

BAMYAN

Located in the central highlands of Afghanistan, Bamyan borders the provinces of Samangan and Saripul to the north, Baghlan, Parwan and Wardak to the east, Ghor to the west and Ghazni and Daikundi to the south.

The province's cultivated area is concentrated mostly along the Bamyan River basin where the soil is the most fertile. 65% of the province's cultivated land is concentrated in 5 of its 7 districts and livestock raising is equally distributed throughout the province's districts.

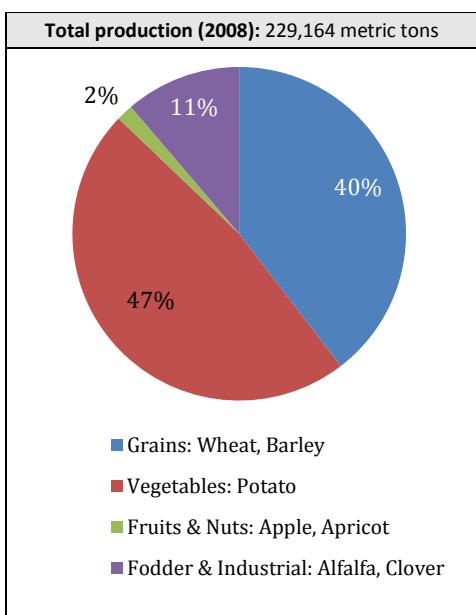
Bamyan is famous for producing qroot, namad and potatoes.

Bamyan in a Nutshell

- **Surface area:** 18,000 sq. km
- **Capital:** Bamyan Centre
- **Districts:** 7 – Bamyan Centre, Kohmard, Punjab, Saighan, Shebar, Waras, and Yakawlang
- **Main markets:** Kabul, Siagerd, Bamyan, Ghazni
- **Population:** 0.4 million inhabitants (97% in rural areas)
- **Most populated districts:** Waras, Bamyan, Yakawlang
- **Ethnic Groups:** Mainly Hazaras (1st) and Tajiks (2nd) and minority groups of Tatars and Pashtuns
- **Main languages:** Dari
- **Kuchi Migration:** Winter, none; Summer, less than 5,000 individuals
- **Returnees, IDPs:** Bamyan is the destination of 0.5% (roughly 23,881 individuals) of the total returnee population, but not an important hosting province for IDPs.

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Cultivation of fodder, industrial crops and orchards is mainly conducted by men in Bamyan. Both men and women are involved in the cultivation of vegetables, cereals and grains. Harvesting is done by both men and women for all crop categories.

Processing:

Drying fruit is mainly done by women. Both men and women are involved in shelling nuts, although women are more heavily involved in this activity.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

Men handle a large majority of the selling and trading of horticulture goods.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children under 15 are typically not involved in the cultivation of any crop types in Bamyan. They do, however, participate in the harvesting of all crop types. Children also participate in drying fruit and shelling nuts.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Use of fertilizer (% of farming households):

- Field crops: 97%
- Garden plots: 0%
- Both field and garden plots: 3%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of tractors, notably threshers.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Main Animals	District Concentration	Total Heads
Sheep	Waras and	190,536
Goats	Yakawlang (38% of livestock)	48,823
Cattle		91,258
Poultry	No significant concentration	242,455

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both women and men are active in raising livestock and poultry in Bamyan.

Processing:

Men perform most of the butchering. Both men and women participate in shearing of animals. Women are in charge of producing dairy products and processing wool into yarn.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

- Livestock & Poultry: Men sell and trade most livestock and poultry. Both men and women sell eggs.
- Dairy: Both men and women sell dairy products and milk, although men play a more active role in this activity.
- Commodities: Trading of commodities is handled solely by men

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of animal vaccination.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members in Bamyan. While they are typically not involved in the sale of livestock, it is common for them to sell eggs and milk.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Agriculture is the major source of revenue for 86% of households in Bamyan province. Ninety two percent of rural households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province. However, just under one tenth of households in rural areas (8%) derive some income from trade and services. Around half of households (47%) in rural areas earn income through non-farm related labor. Livestock accounts for income for more than one third of rural households (36%).

Key Income Sources

*Poor: Labor, Crop sales, Livestock sales
Better-off: Crop sales, Livestock sales, Trade*

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Bamyan mainly go to their family or neighbours as well as shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on credit. Some also have access to MFIs.

More than half of interviewees say women in Bamyan are not able to borrow money or buy goods on credits. Those who do have access to credit, mostly borrow from family or neighbors.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 87% of the households in Bamyan owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily lease or own their land (sole ownership), while subsistence farmers mainly have sole or shared ownership of their land.

Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are mainly sedentary and nomadic. Their main challenges with regards to access to land is overgrazing.

IRRIGATION

On average 93% of households in rural areas in the province have access to irrigated land and over half of rural households (58%) have access to rain-fed land. According to our interviews in the province, the proportion of farmers using irrigated land has remained stable over the past three years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

The transport infrastructure in the province was not well developed in 2007, at which point 21% of roads could handle car traffic in all seasons, and 36% could take car traffic in some seasons. In nearly one-fifth (21%) of the province there were no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders in Bamyan perceived links from rural areas to markets as poor but having shown improvement. Despite this improvement, the main challenges in access to markets identified were the lack of roads or their poor quality, and the lack of transportation.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 55.7%

Per Capita monthly total consumption: 1,189 Afs.

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 20.2%

Minimal Kuchi population. No statistics about its literacy rate.

SECURITY

Level of security in Bamyan: 

According to interviews, the security situation in the province has deteriorated somewhat over the past year, and roads that link rural areas with markets are perceived to be unsafe.

FOOD SECURITY

Problem satisfying food need of the household during the year (households %):

- Never: 15%
- Rarely (1-3 times): 37%,
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 30%,
- Often (few times a month): 15%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 3%

Calorie deficiency (%) consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 29.2%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 11.3%

School Enrolment: 57.9%

Minimal Kuchi population. No statistics about Kuchi children school enrolment.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Female literacy rate: 6.1%; Female share in active population: 43.2%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, majority of women in the provincial center go to the local bazaar to buy goods. Very few go to sell items. Women outside of the provincial center are less likely to go to the local bazaar to buy goods and more likely to be accompanied by a male relative.