

Provincial profile for

- Nangarhar -

1. Natural resources

Located in eastern Afghanistan, the province of Nangarhar shares a border with Pakistan's NWFP province. The majority of population in both Nangarhar and NWFP are Pashtun and, on both sides of the international border, most inhabitants share a similar tribal structure, language and religion, along with many cultural traditions. Nangarhar's capital city of Jalalabad lies on an ancient trade route leading from Kabul via the Kyber Pass to Peshawar and the Indian subcontinent.

Nangarhar province is *endowed with a lot of natural resources*. In Kogiany district of the province there are huge mines of high quality marbles which are used locally and also exported to other countries. Natural forest is found in 11 districts adjacent to Spin Ghar. Nangarhar has abundant water resources. The major sources of irrigation are Kabul and Kunar rivers and 12 main perennial washes from Spin Ghar. There are 78 major primary canals in the province having a length of 365.3 Kms. The major and only dam in the province is Duranta dam built in 1957 with a capacity of producing 11 Mega watt of electricity. The dam is silted now and only produces 8 Mega watt of electricity.

All sectors are slowly recovering from the effect of the war. The major investments are in the field of agriculture, livestock, infrastructure and governance. DAI and PRT are the major players in the province while other international NGOs like Relief International, MADERA, DACAAR, German Agro Action, Swedish Committee and others are also contributing to the development of the province.

Nangarhar was once centre of opium poppy production in Afghanistan but according to government reports the production has drastically reduced in 2005 due to government eradication programme. According to discussion with different officials in the province the production of the poppy may go this year because the government could not fulfill their promises for alternative livelihoods. Weaning off the farmers from poppy production in the province seems to be a bigger challenge for the government and international community.

The recovery process from war is slow and sporadic. The majority of the people depend on agriculture and livestock but these two sectors were badly hit by war and drought. The irrigation infrastructure is slowly recovering. The recent floods in the province have also damaged irrigation infrastructure, agriculture land and loss of livestock and human life.

