

Human Capacity Development for the Agriculture Sector in Afghanistan Strengthening the Faculty at Afghan Universities

More than 90 percent of the agriculture faculty at Afghan universities have only bachelor's degrees, and most curriculum is obsolete. To strengthen the quality of faculty and coursework at Nangarhar University, located in Jalalabad, and Kabul University, located in Kabul, 10 faculty members are enrolled in master's degree programs at NWFPAU in Peshawar, Pakistan. Upon completion of their degrees in December, 2006, the 10 candidates will return to their universities to improve research and teaching missions. **Twenty more candidates have been identified and accepted, but need funding to begin.**



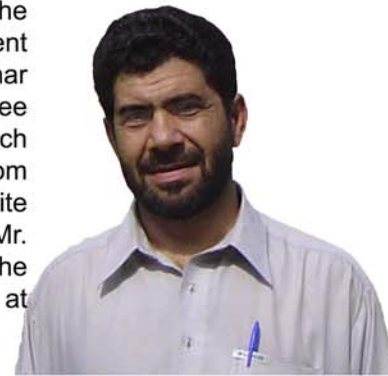
"Reconstruction of the educational sector is extremely important, but recovery is difficult. The prosperity of the Afghan community is directly proportional to education. The rehabilitation of higher education will cause prosperity, peace and even the durable solution of Afghan issues."

– Abdul Wahab, Master's Candidate, Nangarhar University faculty.



Mohammad Bashir Dodial plans to use his education at Peshawar to update how extension services in Afghanistan are implemented. "I intend to bring about desirable changes in farming practices through persuasion, as is the model for extension education." Dodial plans to research the availability and utilization of agricultural extension in Jalalabad. He is a lecturer at Nangarhar University.

Najamuddin Najam sees the need for professional development of his faculty at Nangarhar University. "This graduate degree will change my ability to teach courses, collect materials from different sources, and write scientific articles," he said. Mr. Najam is a lecturer in the Plant Protection department at Nangarhar.



Sakhidad Saleem will establish a separate plant protection department that will include Plant Pathology and Entomology at his home Kabul University upon his graduation. "My goal is to improve my scientific knowledge, research methodology and teaching methods during this program, and put it to use at Kabul," he said. Mr. Saleem will research root-knot nematode problems on potato and tomatoes while earning his advanced degree.

Mr. Masood wants to complete a horticulture degree, making him the only horticulture professor in at his home Kabul University. At Kabul, Masood serves as a lecturer in Forestry and Natural Resources, with interests in landscaping and floriculture. "I enjoyed the plant breeding and growth regulator subjects I have taken. They were useful practically and theoretically," he said.



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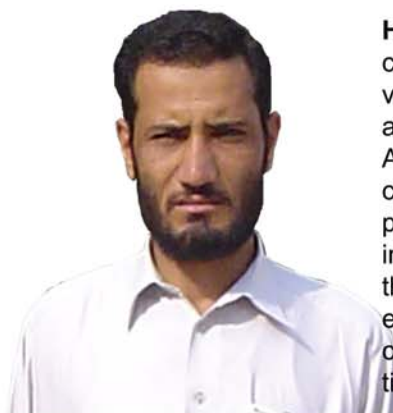
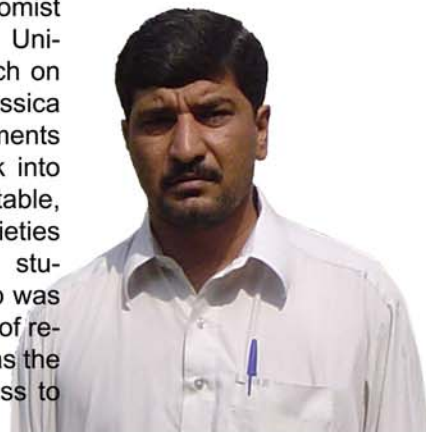
"It is essential to work on human resource development because it could enable groups to use existing resources properly and generate new opportunities that will help the nation to develop."

-- Saidajan Abdiani, Master's Candidate, Nangarhar



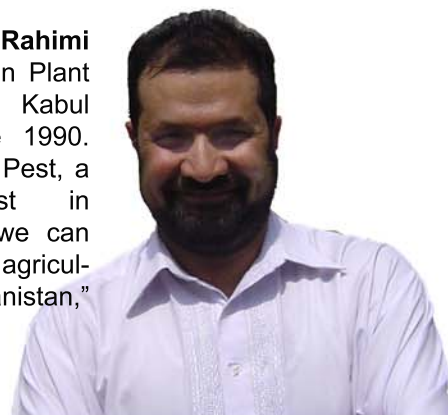
Noor Mohammad has been teaching at Kabul University's Horticulture and Forestry Department since his graduation from there in 1989. The practical work in his Master's program has been most useful to him. "Plant propagation and fruit breeding work was most valuable," he said. Mr. Mohammad hopes to bring back new technology and teaching methodology to the faculty in his department.

Abdul Wahab, an agronomist and lecturer at Nangarhar University, will conduct research on oilseed crops such as Brassica to meet the oilseed requirements of Afghanistan. "I will look into new crops to develop adaptable, resistant, high-yielding varieties of oilseeds and involve students," he said. Mr. Wahab was proud to learn of new ways of researching questions, such as the internet and now has access to books in English.



Hussain Gul, a lecturer in Agriculture Economics at Kabul University, focuses his research on agricultural marketing issues in Afghanistan. His work on cereal crops cost return analysis will prove beneficial for the farmers in northern Afghanistan, where the store of food is located. "I've enjoyed mostly the work on agriculture policy of trade during my time in Peshawar," he said.

Mohammad Saleem Rahimi has served as lecturer in Plant Protection in the Kabul University faculty since 1990. He is researching Sunn Pest, a serious wheat pest in Afghanistan. "I hope we can import research-based agriculture education in Afghanistan," he said.



Mir Hati Niazi, the Dean of the Agriculture Faculty at Nangarhar University, wants to expand his research on medicinal plants for antibiotics and vaccines. Mr. Niazi chose this specialization based on department and public needs. "This work will have a positive role in encouraging rural community development of adopting mini-enterprises based on research results," he said.

Saidajan Abdiani serves as chairman of the Horticulture Department in Nangarhar University. During his master's work, he plans to conduct research on vegetable seed production, which he views to be of great value to Afghan agriculture students and farmers. "We need to increase vegetable production in order to increase farming income," he said.

