

## Provincial profile for

- Herat Province -

### **1. Natural Resources (ANDS Sector 3)**

There are 14 districts in Herat province; Names of the districts are Enjil, Guzera, Zandajan, Ghoryan, Kohsan, Kushk-i-Robat Sangi, Kush-i-Kohna, Gulran, Pashtun Zarghon, Obe, Shesht Sharif, Adraskan, Shindand and Farsi.

Following natural resources are available in the province which can be exploited for economic regeneration.

1. Development of mines (extracting Oil, Gold, Salt, Lime, Barite , Sulphur and Marble stone mine):  
The interviews with different key informants reveal that there are lot of mines and there is good potential opportunity to invest and exploit these mines for economic regeneration.
2. Cement production: The already existing cement factory in Herat is not in production anymore and by reactivating it can produce a lot of economic regeneration opportunities especially employment.
3. Wind Energy: The high speed wind in three months during summer and then the availability of wind throughout year can be utilized for sustainable source of energy.
4. Pistachio Forest: Natural pistachio forests are located in Koshk-eKohna district and during past 20 these forests are indiscriminately cut for fuel. There are no protection measures in place and in future these existing forests need to be protected and plantation of other pistachio forest should be established especially in Kushk district. Moreover, a lot of medicinal plants like liquorice and black cumin are found in rural Herat and these needs to be exploited on sustainable basis for economic regeneration.
5. Currently there are no big dams in Herat but there is a big potential to construct dams on two perennial rivers i.e. Harirud and Kabgan rivers thus providing both energy and irrigation water. Recently work on Salma dam in the province has restarted.

### **2 . Human Resources**

Most of returnees managed to return to the provinces and districts from where they migrated. There is still a significant proportion of migrated people still living in four camps near Herat city:

1. Shaedae Camp accommodating 1350 families.
2. Maslakh Camp accommodating 3466 families.
3. Munarate camp accommodating 500 families and
4. Kamarkalagh Camp accommodating 172 families.

Most of the people living in these camps are internally displaced people or returnees from other countries mainly Iran and they are not willing to return to their original settlements from where they migrated during war. They are working as labours in Herat or going to Iran for work. Some times they go to Helmand and Kandahar for labour. Directorate of Immigrating have planned to make a compound for returnees near Herat city and have allotted 1000 units of land for constructing of houses for returnees.

In total, there are 587 operational schools in Herat city. Out of 587 schools in Heart city 17 are high schools for boys and 10 high schools for girls. At district level there is 39 high schools for the boys and 4 high schools for the girls. And total of 437 foundation school also exist in the province (404 for boys and 33 for girl). Most of the schools have no proper building and furniture and around 30% of students studying in schools without building and furniture.

### **3 Agriculture (ANDS Sector 6)**

### **3.1 Overview**

Both irrigated and rain fed agriculture systems exist in Heart. Northern districts are rain fed (approximately 90%) and central and eastern districts are mostly irrigated (more than 90% of land). Major source of irrigation is Hirayrud river which irrigates more than 1000 Ha of land. Other sources of irrigation are springs and Karizes mainly in remote areas. Recently some farmers have started to bore wells and use ground water for irrigation. The traditional old *mirab* systems still exists for regulation of water rights and repair of extensive irrigation infrastructure.

About 20-30 percent of farmers use tractor and others use bullocks and donkeys for ploughing and mainly cultivation of traditional crops is still prevalent.

### **3.2 Crops**

Cereal crops like wheat, barley and rice are produced are mainly produced in the province. During last 20 years rice cultivation area has decreased significantly due to scarcity of water. Leguminous crops like pea, bean, mong and mash are cultivated in irrigated land some time as a second crop. Oil seed crops like sesame is also cultivated on both rainfed and irrigated land. In past cotton was also a major crop providing cotton for textile industries and cotton seed for oil industry. But now both these industries are not fully operational and as a result cotton production has gone down significantly. Vegetables are also produced both for home consumption and sale and now the market for vegetable production is also growing. Herat is also famous for grapes and resin production. In some of the districts like Ghoryan and Pastun Zargoon saffron cultivation is also on increase with the support of DACAAR and other organisations.

### **3.3 Livestock**

People mainly rely on livestock and its products to support their families. Farm yard manure is mainly used for crop production. Sheep, goats and camels are mainly found in remote rainfed areas while in flat and irrigated land mainly cows and donkeys are kept. Private sector on a smaller scale is active in milk production and processing.

