



Agenda

3rd RALF Steering Committee Meeting
Cooperatives Boardroom, ARIA Building, MAAHF, Kabul
Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 8:50-13:30

Membership:

MAAHF:

DM Mohammad Sharif
DM Mostafa Jawad
DG of Extension: Fazluddin Fazl
DG of Research (ARIA): Aziz Osmanzai
DG of Planning: Nasratullah Akbarzad
DG of ALP: Saboor Shairzad

DFID:

Anthea Kerr
M. Essa Shamal

ICARDA:

Najib Malik
Abdul Rahman Manan
Javed Rizvi

MAAHF Advisor (Observer):

Michael Allen

Invited Guest:

Dr. Michael Bowers, Country Director, Mercy Corps Afghanistan

- 1. Presentation on Project 01-09: Marketing of Livestock and Livestock Products (Implemented by Macaulay Institute, Mercy Corps Afghanistan and MAAHF)**
 - Highlights of the Research**
 - Recommendations for Future Research**
 - Linkages with EC and World Bank Projects**
- 2. Review of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting of Oct. 20, 2005**
- 4. RALF Annual Report and Finance Report**

5. **Action Items from Last Meeting**
 - a- **RALF to develop linkages with Ministry of Counter-Narcotics**
CNTF has an ALP component
 - b- **Focal Point at MAAHF**
 - Major decisions/consultations on major issues
 - Day-to-day communication
 - c- **Debate on Microfinance Issues: ICARDA to facilitate a forum for discussion involving MISFA, MAAHF, MRRD and other stakeholders.**
 - d- **Others**
6. **Highlights of the “Symposium Medicinal Plants” and Related Activities.**
 - Symposium at MAAHF-Kabul
 - Seminar at MAAHF-Herat
 - New Linkages Developed
7. **Highlights of the 2nd RALF Workshop (Theme: Marketing)**
8. **Update from Other Projects**
 - Impact
 - Capacity Building
9. **RALF Communication Strategy**
10. **Next RALF Workshop (Theme: Project Impact)**
 - Venue
 - Timing to Coincide with FHCRAA Meeting
 - Contents (Includes Poster Presentation)
11. **Coordination of ALP’s (DFID and non-DFID funded Programs)**
12. **DFID Mid-Term Review of RALF**
13. **Any Other Items**

Minutes

3rd RALF Steering Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 9:30-13:30 Conference Room of Cooperatives Dept, MAAHF



Membership:

MAAHF:

H. E. DM Mohammad Sharif
H. E. DM Mostafa Jawad
DG of Extension: Fazluddin Fazl
DG of Research: Aziz Osmanzai
DG of Planning: Nasratullah Akbarzad
DG of ALP: Saboor Shairzad

DFID:

Anthea Kerr
M. Essa Shamal

ICARDA:

Najib Malik
Abdul Rahman Manan
Javed Rizvi

MAAHF Advisor (Observer):

Michael Allen*

Invited Guests:

Michael Bowers, Country Director, Mercy Corps Afghanistan
Khalil Rahman, Aid Coordination Advisor, MAAHF
Glen Swansen, Advisor, MRRD/GRM

1- **Final Project Presentation for 01-09: Marketing of Livestock and Livestock Products (Implemented by : Macaulay Institute, MAAHF and Mercy Corps-Afghanistan)***

-**Michael Bowers** presented the results of the marketing survey conducted in Kandahar, Kabul and Kunduz .

-The Project set out to identify what are the impediments in the market chain of meats at key regional markets. The stocks are low but the market is healthy and it is working.

* Michel Bowers Editorial Note: The specific goal of the short project was to “identify market opportunities for livestock and livestock products and constraints to producers receiving higher returns from livestock products’ as a viable alternative to poppy growing”. It was not, as many RALF grants, an implementation grant for activities. The practical work was conducting the survey and dissemination of findings.

-**Lamb fattening** and **licit access to credit** for farmers to re-stock are among the key results. Large re-stocking programs are problematic however because of lack of feed.

-**Informal payments** to the authorities and armed groups who control access to the markets accounted for \$15-20/head for sheep. Reference to the informal payments (a politically sensitive issue) generated an hour of debate and discussion as follows:

-Both **DM Sharif** and **DM Jawad** acknowledged the fact that in certain situations and places, the trader may be forced to pay this informal tax, but as the security situation is improving and a Commission is in place (as of 9-months ago), the occurrence of such incidents is diminishing.

-**DM Jawad** mentioned that such payments may be 50-100 Afs per head of animal but not \$15-20.

Bowers pointed out that the tasks ahead of us are:

- Determine the potential of different breeds,
- Address the credit component.
- WB is talking to the government about lamb fattening and EC will fund AREU.