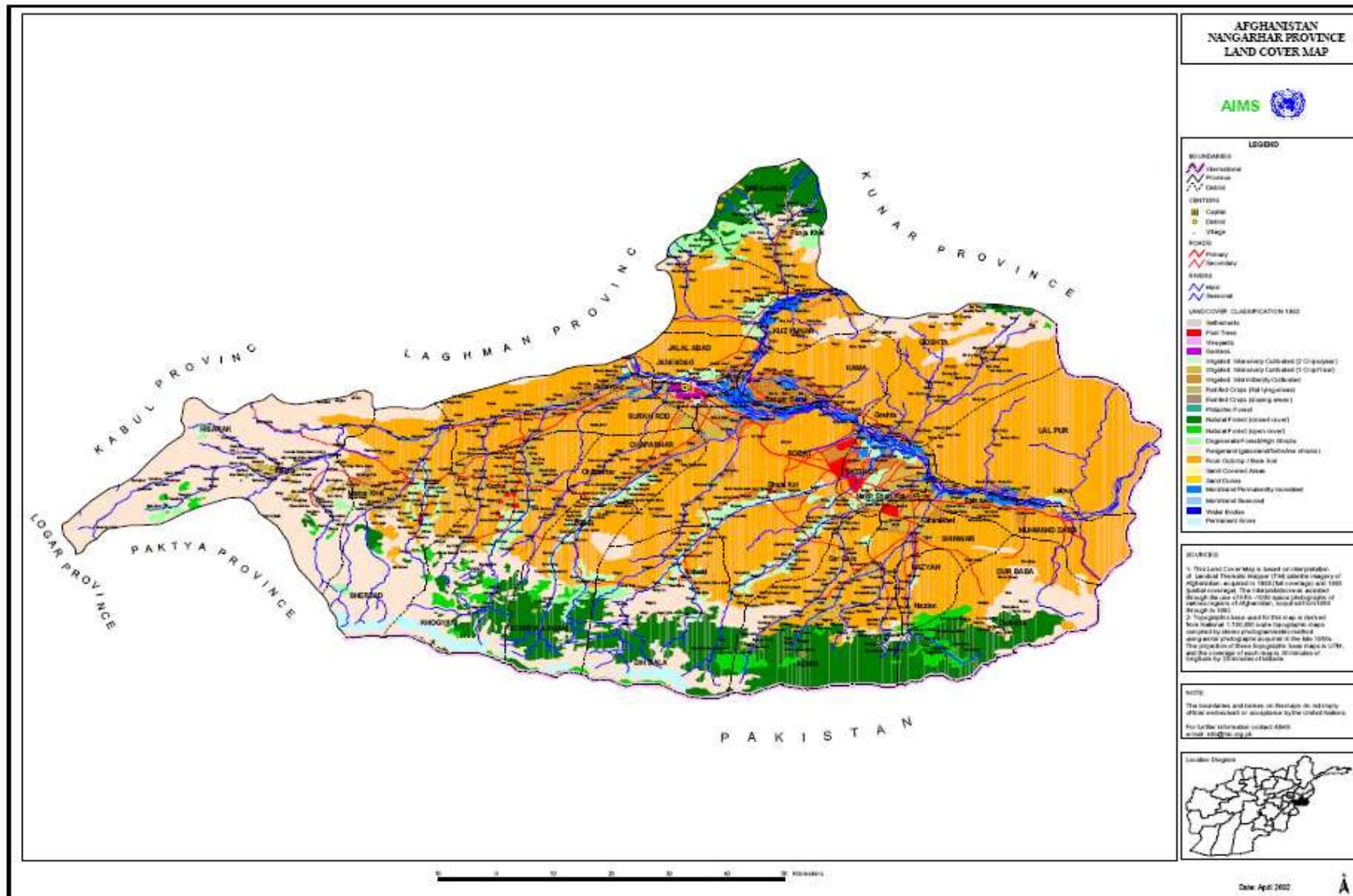
2. Human Resources

According to an estimate more than 60% of the population migrated to Pakistan during the war and roughly 45% of them have permanently returned. Back and forth movement of people from Nangarhar to NWFP is very common due to free access along the border.

Jalalabad as provincial capital and major centre of business attracts people from other parts of the province and even the adjacent provinces in search of job, education and other facilities. Roughly 30 % of the people living in Jalalabad and its surrounding areas have migrated from other places mainly Konar and Laghman provinces.

Kuchis form a 10-15 % of the population in the province. These are nomads which come to Jalalabad during the winter and mainly settled in Surkhrod, Kama and Besud districts of the province. Some of the Kuchis have settled down in the province and abandoned the nomadic life and have started small businesses.

Figure 1 Land use map of Nangarhar Province (Source: AIMS,2002)



Educational facilities in the province are relatively better compared to other parts of the country and there is an increased trend of education. Nangarhar University located in the provincial capital provides higher education to the residents of the province and adjacent provinces. A network of school for boys and girls exist in the provincial centre and district level. The literacy rate in Nanagarhar is approximately around 40%. There is also an increased trend of vocational training due to expanding job opportunities in the provincial centre.

3. Agriculture

3.1 Overview

According to the Department of Agriculture in Jalalabad, there is 97,000 Ha of arable irrigated agricultural land in the province. There is also some rainfed agriculture but it is very less compared to irrigated agriculture. During the war most of the land was abandoned either due to migration of the people or the collapse of irrigation system. During the last five years agriculture sector is recovering and the trend of multiple cash cropping especially vegetables is growing. During the last five years improved seed and fertilizer is almost easily available to farmers through different organizations and the mechanization of agriculture is also on rise.

Nangarhar had extensive irrigation system before war most of which was destroyed during the war and now different organizations are working for its rehabilitation. Rivers, washes and springs are the major sources of irrigation in the provinces. The irrigation structures are canals, Karezes and wells. The traditional *Mirab* (water master) system is very strong in the province and *Mirab* exists almost in every big village to regulate water distribution and repair of the irrigation structures. The Department of Irrigation and Water Resources is responsible for water management in the province having its central office in Jalalabad and seven district offices. Currently EIRP (Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation Project) funded by World bank has its regional office in Jalalabad and working on small and medium projects of intake repair, protection walls and cross drainage structures. DAI, PRT and GAA are also working in irrigation sector in the province.

