

PANJSHIR

Panjshir is located in northwestern Afghanistan within the southern expanse of the Hindukush. It borders the provinces of Baghlan and Takhar to the north, Kapisa and Parwan to the south and Nuristan to the east.

Most of the cultivated land is concentrated in the western and central districts because of lower elevation and close proximity to the Panjshir River. 50% of the cultivated land is found in only 2 of Panjshir's 7 districts. Meanwhile, livestock is raised in the other 5 districts due to the hilly and mountainous topography.

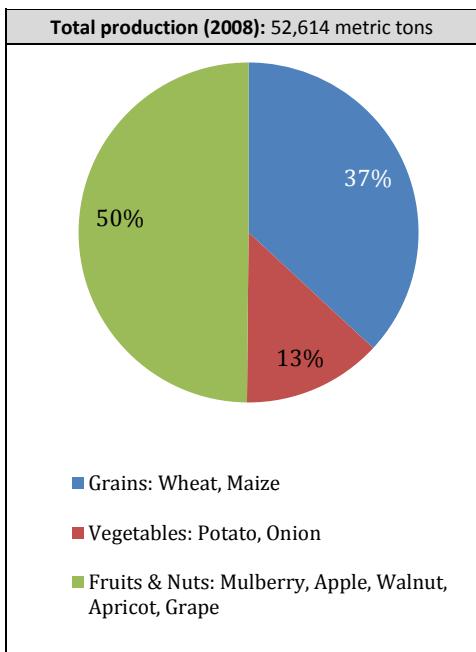
Panjshir is famous for its mulberries, as well as abundance of precious stones, such as lazuli.

Panjshir in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 4,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Bazarak
- *Districts:* 7 – Bazarak, Dara, Khenj, Paryan, Rukha, Shutul and Unaba
- *Main markets:* Kabul, Siagerd, Bamyan, Ghazni
- *Population:* 0.1 million inhabitants (100% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Khenj
- *Ethnic Groups:* Mainly Tajiks and minority groups of Pashtuns and Kuchis
- *Main languages:* Dari
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Very marginal
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Panjshir is the destination of 0.02% (roughly 1,200 individuals) of the total returnee population, but not a main hosting province for IDPs

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Panjshir stands out as women appear to be more active in cultivation than in many other provinces, with the exception of Baghlan. Women in Panjshir are involved in the cultivation of all crop categories, although men are still dominant in this category. Harvesting is done by both men and women.

Processing:

Drying fruits is mainly done by women. Both men and women are involved in shelling nuts.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

While men still handle a majority of selling and trading of horticulture goods, women are involved in the sale of cereals and grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children under 15 in Panjshir are involved in the cultivation and 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: 2%
- Both field and garden plots: 2%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of New varieties of crops; pesticides and garden training.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

| Main Animals | District Concentration | Total Heads |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Sheep</i> | | 84,640 |
| <i>Goats</i> | Paryan (30% of livestock) | 75,503 |
| <i>Cattle</i> | | 67,379 |
| <i>Poultry</i> | No significant concentration | 338,070 |

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both women and men raise livestock in Panjshir, although women appear to play a greater role than men in raising cattle. Poultry are mainly raised by women.

Processing:

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

Sale & Trade of Goods:

- Livestock & Poultry: Men sell and trade most livestock. Eggs are sold by both men and women.
- Dairy: Both men and women sell milk and dairy products, although men sell a majority of the latter.
- Commodities: Trading of commodities is handled solely by men.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been an increase in vaccinations of animals.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

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

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Agriculture is a major source of revenue for 38% of households in Panjshir. 39% of households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province. More than half of households in the province (51%) derive income from non-farm related labor and nearly a third of households (29%) earn income from trade and services. Livestock also accounts for the income of more than a third of households in the province (37%)

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 Panjshir mainly go to their family or neighbours as well as from private lenders. They do seek loans from shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on credit, but to a lesser extent.

Fewer than half of interviewees say women are able to borrow money or buy goods on credits. Those that are able borrow from family/ neighbors, private lenders or suppliers/shopkeepers.

Microfinance Institutions

MISFA or any of its implementing partners have never had any microfinance activity in the province.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 78% of the households in Panjshir owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, both commercial and subsistence farmers primarily own their land (sole ownership).

Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are mainly sedentary. Their main challenges with regards to access to land are overgrazing & conversion of pasture into cropland.

IRRIGATION

On average 94% of households in the province have access to irrigated land, and 5% of households have access to rain-fed land. Interviewees claim that most farmers in Panjshir cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has increased somewhat over the past 3 years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

The transport infrastructure in Panjshir is not well developed, with only about a third (32.9%) of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and a fifth (19.5%) able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, nearly half of the province (45.5%) has no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders described the roads linking rural areas to markets as being sufficient and sometimes good with some improvement in the last three years. The major challenges identified were distance from markets, lack of roads / poor quality roads and lack of transportation.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 22.6%

Per capita monthly total consumption: 1,751 Afis

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 27.5%

No available information about Kuchi's literacy rate.

SECURITY

Level of security in Panjshir: ➔

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

FOOD SECURITY

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

- Never: 24%
- Rarely (1-3 times): 42%
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 25%,
- Often (few times a month): 5%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 4%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 37.8%

School Enrolment: 54.1%

No available information school enrolment of Kuchi children.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Female literacy rate: 8.5%; Female share in active population: 46.2%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, few women in the provincial centre go to the local bazaar to buy goods. Most 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.