

Human Capacity Development for the Agriculture Sector in Afghanistan

A partnership between the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, and the NWFP Agricultural University in Peshawar, Pakistan

Twinning Programs Build Long Term Collaboration Between Researchers

Research collaboration pairing Afghan scientists with Pakistani mentors is creating companion programs between the NWFPAU and research stations in Afghanistan. More than 24 training programs have been completed, with staff from research stations at Sheshambagh in Jalalabad and Darul Amaan near Kabul, coming to Pakistan to work with colleagues in the NWFPAU. This training has been conducted at the Cereal Crops Research Institute (CCRI) in Nowshera, the Agricultural Research Station at Mingora, and the Agricultural Research Institute-Tarnab.

Scientists and research administrators in the areas of agronomy, horticulture, soil science and plant protection spend one to two weeks with their counterparts in the NWFPAU research system learning new techniques and mapping out strategies to deal with agricultural development. These training sessions may be followed by a reciprocal visit of the NWFPAU counterpart at an appropriate time.

Afghan Ministry and NWFPAU Sign Agreement



Deputy Minister Sharif meets with NWFPAU's Vice Chancellor Khalil and Illinois Field Office Director Dr. Qayyum to discuss the linkage agreement.

For example, four Afghan researchers were sent to CCRI for a series of three sessions timed to coincide with critical stages in the maize growing season. Dr. Kiramat (Ph.D., University of Nebraska) was the lead trainer in these activities during the 2004 growing season. He then spent two weeks at Sheshambagh and in Nangarhar Province during the 2005 season, giving on-the-job assistance to Afghan counterparts. "It appears the on-farm research and farmer seed production systems are most important to the farming society in Afghanistan," said Dr. Kiramat, who is Senior Maize Breeder at CCRI.

Long-term collaboration that stems from the twinning program will benefit Afghanistan's agriculture sector and will enhance the NWFPAU's reputation as a regional center of excellence in agricultural education, research, and outreach.

