

GHOR

Located in central Afghanistan, Ghor borders the provinces of Saripul and Faryab to the north, Herat and Badghis to the west, Helmand and Farah to the south and Bamyan and Daikundi to the east.

The flatlands in north, central and eastern districts of Ghor are where its cultivated land is concentrated. An abundance of natural springs are found. 27% of the cultivated land is concentrated in 4 of the 10 district of Ghor. The remaining 6 districts are most suitable for raising livestock because of the higher elevations and mountainous terrain.

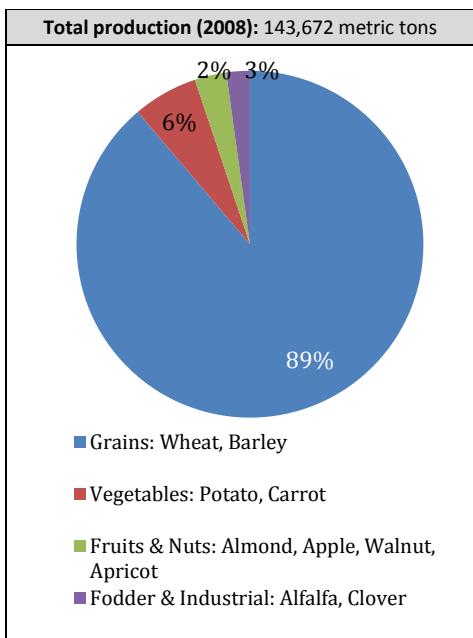
Ghor is famous for producing spices such as cumin, as well as nuts, cashmere and wool.

Ghor in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 36,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Chaghcharan
- *Districts:* 10 – Charsada, Chaghcharan, Dowlatyar, Dowlina, Lal Sarjangal, Pasaband, Saghar, Shahruk, Tiore and Tolak
- *Main markets:* Herat, Chaghcharan, Mazar-e-Sharif, Faizabad, Takhar, Tajikistan, Kunduz
- *Population:* 0.6 million inhabitants (99% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Chaghcharan, Lal Sarjangal, Pasaband, Tiore
- *Main languages:* Dari
- *Ethnic Groups:* Mainly Tadjiks and Hazaras. Pashtun minority.
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Winter, none; Summer, 100-200,000 individuals
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Ghor is the destination of 0.2% (roughly 2,300 individuals) of the total returnee population. It is also the 7th largest destination for IDPs (nearly 17,400 individuals)

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Interviewees claimed that only men cultivate and harvest crops in Ghor. The involvement of women in activities outside of the home appears to be discouraged to a greater extent than most other provinces.

Processing:

Unlike the other provinces, interviewees claim that only men dry fruit and shell nuts.

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 in Ghor participate in the cultivation and harvesting of all crop types. Children participate in drying fruit and shelling nuts. They also assist in selling all crop types.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Use of fertilizer (% of farming households):

- Field crops: 99%
- Garden plots: 0%
- Both field and garden plots: 1%

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
<i>Sheep</i>	Chaghcharan,	303,046
<i>Goats</i>	Saghar and Tiore (47% of livestock)	179,663
<i>Cattle</i>		166,497
<i>Poultry</i>	No significant concentration	153,485

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both men and women are active in raising livestock, although men are considered to be more involved than women. Poultry are mainly raised by men.

Processing:

Men perform most of the butchering and 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, poultry, and eggs.
- Dairy: Milk and dairy products are sold by men.
- Commodities: Trading of commodities is handled solely by men.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members in Ghor. They are involved in the production and sale of dairy products. They are

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there have been no improvements in livestock practices recently.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

More than half (60%) of rural households rely on agriculture as their major source of revenue; more than two-fifths of rural households derive their income from nonfarm related labour. Livestock contributes nearly one-tenths of rural households' income.

Key Income Sources

Poor: Labor, livestock, product sales

Better-off: Crop sales, livestock & product sales, trade

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Ghor mainly go to their family or neighbours as well as shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on credit. They do seek loans from private lenders, but to a lesser extent.

More than half of interviewees say women in Ghor are able to borrow money or buy goods on credit. Those that are able, do so from family/neighbours or suppliers/shopkeepers.

Microfinance Institutions

The implementing partner of MISFA present in the province are BRAC:

All Programs

- Active clients: 1,383
- Active borrowers: 658
- # loans disbursed: 1,676
- Amount of loans disbursed: 662,972 Afs.

Ag and Livestock Programs:

- There are no clients or borrowers in the agriculture and livestock sector.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 82% of the households in Ghor owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily their land, while subsistence farmers mainly have sole 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 are overgrazing & conversion of pasture into cropland.

IRRIGATION

In 2007, a majority of households (78%) in Ghor had access to irrigated land and more than two-thirds of households have access to rainfed land (68%). According to our interviews in the province, most farmers in Ghor cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has increased somewhat over the past 3 years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

In 2007, the transport infrastructure in Ghor was not well developed at which point only 12% of roads could handle car traffic in all seasons, and 50% could take car traffic in some seasons. In 38% of the province, there were no roads at all. According to our interviews Ghor, people remain undecided about whether any improvements have been made in the roads or not. The main challenges that were identified in accessing markets from rural areas are lack of roads / poor quality roads, distance from markets and lack of transportation.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 44.2%

Per capita monthly total consumption: 1,228 Afs

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 25.2%

No statistics available about the literacy rate of the Kuchi population.

SECURITY

Level of security in Ghor: ↗

According to interviews in the province, the security situation has improved somewhat over the past year. They also perceive most roads that link rural areas with the provincial markets to be safe.

FOOD SECURITY

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

- Never: 4%
- Rarely (1-3 times): 20%,
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 41%,
- Often (few times a month): 13%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 21%

Calorie deficiency (%) consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 19.9%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 37.4%

School Enrolment: 46.8%

No statistics available about school enrolment of Kuchi children

STATUS OF WOMEN

Female literacy rate: 6.0%; Female share in active population: 48.5%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, Few women in the provincial centre go to the local bazaar to buy goods. Very few go to sell items. Half of those that do are accompanied by a male relative when they do so. Almost no women go to sell items. Women outside of the provincial centre are less likely to go to the local bazaar to buy goods and more likely to be accompanied by a male relative.