### **3.4 Fisheries**

Some private fish ponds exist in the province and in future there is a great potential for expanding this sector as it has good marketing opportunities in Herat. Now mainly imported fish is fulfilling the local demand.

### **3.5 Land tenure**

According to the information provided by Agriculture Directorate, Herat approximately 30-40 % are small land owners having 1-5 Jeribs of land, 50-40% are medium land owners having 6-30 Jeribs of land while around 20% farmers are big farmers having more than 30 Jeribs of land.

### **3.6 Agricultural support services and input supplies**

Agriculture Directorate is mainly responsible for providing support services and inputs to the farmers in the province but the extent of their services is not very extensive. Inputs like seed, fertilizer, pesticide and vaccine are provided by the Directorate to some farmers. Some inputs and technical support is also provided by NGOs working in different districts of the province.

### **3.7 Agricultural structures (farmer groups/organisations/larger farmers etc)**

There are 50 agriculture cooperatives working in Herat province. Many other associations and farmers groups like Horticulture Association, Livestock owners Association, Saffron Associations, Nursery producers Association, improved seed producers Association also exist in the province. All of these associations are active but still needs capacity building and support to be fully functional.

### 3.8 Agriculturally related businesses

Some groups of people/Associations and companies are engaged in primary processing and exports of fruits, vegetables, seeds, herbal plants, livestock products, handicrafts etc. For example businesses like jam production, tomato past production, liquorice processing and export, pistachio and other nuts processing and export, diary processing, skin and intestine processing and export, saffron processing and export, handicraft production and export, import of Agriculture imports are operational in the province.

### 4 Other business activities (ANDS Sector 8)

Herat is the hub for business activities mainly due to its accessibility to Iran and Turkmanistan as both the countries has borders with the province. A lot of import and export is going on between Herat and these two countries. One of the growing businesses is the import of the cars from Dubai through Iran which are then supplied to the rest of country.

Handicraft, carpets and rugs production business is also a major activity in the province. The textile, silk, oil and cements factories exist in the provincial centre but are not fully operation and has the potential to be revitalised for economic regeneration. Other small businesses like shops, workshops and IT industry is also growing in the provincial centre.

### 5 Security (ANDS Sector 1)

In general security is good in Herat province compared to other parts of the country.

### 6 Physical infrastructure (ANDS Sector 8)

The construction of Salma dam on Harirud River in Chest-e-Sharif has restarted recently. Work on asphalting two main roads i.e. from Herat to Qandahar and Herat to Badghis is going on.

### 7 Institutional constraints (ANDS Sector 8)

Low financial and human capacity in government departments is a major institutional constraint. Poppy traders may also affect to create obstacles in implementation of development activities

### 8 Credit

NGO's like BRAC, DACAAR, FINCA and AKF.

### 9 Stakeholders

| Name of Stake holders         | Ranking | Status   |
|-------------------------------|---------|--|
| <i>National authorities</i>   |         |  |
| Provincial council            | 1       | They are interested in development activities and can influence any development activities. PC has the will to speed up to the development process but they do not have enough human and financial resources to do it. The community have more faith in them as elected representatives. In principle any development plan should be approved by them in provincial level. |
| <i>Regional and local</i>     |         |  |
| All Government Sectors        | 1       | All government sectors are active and could play an important role in implementing of development activities. But majority of them need capacity building and access to funds  |
| Cooperatives and Associations | 2       | 50 cooperatives and 20 associations or farmer groups are active in implementing development activities. Most of them are in infancy and need capacity building to function efficiently.  |
| NGO's                         | 1       | Many NGO's and INGO's are active in Herat Areas and some of  |

|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Civil Societies | 2 | them have Zonal offices in Herat having activities in western provinces. NGOs and INGOs are playing a pivotal role in development as they have access to talented professional and funds to implement their plans.<br>Many civil Society organizatins exist in Herat, like Skills Shura's, professional shura's, etc. but they need capacity building to function properly. |
|-----------------|---|---|

## 10 Summary of key potential development opportunities:

Following potential are available in the province:

1. There is multi-sector development possible.
2. Mines like Oil, lime, cool, cement, Stone marble , Gold Mine in Chesht-e-Sharif, Salt mine, Berite mine, Sulfur mine extraction
3. Energy generation from water through construction of Salma dam and Kabgan dam.
4. Water diversion for irrigation through construction of Canals from Hirayrud and Kabgan rivers.
5. Wind and solar energy utilization
6. Orchard development
7. Fruits production, processing and marketing.
8. Vegetable production, processing and marketing
9. Pistachio extension.
10. Saffron production, processing and marketing
11. Oil seed crops improvements
12. Cotton processing factories .
13. Textile factories development.
14. Silk Production, processing and marketing.
15. Livestock improvement
16. Diary processing and marketing
17. Handicrafts development
18. Fisheries, development.
19. Industrial Association development
20. Trading development.
21. Micro dams.
22. Business sector development.
23. Poultry development
24. Associations and Cooperatives, development.
25. Ports opportunities developments
26. Tourism

