

KAPISA

Located in central Afghanistan, Kapisa borders Panjshir province to the north, Kabul to the south, Parwan to the west and Laghman to the east.

Cultivated area is more concentrated in the northwestern districts of the province due to low elevation of land and vicinity to the Panjshir River. Eighty percent of cultivated land is concentrated in 4 of the 7 districts of Kapisa. The remaining 3 districts are more suitable for raising livestock because of the hilly and mountainous terrain in the area.

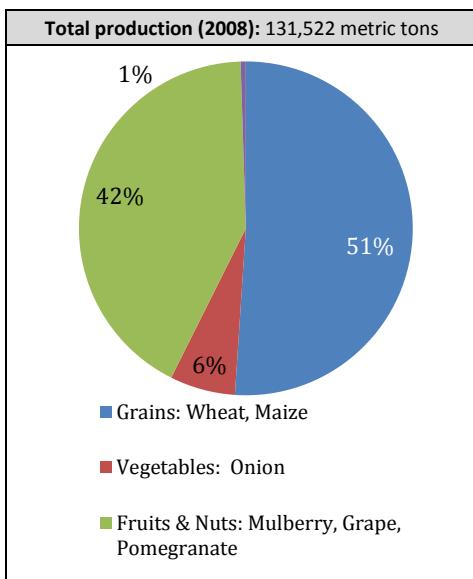
Kapisa is best known for producing mulberries, pomegranates and some districts grow large amounts of nuts.

Kapisa in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 2,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Mahmood Raghbi
- *Districts:* 7 – Alasai, Hesa Awal, Hesa Dowam, Kohband, Mahmood Raqi, Nijrab and Tagab
- *Main markets:* Charikar, Pul Alam, Kabul, Khost, Siagerd, Bamyan, Ghazni
- *Population:* 0.4 million inhabitants (100% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Najrab and Tagab
- *Ethnic Groups:* Mainly Tajiks, followed by Pashtuns and Pashai. Minorities: Hazaras and Nuristanis
- *Main languages:* Dari and Pashto
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Winter, 5,000 – 50,000; Summer, less than 5,000 individuals
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Kapisa is the destination of 0.9% (roughly 44,000 individuals) of the total refugee population but not a main hosting province for IDPs

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Cultivation is mainly conducted by men in Kapisa. Both men and women are involved in harvesting for all crop categories.

Processing:

A majority of the fruit drying is done by women. Both men and women 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 are typically not involved in the cultivation of any crop types in Kapisa. 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: 79%
- Garden plots: 4%
- Both field and garden plots: 17%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of tractors; fertilizer seed; drip irrigation; new pruning techniques; use of manure for fertilizer.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Most farmers have livestock. Sheep, cattle and chicken most common.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of animal vaccinations and medicines, training for better breeding and the introduction of new hen houses and artificial insemination of livestock.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members in Kapisa. 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 and milk.

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both women and men raise livestock in Kapisa, although women appear to take a greater role with sheep. Poultry are mainly raised by women.

Processing:

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

Sale & Trade of Goods:

- Livestock & Poultry: Men sell and trade most livestock and poultry. Both men and women are involved in selling eggs, although women tend to be more active in this sector.
- Dairy: Both men and women sell dairy products, while most milk is sold by women.
- Commodities: Trading of commodities is handled solely by men

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

More than 60% of rural households in Kapisa rely on agriculture as their major source of revenue; and more than a third (35%) derive their income from trade and services, as well as nonfarm related labour. Livestock accounts for income for almost 20% of rural households.

Key Income Sources

Poor: Agricultural labour, livestock and products sales
Better-off: Livestock and product sales, crop sales, trade

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

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

More than half of interviewees say women are not able to borrow money or buy goods on credits. Most borrow from family / neighbors and microfinance institutions.

Microfinance Institutions

BRAC is the only implementing partner of MISFA present in the province:

All Programs	Ag and Livestock Programs:
• Active clients: 5,490	• Active clients: 965
• Active borrowers: 3,456	• Active borrowers: 636
• # loans disbursed: 21,907	• # loans disbursed: 4,817
• Amount of loans disbursed: 10,019,088 Afs.	• Amount of loans disbursed: 3,874,433 Afs.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 63% of rural households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province. 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.

IRRIGATION

In 2007, on average 96% of households in the province had access to irrigated land, and 7% of rural households had access to rainfed land. According to our interviews in the province, claim most or almost all farmers cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has increased somewhat over the past 3 years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

In 2007, the transport infrastructure in Kapisa was reasonably well developed, with more than half (58%) of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 11% able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in nearly one third (31%) of the province there was no roads at all. Roads linking rural areas to markets described mainly as sufficient or poor; Improved some in past 3 years. The main challenges identified to access markets are the lack or poor quality of roads, and the distance to markets.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 21.6%

Per capita monthly total consumption: 1,662 Afs

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 30.8%

The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 1.7% of men able to read and write

SECURITY

Level of security in Kapisa: ↗

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: 33%,
- Rarely (1-3 times): 30%,
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 29%,
- Often (few times a month): 5%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 3%

Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 32.9%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 36.4%

School Enrolment: 54.7%

In 2007, amongst the Kuchi population, nearly one tenth of boys (9%) attended school in Kapisa during the winter months.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Female literacy rate: 11.1%; Female share in active population: 47.4%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, more than half of women in the provincial centre go to the local bazaar to buy goods; More than half of these women are accompanied by a male relative when they do so; Almost none 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.