

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 10/16/2012

**GAIN Report Number:**

## Afghanistan

**Post:** Kabul

### **USDA Hosts Successful Borlaug Executive Management Program**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

**Approved By:**

Quintin Gray

**Prepared By:**

Jeffrey Albanese

**Report Highlights:**

This report highlights the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Borlaug Executive Management Program on September 1-19 where eight Afghan Government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock in Kabul and selected provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock directors traveled to the United States to receive hands-on instruction in public management e.g., strategic planning, budgeting, and personnel.

**Executive Summary:**

From September 1-19, 2012, eight Afghan Government (GIROA) officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) in Kabul and select provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) directors traveled to the United States to participate in a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Borlaug Executive Management Technical Exchange Program. The training provided participants hands-on instruction in public management e.g., strategic planning, budgeting, and personnel issues. Additionally, the training provided a platform to showcase how USDA delivers services to U.S. farmers throughout the United States, teaching the participants how they might apply the knowledge in Afghanistan. The training increases the MAIL's and DAIL's capacity to deliver agricultural services to rural farmers at the provincial and district levels, supporting the U.S. agricultural assistance strategy for Afghanistan.

**General Information:****EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM STRENGTHENS GIROA'S ABILITY TO DELIVER AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICES**

USDA hosted a Borlaug Executive Management Technical Exchange Program for MAIL and DAIL officials on September 1-19, 2012, to increase MAIL's capacity to deliver agricultural services to rural farmers at the provincial and district level. The eight participants, who included five DAIL provincial directors from Herat, Baghlan, Kapisa, Nuristan, and Nimruz, visited USDA headquarters and research facilities in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Field activities included executive management sessions in Baltimore, MD and extensive training at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman, WA, as well as visits to Washington State USDA county Farm Service Centers.

**STRENGTHENING MAIL'S REACH TO RURAL CONSTITUENTS**

The goal of the workshop was to improve coordination between MAIL and its provincial offices (i.e., DAILS). During the training, research and extension specialists from WSU gave participants an overview of how USDA delivers extension services to farmers across the United States so that participants can apply this knowledge in Afghanistan. Participants, as a result, now possess the tools for strategic planning, budgeting, and effective delivery of agriculture extension services. The training supports the U.S. agricultural assistance strategy to increase the confidence of Afghans in their government and improves MAIL's capacity to deliver extension services to farmers.

**GIROA OFFICIALS PRAISE TRAINING**

GIROA officials applauded the Executive Management technical exchange Program for its practicality and found the opportunity to work with a U.S. land grant university particularly useful. Participants were pleased about their exposure to agricultural research and cooperative extension services. The group noted that learning how USDA delivers agriculture extension services will help them how to deliver these services in Afghanistan

## NEXT STEPS

USDA will continue to increase MAIL capacity to deliver services to rural farmers by providing additional agricultural training for MAIL officials in FY 2013. Activities will remain Afghan-focused so that participants will have the tools to apply this knowledge in Afghanistan.