The Irrigation and Water Resources department have the following proposals for the future.

- Surtaq dam on Konar river to irrigate the Dast Ghamberi area of the province.
- Kama Dam which will bring 12,000 Ha of land under irrigation and will produce 45 Mega watt of electricity.
- Divert Kabul river towards Chaplar and Surkhrod districts which will bring a lot of land under irrigation.
- Reservoir on 12 perennial washes from Spin Ghar for water harvesting.

3.2 Crops

Nangarhar can rightly be called the *food basket for the whole of Afghanistan* as most of the crops produced here are consumed in different parts of the province. Main summer crops grown in the province poppy, rice, maize, cotton, sunflower, beans, potato and the winter crops are wheat, barley, sugarcane, potato and mustard. Opium is the predominant crop in 12 southern districts of the province. There is a growing trend of vegetables growing in the province due to its demand and better price. The vegetable normally grown in summer are okra, tomato, egg plant, pepper, pumpkins, cucumbers, spinach, lettuce and others. The winter vegetables are onion, cauliflower, turnip, spinach, radish, carrot, cabbage etc. Rodat district is well known for potato and onion production.

Before war traditional crops like wheat, barely, maize, rice was grown. But in the last five years there is a major shift towards multiple cropping and introduction of new cash crops and verities. The shift in crop pattern is mainly due to the knowledge brought from Pakistan by returnees and the recent extension and input support from different organization. DAI, RI and GAA, ICARDA are the main organization which is promoting agriculture in the area.

Most of the vegetables and crops produced are supplied to Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan. Some of the crops and vegetables are sold locally. There is a big fruit and vegetable market in Jalalabad where most of the fruits and vegetables are sold. There are also markets outside Jalalabad which are open on specific days

where farmers from the surrounding villages sell their produce. For example market at Batikot district which operates on every Friday.

Fruits grown in the province are grapes, apricot, oranges, walnut, persimmon, guava, plum and watermelons. People from outside come to buy it or they are supplied to the major market in Jalalabad or to the regional markets. The water melons and oranges of Jalalabad are very well-known and consumed locally and also exported. There are government farms of olive along the Torkham and Jalalabad high way planted during Russian time and recently a factory has opened in Jalalabad to produce olive oil by consuming produce from these farms.

3.3 Livestock

No exact data is available about the livestock population and composition. Discussion with relevant people revealed that around 70% of the households in the rural areas keep one or two cows. Goats are kept by the households in Dara Noor, Khoghani and Sherzad districts. Kochis have big herds of sheep.

Livestock are both kept for household consumption and also for sale in time of need. Different products like milk, meat and skins are obtained from livestock. Milk is processed into different products like cheese, yogurt, butter which is mainly used for household consumption and the surplus is sold to the market especially in spring when there is sufficient fodder.

There is a big Saturday market in Jalalabad for sale and buying of livestock. Various regional markets also operate on different days of the week.

3.4 Fisheries

Due to abundant water resources in Nanagarhar there is **huge potential for development** of fishery sector. Looking at this potential a government fishery farm was established with assistance of China government in 1967 but latter this farm was destroyed during the war. Now a private company has been hired by the Ministry of Agriculture to reconstruct the farm and it will be operational in 2006.

Different NGOs like Relief International, GTZ are providing technical and financial assistance to the interested farmers for establishing private commercial fish farms. Some people have established fish farm on self help basis. The total number of such private small scale commercial farms ranges from 40-50.

At Duranta there are around 50 fish shops dealing both in fresh and cooked fish and you can see a variety of both local and imported fish from Pakistan. The people prefer local fish.

3.5 Land tenure

According to an estimate provided by the Agriculture department in Jalalabad more than 20 % of the people in Jalalabad are landless. Only 5% of the farmers can be classified as big i.e. having more than 20 jeribs of land. Majority of the farmers (60%) are medium farmers having a land between 5-20 jeribs and the rest (35%) are small farmers having less than 5 jeribs of land.