-**DM Sharif** and **DM Jawad** expressed an element of surprise that the Project had come to an end yet no practical work/research had been done, that all we have before us for a \$109,000 project is a report!

-**Kerr** responded, look back at the design of the project when MAAHF had the opportunity for input and plan on how to carry it forward along with other implementing partners..

Bowers: The recommendations are intended to inform senior policy makers and donors where to look for- lamb fattening, feed, credit, etc. The report was reviewed by ICARDA and finalized, no further amendments to the report is possible given the grant is closed.

-**Fazl:** The Project has yielded valuable results. We can use the info in the development of future projects. There is a general lack of knowledge in the livestock sector. The results of this project will fill the gaps in our knowledge.

-**DM Jawad:** We should have invited the DG of Animal Husbandry Dept to this meeting, as the results of this Project would be of interested to him and we would have benefited from his comments. In future, even if a particular MAAHF Dept Head is not a member of the Steering Committee, he should be invited.

Action: Malik to take note

2- Review of Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed, no additions were made.

3- Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of October 20, 2005

-Approved, with the observation that the Dari translations of the Six-Monthly Report and the Minutes of the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting are still pending.

-Malik pointed out that the translations were ready but that they needed editing/review to make sure that the Dari translation conveys the same meaning as the English version. Translation (plus typing) is also costly (\$10/page).

4- RALF Annual Report and Finance Report:

Malik: Since we have to wait for the Finance Report from the HQ which covers the period up-to January 31, 2006, ICARDA-RALF will have to wait for this and submit the reports in early-mid February.

5- Action Items from Last Meeting :

a-RALF to Develop Contacts with Ministry of Counter-Narcotics:

Partially done:

-RALF was represented at the ALP Workshop organized by Ministry of Counter-Narcotics on September 3rd.

-ICARDA has been invited to make a presentation at the 2nd MCN-ALP Workshop on Jan. 26th

-ICARDA has representation on the MCN ALP Working Group.

-Additionally, RALF to share results with MAAHF and MCN.

Action: Malik

-DFID: MCN has an AL Component, supported by Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund. Dr. Nabi Hussein is the Director of ALP at MCN.

-Malik to follow up with CNTF on funding opportunities. Ensure that the IP's are aware of the funds.

b-RALF to Strengthen Ties with MAAHF Provincial Centres: In progress.

Provincial officials have been invited to join the PM during monitoring trips to Parwan, Baghlan, Takhar, Kunduz, Balkh and Herat over the last 3 months. In Baghlan, at least 5 provincial staff have a direct involvement in the forage trials underway at Poze-Eshan Research Station, as part of RALF Project 01-11.

c-RALF to Follow up on the Recommendations of the DFID Review:

Done: See Appendix 1 of Minutes of the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting

d-Focal Point at MAAHF

Kerr: DM Sharif and DM Jawad to serve as "Focal Point" between RALF and MAAHF on major issues. Dr. Fazl is to serve as a Focal Point for day-to-day issues.

Malik: Dr. Fazl has served as "resource person" at RALF events on socio-economic and microfinance matters before.

e- Input into Master Plan:

ICARDA to have input in the development of the Master Plan in certain aspects where ICARDA has the expertise: In Progress: ICARDA-Afghanistan has been participating in the development of the Master Plan

f-Forum on Microfinance:

RALF to facilitate/organize a one-day Discussion Forum involving the various stakeholders such as MAAHF, MRRD, MCN, MISFA, AKDN, ARMP, BRAC, NRI (P.I. for Project 01-08), DFID and ICARDA: **Action: Malik.**

6- Symposium on Medicinal Plants: Research, Cultivation, Preservation, Processing and Marketing

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2005, 8:30-4:45 PM at RAMP Boardroom MAAHF

-The Symposium was a success. According to MAAHF Special Advisors, representing H.E. Minister Ramin at the Symposium, Mr. Ghafoor Khan, and Mr. Mirdad Panjsheri, the event on medicinal plants was *'the first of its kind' held in Afghanistan.*

-Sample CD's containing the presentations were distributed to the members of the Steering Committee.

-Linkages were created between Afghan partners and research and industrial institutions involved in medicinal plants in Iran and Pakistan.

-The Iranian speakers also visited the Faculty of Pharmacy and Faculty of Agriculture at Kabul University and gave lectures to students and faculty.

-Malik is still waiting for one more presentation before producing more copies of the CD for distribution to Project Partners and ALP stakeholders.

-The proceedings of the presentations will be posted onto the RALF Website

Action: Malik

-Seminar on Medicinal Plants at MAAHF-Herat: This successful event was jointly hosted by MAAHF-Herat, University of Herat, DACCAR and CRS-Herat on November 23rd. The Iranian speakers participated at the Seminar as well as a field tour of agronomic trials on saffron at Kohdastan Farms, near Karukh, Herat.

