

Improvement of livelihoods and living conditions through support to agriculture and livestock activities, energy-saving solutions, and the natural resource management.
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Spring is in the Air...

The Central Highland Region has come alive with the warmer temperatures of Spring. Valleys are covered with lush grasses, trees are topped with different shades of green leaves and colorful flower blossoms adorn the gentle slopes. While this change in temperature signals the start of the busy agricultural period for many of the residents of Bamyan and Behsud, it also represents various new initiatives as part of the CHP.

Springs sees the launch of various GERES Energy Saving technologies. Developed in Bamyan and various field locations over the winter period, these technologies include the Improved Digidan, Tandoor Cap and Solar Cooker. In addition, the melting snow and abundance of water allows for MADERA to work closely with farmers on new irrigation techniques, and the alfalfa fields to thrive under the longer days of sunshine. Finally, the month of June also provides the students of Solidarites International school garden programs to witness first hand the changes the seasons bring to the environment around them.


This time of year also correlates with the month of Ramadan. The CHP team wishes all friends and partners of the program a safe and prosperous Ramadan.



ACKU in Bamyan

After Successful creation of Afghanistan Center at Kabul University (ACKU) corner at Bamyan University (BU) in May 2016, GERES through CHP raised its support and coordination with BU. The trainings and awareness sessions were focused on the literature review and search of ACKU online library and using ACKU resources.

CHP Partners Newsfeed



Awareness rising



In June, **MADERA** successfully accomplished the Awareness rising campaign in Yakawlang Behsud I and II. The Campaign focused on livestock breeding and paravet services was carried out in 38 villages. As per numbers, 25 campaigns were accomplished in both Behsud districts and 18 in Yakawlang district.



Irrigation of saplings



After the rehabilitation of trenches, the month of June 2016 marks the beginning of the irrigation of tree saplings in Dasht-e Gazak area in Saighan district with the support of CPC members. Three rounds of irrigation are planned until the end of August 2016 to help plant growth with the aim to regenerate pasture areas.



Spring Promotional Campaign launched!

The start of June signaled the end of the successful **GERES** Energy Saving Solutions (ESS) Spring Promotional Campaigns that targeted over 2200 people. This campaign included a total of 12 events designed to promote the new and adapted technologies including the Improved Digidan, Tandoor Cap and Solar Cooker. In conjunction with the Spring Promotional campaign the top performing craftsmen from Nayak, Darah-e-Chost, Saighan, Kahmard and Behsud were recognized in Award ceremonies where they received certificates of excellence and new tools.

Number of the month

136

Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) groups supported by **SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL** in Bamyan province. Depending on their respective mandate, these groups are in charge of either water or pasture management at village, CDC or sub-basin level.

Briefs and notes

GERES announced internships for students of Bamyan University, focused on PR, marketing and product development.
MADERA Successfully completed 3 Anti-erosion project design & estimation for Maydan Wardak.
SOLIDARITES conducts weekly sessions on vegetable production and nutrition in 10 schools of Yakawlang district.

CHP Success Stories & Good News

Big expectations from new veranda

Shir Ali from Worborgoj CDC is driver, working in Yakawlang. He recently ordered wooden veranda form **GERES** on recommendation of his friend, who has this type of veranda for more than two years and knows its benefits. Ali's friend referred especially for significant decrease of fuel consumption during the winter, reportedly it decreased about more than half. Ali hopes for his investment to have the same effect.



GERES Component II has new support

In the beginning of June, GERES team got new colleague: Rob Arcidiacono, new CII Project Manager. Rob's background is Product Design and International Development. Focus of these studies has been in sustainability and food sovereignty. More recently he started a Social Enterprise that promotes waste reduction and environmental awareness. Previous posting he had in Jordan as part of the Syrian refugee response.



Our People in the field

Zalmi, 14 years with SI

Zalmi "Afshar" is working as Agriculture officer with **SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL** since August 2002. Currently, he is in charge of 4 FFS and 2 school gardens in Yakawlang district. "Growing vegetable is the job I dreamed about. Thus, I really like working with SI because we are helping farmers through agricultural programs with the aim of improving their food security and livelihoods", Zalmi noted.



Noorulhoda Omarzai joins the team!

GERES is excited to introduce Noorulhoda Omarzai to the team as Field Supervisor for Saighan and Kahmard districts. Omarzai undertook his Bachelor degree in Geology and Mining sciences at Kabul Polytechnic University before completing a Master in Environmental Sciences from International Islamic University Islamabad with a focus on drinking water quality in Kabul city.



Upcoming events

CHP movies on YouTube!

From now on, Film-making unit of **GERES** publishes the documents and educational videos on YouTube. The constantly updated playlist "Central Highlands Program" can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GeresAssociation/playlists>. Follow our documentaries and learn more about CHP!

Hygiene promotion sessions

Since the beginning of May, in parallel with the construction of water infrastructures and household latrines, **SI** conducts hygiene promotion sessions in 16 villages. As part of this campaign, sessions are given on various topics such as management of safe drinking water and latrines, or personal and food hygiene.

New awareness campaign

The **GERES** Environmentally Friendly Best Practices Awareness Campaigns is set to commence on Sunday 19th of June in 27 schools across Nayak, Darah-e-Chost, Saighan, Kahmard, Bamyán and Behsud. Staff will share information about waste management and bio-diversity of plants, animals and natural resources in the central highlands region.

Events Calendar JULY

19 JUNE - GERES

The Energy Savings Solutions (Component II) of **GERES** will launch their Environmentally Friendly Best Practices Awareness Campaign.

BEGINNING OF JULY - SI

SI will distribute churning machines to every women participating to Animal Husbandry FFS in Yakawlang.

END OF JULY - SI

SI expects 124 household latrines to be completed in Yakawlang district by the end of July.

BEGINNING OF JULY-MADERA

Exposure visit will held for 02 para-vets, after that experience sharing workshop & refresher training will held

END OF JULY - MADERA

Joint assessment will be held in Yakawalang with DAIL and DCA for selection of new Para-vets.

BEGINNING OF JULY-MADERA

The construction works on the irrigation project will commence.

MADERA Pasture Activities

MADERA started Pasture activities from 2014 under CHP project. Initially formed 36 Natural Resources Management groups and committees covering 50 villages in the district of Behsud 1 & 2. Major activities are reseeding pasture areas as there was lack of grass for regeneration pasture lands. In 2015 **MADERA** reseeded around 100 Ha of pasture lands. As well, **MADERA** has 12 Test Plots for better understand of people and show them which type

of grass is possible cultivated to own area and more learning about how to preparing the land and method of reseeding and cultivation

Pasture Management program have almost 1080 beneficiaries and have more benefit in society. These beneficiaries are using Pasture in different way and take different kind of benefit such as grazing animals, collecting fodder and selling to Market, collection bush for burn on stove during the winter time.

Mustafa Kemal, PM Central Highlands, **MADERA**