



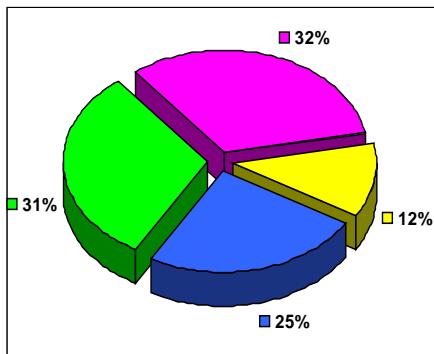
Balkh Province

About Balkh

Balkh is an agricultural and industrial-based province of northern Afghanistan. The cultivated area is more concentrated in the southern and central districts of the province due to the fertile land found in the Balkh River basin. Balkh has a total of 1,182 villages with an estimated population of 1,123,948 people (2008 census).

Balkh Districts: Agricultural Characteristics

Balkh has 17 districts (Khulm, Nahrishahi, Balkh, Chemtal, Dowlat Abad, Char Bolak, Charkent, Dehdadi, Sholgara, Koshenda, Mazar Sharif, Shortepa, Zari, Marmal, Kaldar, Chahi)



The total crop production in 2008 was estimated at 596,956 metric tons (MT), consisting of fruit (32%), grain (31%), fodder and industrial crops (25 %), and vegetables (12%). The total market value (farm gate) of 2008 for agricultural production was estimated at \$63,054,325. Farmers raise livestock in all districts because of the proximity to Mazar-e-Sharif, the provincial capital, which is a major center of trade in northern Afghanistan (Sheep are the dominant household livestock).

	Fruit - 193,875 tons (32%)
	Grain - 186,100 tons (31%)
	Fodder & Industrial crops - 147,377 tons (25%)
	Vegetable - 69,620 tons (12%)

Main Agricultural Crops

Grain	Wheat, Barley
	Melon, Watermelon
Fruit	Almond
	Grape, Pomegranate
Vegetable	Tomato, Eggplant
F&Indust	Cotton, Flax, Alfalfa

Market Structure

Market type	Significance
Subsistence	<i>Important</i>
Local markets	<i>Important</i>
Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif	<i>important</i>
Export	<i>somewhat</i>

Possible opportunities for Agriculture improvement

Balkh is famous for producing melons, cashmere, wool and grains. Market development, pasture improvement, value adding (product processing), postharvest technology, seed quality programs and irrigation system improvement are some of the potential areas for development.

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

For more information visit: International Programs ip.ucdavis.edu

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

Copyright © UC Regents Davis campus, 2011. All Rights Reserved.

