



Herat Province

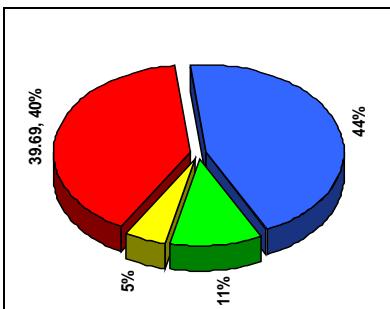
About Herat

Herat is an industrial and agricultural based province located in the western half of Afghanistan. Most of the cultivated land is concentrated in the north (70% of total cultivated land) and central districts due to the fertile soil of the Harirod River watershed. Herat has a total of 1,182 villages with an estimated population of 397,456 people (2006 census).



Herat Districts: Agricultural Characteristics

Herat has 15 districts: Karukh, Kushk Rubat Shngi, Kushk Kohna, Guzra, Adraskan, Zendajan, Ghouryan, Enjil, Obey, Chishti Sharfi, Gulran, Fersee, Pashtun Zarghoon, Shendand, Heart Center.



The total crop production in 2008 was estimated at 723,589 metric tons (MT), consisting of fruits and nuts (44%), grains (40%), vegetables (11%), and fodder and industrial crops (5%). The total market value of 2008 for agricultural production was estimated at \$455.8 million (farm gate). Farmers raise livestock (sheep, cattle and goats are the dominant household livestock).



- Fruit and Nuts - 328,740 tons (44%)
- Grains - 281,200 tons (40%)
- Vegetables - 78,855 tons (11%)
- Fodder & Industrial crops - 34,800 tons (5%)

Main Agricultural Crops

Grains	Wheat, Pea, Mung Bean
Fruits and Nuts	Grape, Watermelon
	Melon, Apricot,
	Peaches, Pistachios
F&Industrial	Alfalfa, Sesame
Vegetables	Tomato, Cucumber

Market Structure

Market type	Significance
Subsistence	<i>Important</i>
Local markets	<i>Important</i>
Kabul, Other Provinces	<i>Important</i>
Export	<i>Important</i>

Possible Opportunities for Agriculture Improvement

Herat is famous for producing grapes, pistachios, cashmere, wool and, recently, saffron. Saffron is being cultivated all over of the province as a high value crop. Animal husbandry, agricultural productivity, seed quality programs (specially for saffron bulbs), pasture improvement, improving Infrastructures, value adding (product processing), postharvest technology and irrigation system improvement are some potential areas for development.

Prepared by Hussain Sharifi, Mark Bell, and Nick Madden 2011

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Primary reference: USAID report <http://afghanag.ucdavis.edu/afghanistan-province-agriculture-profiles>