The most common system of sharecropping is 1/3rd system in which all the inputs and labour is provided by the sharecropper and two parts of the produce goes to the owner and one to the tenant. This system is valid only on irrigated. Leasing of land is also prevalent in the province. One jerib of canal irrigated land is leased for 350 -560 Kgs of Wheat and pump irrigated land is leased for less than 280 Kgs of wheat/ jerib. One jerib of land on which poppy is grown is leased for more than 700 kgs of wheat.

3.6 Agriculture support services and input supplies

Nangarhar Agriculture directorate has thirteen different department located in provincial capital Jalalabad, which provides support services in different areas as shown in the Table

Table 1. Different department in Nangarhar Agriculture Directorate and their coverage

S.No	Name of Department	Services to number of districts in Province
1	Agriculture Extension	21 districts (2 extension workers in each district)
2	Agriculture cooperative	5 districts (one person each in Koozkunar, Kama, Surkhrod, Ghaneekhel and Mohmand Dara districts)
3	Planning	Only located in centre.
4	Agriculture research	A research station in the centre of the province only
5	Animal Husbandry	Responsible for fisheries (1 farm in Jalalabad), artificial insemination (7districts), Honey production project (one in centre), animals husbandry extension services (7 districts)
6	Land Management	21 districts (one person per district)
7	Veterinary	11 districts (two persons per district)
8	Horticulture and forests	10 districts and also operating four check posts (two persons per district)
9	Plant Protection	15 districts (2 persons per district)
10	Agricultural mechanization station	Only working in centre
11	Commercial fertilizer company	In centre of the province
12	Sugar mills maintenance	Only in centre of the province
13	Administration	Only in centre of the province.

In 2005, different organizations provided improved seeds and fertilizers to 60,000 farmers in Nangarhar province. Out of 60,000 farmers USAID and DAI provided seeds and fertilizer to 18,000 farmers and to the rest of the farmers by MADERA, AREA, ISRA, Swedish Committee and FAO.

This year DAI is planning to distribute seeds and fertilizer to 54,000 farmers in 12 districts. Swedish Committee, AREA and MADERA are planning to distribute seed in 2, 4 and 2 districts respectively. Directorate of Agriculture will provide 300 metric ton of seed to farmers.

FAO is also working of distribution of improved varieties of seeds. FAO distributed improved rice varieties in 2005 to 870 beneficiaries in four provinces. Seed multiplication contract was given by FAO to implementing partners in Jalalabad which produced 270 metric tons of seed.

3.7 Agriculture structures

There are more than 100 agriculture cooperatives in the province but only one is getting support from Directorate of Agriculture. There are six seed multiplication /growers unions formed by ICARDA in six districts (Khoghani, Surkhrod, Behsud, Kama, Batikot and Kuz Konar) and have 8 demonstration plots in each district. In a Union there are 20-30 members who are provided with technical support, seed and fertilizer by ICARDA. ICARDA works closely with Agriculture extension department. These unions multiply the seeds of both cereal and vegetables.

There is a forest protection committee in Achin district formed by the locals on self-motivations after seeing the indiscriminate cutting of forests. This committee has its own bylaws formulated by mutual consensus and there are mechanisms in place for implementing these laws.

3.8 Agriculturally related business

Markets both at provincial and regional level are operational to facilitate buying and selling of agricultural products. The olive factory which is owned by the government has started working recently and is producing olive oil which is supplied both to local and international market. A sunflower oil production factory is under construction in Jalalabad. German Agro Action has established a factory in Achin district for rose water production. The GAA is motivating farmers to grow roses on their fields and the rose petals are bought by GAA from farmers which are used for rose water production. Fish farming is also a growing business.

The trade in both vegetables and fruits at Jalalabad and regional markets is a growing industry which absorbs lot of the population by providing them employment..

4. Other business activities

Jalalabad is the hub of all economic activities due to its central location and proximity to Pakistan. Recently a soap making factory and medicine company have been established in the city. There are a couple of marble factories located near Nanagarhar University. A small scale factory by name of Farooqi in Duranta area of Jalalabad is famous for production of pressure cookers.

The major business is done in food items, construction material and agricultural inputs which are mostly imported from Pakistan. The timber business in the city is also quite substantial. Selling of cars and spare parts of the cars is also a developing business. The business in almost all sectors in the provinces is somewhat regulated by associations such as shopkeepers association, timber association, Gold seller association.