7 Second RALF Projects Workshop, Theme : Markets, Market Processes, Marketing: National and International Context

Date: Sunday, November 20, 2005, 8:15-4:30 at RAMP Boardroom, MAAHF

-In addition to Project Presentations, there were several invited speakers (ie., MAAHF, Kabul University, Ministry of Commerce, Arghand, Institute of Simplified Hydroponics, the OTF Group, CIAT and Washington State University).

-**Malik** is still waiting for one more presentation before producing more copies of the CD for distribution to Project Partners and ALP stakeholders.

-The proceedings of the presentations will be posted onto the RALF Website

Action: Malik

RALF Reception at Ruby Ballroom, Safi Landmark Hotel, Kabul

Date: Sunday Evening, November 20, 6:00-9:00 PM

-Project Partners, Deans of the Faculty of Agriculture from Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat Universities, Donors and senior Afghan officials from several Ministries (including the Minister for Urban Development, Eng. Yousef Pushtun) attended the RALF function.

8- Impact and Capacity Building

- The importance of demonstrating impact has been pointed out to Project Partners on numerous occasions. Project impact and capacity building (MAAHF and Afghan universities) to be documented in the Six-Monthly Reports.

-At least 8 of the 11 Projects have already developed capacity building linkages with Afghan universities.

9- Communication Strategy

The multi-layered communication strategy developed for RALF should be circulated to all Steering Committee Members of MAAHF as well as the Project P.I..
Action: Malik

MAAHF Members to comment (even if in Dari or Pushtu) on the Draft Communication Strategy and return their comments to Program Management.

Action: MAAHF

Shamal: Workshops provide the opportunities for interacting with different stakeholders.

10. Next RALF Workshop

- a. Theme: Impact
- b. Timing: To be determined
- c. Place: Kabul

d. Poster Session

-Project Partners had been advised (DFID-RALF Business Meeting of Nov. 20, 2005) that each Project is to prepare a Poster and that there will be a **Poster Session at the 3rd RALF Workshop**. The CODIS Unit at ICARDA-HQ will print the Posters.

-A lengthy discussion followed as to what do we want to achieve with Posters ? Who are our target groups ? Why the Posters in English ?

-**Malik** responded that the initial attempt will be to prepare the Posters in English (the expertise/technology is there for this purpose at ICARDA-HQ) but that Dari and Pushtu versions (less technical than the English version) could be prepared later in Kabul.

-**Kerr** advised that DFID and RALF need to discuss this further.

11. Coordination of ALP's : Who is Responsible for the Overall Coordination of DFID-funded and non-DFID-funded ALP's in Afghanistan ?

Kerr advised that it is the MCN that is responsible. Dr. Nabi Husseini, Director of ALP is the contact person.

12; DFID Mid-Term Review

-DFID to get consultants to review the Projects

-MAAHF Steering Committee Members to assist DFID in this task

Closing Remarks:

DM Sharif (returning from a brief visit to H.E. Minister Ramin's Office) informed the participants that Minister Ramin was made aware that the meeting was in progress. His message was that all international organizations and NGO's should take note that the Master Plan has now been completed.

Kerr:

-It is a difficult process to coordinate

- Hand over the results to MAAHF

-Improve the Communication Strategy

-Will see the impact of the research. Must concentrate on the impact of the results.

-DFID is proud to work with MAAHF

-Sometimes it is difficult to hear/accept the research results.

Email Addresses for Steering Committee Members

MAAHF

DM Mohammad Sharif	sharif_moal_afg@yahoo.com	070286677
DM Mostafa Jawad	mostafa_jawad@yahoo.com	070289807
Dr. Fazluddin Fazl	drfazl@yahoo.com	070289462
Dr. Aziz Osmanzai	aosmanzai@yahoo.com	070207045
		0799314802
Mr. Nasratullah Akbarzad	akbarzad53@yahoo.com	070246609
Mr. Saboor Shairzad		070021058
Mr. Michael Allen	maahallen@yahoo.co.in	

DFID

Ms. Anthea Kerr	a-kerr@dfid.gov.uk	070038572
Mr. M. Essa Shamal	m-shamal@dfid.gov.uk	070294993

ICARDA

Dr. Najib Malik	n.malik@cgiar.org	070172696
		Aleppo: 963-21-221-3433 (Office)
		963-21-267-0531(Home)
Mr. Abdul R. Manan	a.manan@cgiar.org	070274381
		0799216322
Dr. Javed Rizvi	j.rizvi@cgiar.org	079216325
Mr. Farid A. Sherzai	f.sherzai@cgiar.org	070067978

Minutes Prepared by N. Malik
Drafted February 20, 2006