Grid Coordinates (MGRS): 41RQR55701110

City: Gul Kalacha

District: Arghandab

Province: Kandahar

Report Basis: ASC ATS6-608

Unit: ATS-6

Tasker: RFAI-RCS-079-20110720

*This report contains raw, unevaluated atmospheric information, which may reflect the bias/motivation of the ASC that provided it. Atmospherics represent the perceptions, opinions and sentiments of the local populace, which may differ from factual accounts and/or historic reality. It is not intended to be used as a standalone document.*

**1. BLUF:** Saplings distributed last season to farmers by the United Nations did not yield well this year. Locals complain that they were from Pakistan and argue that donors should give them native saplings for fruit trees next time so the local economy can develop.

**2. ATMOSPHERIC VALUE:** Non-Supportive-ISAF.

**3. DETAILS:** On 19 Feb 13, while in Gul Kalacha, ASC ATS6- 608 overheard two Pashtun males discussing the poor yield of their fruit trees this year.

The 45-year-old farmer stated, “The last few years the fruit tree saplings that the farmers planted did poorly. The sapling was donated possibly by the United Nation High Commission for Refugees. The saplings were purchased from Pakistan.”

The 40-year-old man stated, “Why do these foreign donors not use the saplings from Arghandab valley? The saplings will yield better because it is from the same soil. It will help the economy of the valley, and farmers will benefit. But it seems that even our trees come from Pakistan. Why not invest in Afghan farmers?”

**4. COMMENTS:** Two men say that fruit trees given as saplings to farmers by the UN yielded poorly this harvest. They say that the saplings came from Pakistan and would have done better if they were native to the local soil. Past reporting shows fruit agriculture to be extremely critical to the ARGHANDAB economy.