5. Security

Overall the security is good in the provincial centre and adjacent districts but in far off districts and especially poppy growing areas the security is not satisfactory.

6. Physical infrastructure

The priority of current provincial government is to upgrade the road systems in the province. The main road linking Kabul and Jalalabad on which Chinese contractors are working will be completed soon while the road between Jalalabad and Torkhum built by Pakistan government is already operational. All the district centres are linked with provincial capital by dirt roads but its repair is in progress in some areas.

The Duranta dam provides only electricity to Jalalabad and some surrounding districts on rotational basis but all the government institutions are provided with round the clock electricity. In far off villages the people have no access to electricity.

In Jalalabad potable water is available to majority of residents from wells and river. In most of the rural areas access to water is really a problem and the only source is Karez, shallow wells and springs.

There are two big hospitals in the provincial centre and clinics on almost every district level providing the basic treatment. Any serious cases are referred to Peshawar.

7. Institutional constraints

Discussion with different government and NGO staff at the province revealed following constraints.

- Ban on poppy cultivation by government in last few years and farmers were promised of alternative livelihoods. But these promises were not fulfilled and people may revert to poppy cultivation.
- Lack of coordination between different NGOs working in the province and between NGOs and government departments.
- Lack of human and financial resources in government departments due to low salary and incentives compared to NGO sector.
- Security issue hinders the development activities especially the inaccessible and poppy growing areas.
- Lack of trust between government department and public and misconception about NGOs and their work.
- Corruption, nepotism and favoritism in government departments.
- Lack of awareness among the public especially in rural areas due to low literacy.

8. Credit

Informal credit is mainly working in rural areas where in time of need money is borrowed from close relatives and other resourceful people.

The microfinance program of MRRD is mainly implemented in the province by BRAC, FINCA and MADERA

9. Stakeholders

The following table gives a brief description of each stakeholder

Stakeholders	Rank	Comments
National authorities	2	Strong in the provincial centre but less authority outside the centre
Regional and local	2	Understaffed with low human and financial resources.
Regional and local organizations	3	Very few such organization exists except emerging NSP shuras and Agriculture Coopeatives which are very active
NGOs/CBOs	1	The NGOs and CBOs are the major players as they have the confidence of the local population.
Religious organizations	2	Religious organizations have fewer roles in urban areas but very active and respected in rural areas.
Traditional organizations	1	<i>Jirga</i> is one of the strongest and oldest institutions which is still strong in rural areas.
Commercial and business groups	3	Although commercial and business groups exist in the province but they are weak.
Groups defined by beneficiary status, social analysis, rural appraisals or gender analysis	3	Not very important in urban areas but have some importance in rural areas
The press	2	Press is not much developed
Donors	1	Donors have a strong role in defining different relations between different stakeholders and financially support it.

10. Summary of key potential development opportunities

Following key potential development opportunities are recommended for the province and districts.

1. Following are the potential in irrigation and energy sector. As Nanagarhar has lot of area which is not suitable for cultivation can be brought under cultivation due to following proposed plans. This will also mitigate the effects of drought and produce enough power for the whole province.
 - The construction of Sur Taq dam proposed before war at Kunar can bring the large area of Dast Ghamberi under cultivation.
 - The construction of Kama dam can bring 12,000 Ha of land under irrigation and has the capacity to produce 45 Mega Watt of electricity.
 - Diversion of Kabul river towards Chplar and Surkhrod districts can bring a lot of area under irrigation in these districts and other adjacent districts.
 - Construction of reservoirs on 12 perennial washes can store water when it is abundant and this water can be used during dry periods for irrigation.
 - Desiltation and repair of Duranta dam to produce enough power.
2. There is a lot of potential in agricultural sector development. A lot of farmers are involved in growing cash crops and fruits but still they need a lot of support in this regard.
 - Introduction of better yielding and disease resistant varieties especially in vegetables and rice.

