

## V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RATE OF RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

Given the current situation in Afghanistan, relevant quantifiable data (especially on production costs) is either unavailable or scarce; and often inaccurate or incomplete. This makes it impossible to calculate rates of return for specific investments. However, careful evaluation of both the supply and value chains of selected horticultural products (Appendices B, D, E & F) allows us to make a qualitative assessment of the “*Income Potential*” as well as the “*Operational Feasibility*” of each crop.

***The Operational Feasibility*** (see table below) of each product is ranked by evaluating the supply chain; current Production Practices (costs, yields); current Product Quality (inherent product characteristics, presentation); and current state of Logistics (processing plants, grading, handling, cold storage, transport).

Ranking of Operational Feasibility				
PRODUCT	Production Practices	Product Quality	Logistics	OVERALL
<b><i>Primary</i></b>				
Almonds	●	●	●	●
Cumin	●	●	●	●
Figs (dried)	●	○	●	○
Grapes	○	●	○	○
Pine Nuts	●	●	●	●
Pistachios	○	●	●	●
Pomegranate	●	●	●	●
Raisins	●	●	●	●
Walnuts	●	●	●	●
<b><i>Secondary</i></b>				
Apples	○	●	○	○
Apricots (dried)	●	●	●	●
Apricots (fresh)	○	○	●	○
Melon	●	●	●	○
Onion	○	●	○	○
Potatoes	○	●	○	○
Tomatoes (dried)	●	●	●	●

**Key:** ○ = Low    ● = Medium    ● = High

**The Income Potential** (see table below) of each product is ranked by evaluating the value chain; its Competitiveness in the international market (cost, quality); the opportunity presented to easily capture value in the supply chain (grading, packaging, etc.); and by potential scalability and volume impact.

Ranking of Income Potential				
PRODUCT	International Competitive-ness	Opportunity for Value Capture	Scalability and Volume Impact	OVERALL
<i>Primary</i>				
Almonds	○	●	●	○
Cumin	●	●	●	●
Figs (dried)	●	●	○	●
Grapes	●	○	●	●
Pine Nuts	●	●	○	●
Pistachios	○	○	○	○
Pomegranate	●	○	○	●
Raisins	○	●	●	●
Walnuts	○	○	○	○
<i>Secondary</i>				
Apples	○	○	○	○
Apricots (dried)	●	○	●	●
Apricots (fresh)	○	○	●	○
Melon	○	○	●	●
Onion	○	○	○	○
Potatoes	○	○	○	○
Tomatoes (dried)	○	○	○	○

**Key:** ○ = Low    ● = Medium    ● = High