## Annexes

### Annex 1: Summary of the main development activities in the province

| Programmes/Projects             |  | Agency/Donor             | Approx Value US \$ | Comments significance etc. |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| No                              | Completed.                                     |                          |                    |                            |
| 1                               | 50 Cooperatives established                    | Govt.                    | NA                 |                            |
| 2                               | 20 Associations/interest groups farmed         | Various                  | NA                 |                            |
| 3                               | 100 schools constructed                        | Various                  | NA                 |                            |
| 4                               | 59 km road asphalted                           | Govt.                    | NA                 |                            |
| 5                               | 3000 MT improved seed produced                 | Govt.                    | NA                 |                            |
| 6                               | Enjil canal structures constructed             | Irrigating department    | NA                 |                            |
| 7                               | Some structures on Guzaera canal completed     | Irrigation department    | NA                 |                            |
| 8                               | Sabars Bridge in Chsht-e-Sharif                | USAID                    |                    |                            |
| 9                               | Diversion Dam in Akhta chi Gulran              | Irrigation department    |                    |                            |
| 10                              | Improvement of Araperda canals in Obe district | Irrigation department    |                    |                            |
| <b>Ongoing/planned projects</b> |  |                          |                    |                            |
| 1.                              | Work on four canal in Pashtun Zarghon          | Govt.                    | NA                 |                            |
| 2.                              | Work on one canal in Obe districts             | Gobvt.                   | NA                 |                            |
| 3.                              | Diary processing                               | FAO                      | NA                 |                            |
| 4                               | Alternative livelihood                         | FAO                      | NA                 |                            |
| 5                               | Livelihood program                             | DACAAR                   | NA                 |                            |
| 6                               | Micro Credit                                   | DACAAR, BRAC, FINCA, AKF | NA                 |                            |
| 7                               | Food for work pojects                          | WFP                      | NA                 |                            |

### Annex 2: Sources of data and relevant reports:

Data was collected from nine major government departments and NGOs working in area

### Annex 3: Working methodology used:

Building upon the experience of the DACAAR staff in the province, additional information was collected from officials of key government departments. The purpose of the RRERS study was discussed with the officials of MRRD and their input and suggestions were incorporated in the provincial profile.

**Annex 4: List of persons/agencies visited/contacted**

| Name                     | Position/agency   | Topic discussed  | Date      |
|--------------------------|---|--|-----------|
| Mr. Aqa Mohammad Saddiqi | Provincial Director of MRRD in Herat province                         | All  | 25.09.06  |
| Eng. Hamiddullah         | Deputy Provincial Director of MRRD in Herat province                  | All  | 05.10.06  |
| Eng Wakil Ahmad Saddiqi  | MRRD/NABDP Regional Advisor   | All  | 05.10.06  |
| Eng. Ali Ahmad Mansoori  | Director of Economic  | Natural resources, ongoing, completed ,planned projects, stakeholders and security | 07.10.006 |
| Mr. Ab. Zahir Faiz Zada  | Deputy of Provincial council  | Natural resources, ongoing, completed ,planned projects, stakeholders and security | 07.10.006 |
| Mr. Jamshid Azizi Nikjo  | Provincial council Rehabilitation, Development and planning committee | Natural resources, ongoing, completed ,planned projects, stakeholders and security | 07.10.006 |
| Mr. Fazel Ahmad Zakeri   | Director of Irrigation Department                                     | Irrigation System  | 07.10.006 |
| Haji Ismael Haiderzada   | Director of Agriculture department                                    | Agriculture  | 08.10.006 |
| Haji Sadduddin           | Deputy Director of Agriculture department                             | Agriculture  | 08.10.006 |
| Mr. Basir Ahmad Tahiri   | Deputy of Education Directorate                                       | Human Resources  | 12.10.06  |
| Telephone conversation   | Director of Immigration Department                                    | Human Resource   | 12.10.006 |
| Aziza                    | Social Organizer DACAAR Herat   | Human Resource   | 12.10.06  |

**Annex 5: Provincial summary of socio economic data: NA**