- Processing facilities for surplus produce and value addition like Jam, Pickle and juice factories.
 - Storage facilities for perishable products like potato and onion which fetch a very low price during the peak harvest.
 - In fruits sector special attentions should be given to oranges and melon production for which Nanagarhar is famous.
 - Further encourage diversification of crops to reduce risk
 - Introduction of crops suitable in dry areas where mostly poppy and wheat is grown.
 - Linking of regional markets with provincial markets.
3. There is a lot of demand for livestock products in the province and in most of the flat areas cows and buffaloes are kept by households. There is a need of milk collection and processing centres to absorb the production and encourage the farmers to increase the number of milking animals. In mountainous areas like Dara Noor the small scale cheese and wool production should be further developed.
 4. Fish farming is already popular in the district but it need to be further developed to cope with the increasing demand.
 5. The wood and timber business is already providing some income for the people living in and around Spin Ghar but this business need to be further developed on sustainable basis. Self initiated efforts by community like in Achin District should be supported and expanded to other areas where forests exist for both income generation and forest conservation.
 6. In Jalalabad business is thriving day by day because of its central location. The loans provided for establishing small enterprises through microfinance programme has encouraging results. These efforts should be further developed through exploration of small enterprises and supporting them. One such example is the Farooqi Pressure cooker making company which is famous throughout Afghanistan for producing quality products. Vocational training should be given to interested people who will support micro enterprise.
 7. Nanagarhar has rich resources of marbles and other stones which are used locally and also exported to other countries. This sector needs further development.

Annex 1

Provincial Data Base

Province: Kunar

Programmes/projects		Agency/donor	Approx Value US\$m	Comment, significance
No	Completed			
1				
	Ongoing/planned			
1	Interventions in civil engineering, Agriculture, forestry, livestock, microfinance and NSP	MADERA	Not known	Main office in Jalalabad with sub offices and activities in all eastern provinces
2	Water and Sanitation Progamme	DACAAR	Not know	Main office in Jalalabad and have also field offices in districts.
3	Alternative livelihood programme-Eastern region	DAI/USAID	Not know	Working in agricultural sector and infrastructural development.
4	Interventions in agriculture, rural development and livestock sector	German Agro Action	Not know	Working in agriculture, livestock and rural development sector in Achin and Dare-Noor District
5	Interventions in rural development, agriculture and livestock	Relief international	Not know	Different interventions in agriculture, livestock and infrastructure.
6	Interventional in agriculture and water supply	Swedish Committee	Not know	Working in water supply and agriculture sector.
4	NSP	MADERA, RI, BRAC	Not known	Implemented in six districts by MADERA and in four districts by RI.
5	Microfinance	BRAC, FINCA, MADERA	Not know	Implemented in centre and two districts.
6.	Emergency irrigation rehabilitation project	World Bank	6 m for 4 eastern provinces	Irrigation structure repair.

Annex 2**Working methodology used:**

A desktop research was done to collect the available information about the province. Moreover discussion with knowledgeable people who knew about the area was also very useful as starting point of the data collection.

The research team comprising of RRERS senior advisor and senior agronomist from DACAAR office Laghman visited the Jalalabad province on 14 September, 2006. Based on discussion with DACAAR WSP staff key informants were selected. Open ended interviews were conducted with the officials of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water resources, FAO and Ministry of commerce.

Unfortunately the visit to the province coincided with the visit of Afghan president and Pakistan Prime Minister for inaugurating road between Torkhum and Jalalabad. All the roads were closed and even restriction on walking in the streets was in place. Although we managed to meet some of the officials but could not meet others as either they were not present or it was difficult to access them.

Annex 4: List of persons/agencies visited/contacted

Name	Position/agency	Topic discussed	Date
Muhammad Naeem	Regional project chief Engineer, EIRP	EIRP activities and irrigation structures	14 September,2006
Ghulam Rabbi	Deputy director Irrig. & water resources	Irrigation systems, dams, projects	14 September,2006
Haji Noor Agha	Director Ministry of commerce.	Commercial activities in the province	14 September,2006
Nabi Gul	NPP/OIC FAO	FAO activities and general information	14September,2006
Ismial Daulatzai	Head of Agriculture Planning department	Agriculture in the province	14 September,2006
Amanullah	Senior Horticulturist DAI	DAI activities and other information about Jalalabad	14 and 20 September by phone and e-mail