost vs. quality)
- Timing is everything, especially with agricultural programs

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### Mushroom training

- Three men, four women will attend training at University of Peshawar in May.
- Attendees are farmers and MAAHF officials.
- Mushroom houses being excavated and constructed in Kandahar and Helmand.



### Lessons learned, mushrooms

- Still determining fair cost for good quality mushroom houses.
- Logistics difficulties for international trainings, especially including women.
- Nevertheless, it is important to target women, as mushroom production is likely to be a household task assigned to women.

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## Farmer-led Experimentation and Extension Services

Output 2: Economic analysis of different types of improved small-scale irrigation systems.

Site for trial (vegetables, drip vs. ditch) has been identified.

Output 3: Review of past and current extension services, including recommendations for future market-driven supplies of agricultural support services, including technical agri-enterprise development and group/cooperative development.

Data being collected.

### **Small-scale Value-added Processing**

- Output 4: Evaluations of at least 10 different existing small-scale agriprocessing industries.
- Output 5: Case studies of agri-enterprises that prove to have value-added through experimental processing.

Data being collected. A partner involved with tomato paste processing has been identified.

## COMPONENT 3 Organic Export Feasibility Study

- Study will be conducted by Henry Doubleday Research Associates, Coventry, UK.
- Assessment of viability of organic conversion to be performed by July 2005.
- If conversion is found to be potentially viable, two farmers groups will participate in the production and marketing of organic products.









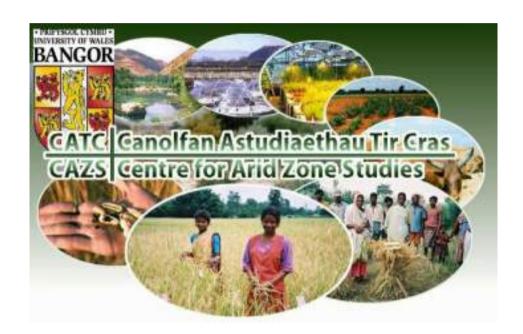
the organic organisation

## COMPONENT 3 Organic Export Feasibility Study

- Output 6: In-depth feasibility study for the development of markets for organic Afghan agricultural products.
- Output 7: A review of the different types of organic certification and an evaluation of how this might be applied and developed in an Afghan context
- Output 8: Publication of producer manuals explaining regulations of organics and guidance and instruction on organic agricultural practices

# **COMPONENT 4 Community Participation and Agricultural Governance**

 Study on community and government mechanisms for encouraging alternative livelihoods to be conducted by the Centre for Arid Zone Studies (CAZS), Bangor, Wales.



# **COMPONENT 4 Community Participation and Agricultural Governance**

- Output 9: Study testing the effectiveness of local decision-making in encouraging alternative livelihoods.
- Output 10: Review and analysis of past and current agricultural governance and recommendation for future role of Provincial Ministry of Agriculture in supporting the creation of alternative livelihoods.

Mercy Corps/CAZS will collaborate with Kandahar and Helmand MAAHF.

### PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- Helmand and Kandahar Departments of MAAHF
- Agriculture Innovation Centre, Helmand
- Sakari Bagh Nucleus Nursery, Kandahar, owned by Kandahar Municipality.
- CAZS Bangor University, consultancy services.
- Henry Doubleday Research Association, UK

# Producer of fruit juice and pickle in Kandahar

