

RALF-0104 Project Quarterly Activity Report

1. On Nangarhar University Research Farm:

Vegetable seedling production nurseries of 11 onion varieties, 13 tomato, 10 eggplant and 13 pepper varieties successfully produced seedlings for the variety performance trials which were conducted on Nangarhar University Agriculture Research Farm (Fig. 1).



Dr. Mubarak Ali and E. Ehsan monitoring vegetable nursery at NU ARF.

The seedling produced on NU Research Farm were transplanted into Randomized Complete Block Designs (RCBD) with four or even five replications by junior instructors and senior and junior students under the instruction of the senior professors of the Faculty of Agriculture (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2: Junior and senior students and junior instructors transplanting tomato plants for variety performance trial at NU ARF.

2. On the farming community:

a. The collaborating farmers also grew vegetable seedlings very successfully. The farmers first fulfilled their needs of transplants for their own projects and sold the extra seedlings in the community for very good prices. Doing as such, our collaborating farmers were able to produce good seedlings for themselves and sold the remaining to the other vegetable growers for very good prices and made very good cash value as a nice alternative to poppy cultivation (Fig. 3). From the other hand they supplied good vegetable seedlings to the surrounding vegetable growing communities and as such had a significant positive impact on the economic development of the farming community.



Figure 3: Vegetable nursery of one of the RALF collaborating vegetable grower, Haji Naser Khan, in Sher Gar Village of Ghanikheyl District.

The collaborating farmers who have green houses successfully produced cucumber, red round radishes and cilantro in the cold weather of the winter and were able to sell their produce for higher prices.

Inputs such as agriculture tools and chemical fertilizers and services such as training of farmers in vegetable nursery establishment and management were provided to more than 75 collaborating and vegetable farmers in classroom as well as in field. In addition to that the socio economic baseline survey conducted earlier was corrected and completed by Mohd. Jalil and will be ready for statistical analysis during the current week.

3. Dr. Mubarik Ali, manager for RALF-0104 Project from the H.Q of AVRDC and Dr. Madan Chadha, Regional Director of AVRDC in India came to Afghanistan in March 2006. They visited and monitored our program in Nangarhar University as well as in the districts. Both were very happy for the work we have done so far and gave fruitful advice for additional funding and programs (Figs. 4 and 5).

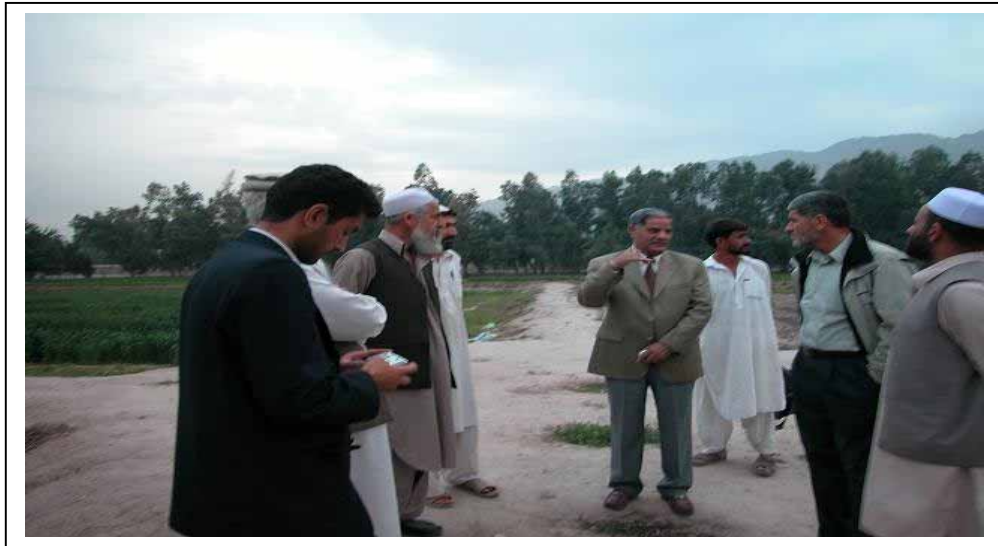


Fig. 4: Dr. Chadha explaining how to improve Nangarhar University Agriculture Research Farm.



Fig. 5: Dr. Mubarak Ali monitoring zucchini production in Haji Hashmat's green house in off season in Rodat District.