

Improvement of livelihoods and living conditions through support to agriculture and livestock activities, energy-saving solutions, and the natural resource management.
GERES: p.burian@geres.eu, r.rameen@geres.eu, **SOLIDARITES:** bmy.fc.dep@solidarites-afghanistan.org **MADERA:** pm.chp@madera-afgha.org

Cooking with the Sun - Unlimited Power

With the upcoming winter campaign, **GERES** has created a new product that has great potential in the Central Highlands region of Afghanistan. Solar cookers have been a popular product for many NGOs to disseminate, but many have run into issues with material quality & durability. The most common solar cookers in Afghanistan use a reflective foil that easily peels off and lasts only one or two seasons.

GERES Skills & Technology team have just completed testing of a new solar cooker - one that uses multiple small mirrors that are attached to the parabolic dish. This new type of solar cooker is far more robust and can survive for many years requiring minimal repairs. With this new product, GERES can ensure solar cookers will be working for the people of the highlands for many years to come.



CHP Partners Newsfeed



Demonstration farms in Behsud I. & II.

In August, the one demo-farm in Behsud I. and three demonstrations in Behsud II. started to give the their production for season 2016. In each of Behsud farms, 17 types of vegetables, and one type of fodder are cultivated.

The demonstration farms serve for introduction of new crops to the districts, presentation of cultivation methods, as well as for presentation of proper irrigation and fertilization procedures. Important part is direct comparison of traditional and improved methods of cultivation, presented side-by-side for proper illustration.



Vegetables in winter greenhouses construction progress

In Saighan district, the construction of four vegetable greenhouses just ended at the end of the month in Qarawana, Khudad Khil, Somocha and Deh Nola villages. The purchase of vegetable seeds in Bamyán will be done in September in the same time than the preparation of land by the land owners with the support of SI team. The plastic sheeting needed to cover the greenhouses will be installed in October to avoid to deteriorate them during the warm season. The first sowings are expected for the end of September to produce vegetables during the winter.



Ongoing preparations for winter

With winter fast approaching the GERES team across Bamyán and Behsud have been busy training new craftsmen and installing new Energy Saving Solution technologies across all districts.

This winter will see the promotion of the new technologies to compliment the existing ESS range. An Improved Digdan with Oven is an elaboration on the existing Improved Digdan design that allows households to cook bread and bake foods using less fuel. The new Solar Cookers with mirrors also minimizes fuel consumption allowing households to cook using solar power.

Number of the month



19 students from the Animal Science department of Bamyán University have spent one day with SI team in Yakawlang district on 16th of August 2016. After attending one Animal Husbandry FFS session, they have visited one improved barn in order to better understand the work of NGOs in Bamyán.

Government M&E mission

Beginning of August, CHP Partners jointly welcomed the government Monitoring and Evaluation mission to Yakawlang. One week mission of PGO (Provincial Government Office), MRRD and DAIL focused on CHP project in the district. Officials visited (beside other projects) energy saving solutions installed, new irrigation schemes, water intakes and improved barns. Government representatives highly appreciated implemented activities.

CHP Success Stories & Good News

A great opportunity for women...

Zewar, one of the 25 women taking part on weekly basis to the agricultural Farmer Field School (FFS) in Gird Bed village of Yakawlang district, explained that *"FFS is a great opportunity for women to learn about vegetables production"*, before adding: *"all women have been trained and can cultivate their own garden. We also encourage our family members to eat vegetables on daily basis, what is new for them."*



Top performing craftsman in Yakawlang

GERES would like to make special mention of Eshaq from Nitaq village. As one of our top performing craftsmen he has built over 119 improved digdans and 68 wood framed veranda in Yakawlang since the start of the project.

'People are happy with the technologies; at first it was hard to receive interest from the households but now I have many orders, particularly for improved digdan'.



Our People in the field

Khonom, kitchen garden officer

Khonom, 25 years old, is working for SI for four years. Graduated from horticulture department in Bamyán University, she worked first in Yakawlang as Agriculture officer and was in charge to implement Farmer Field Schools with women. Since last February, she joined team in Saighan. *"I'm glad to help women to grow vegetables in their own garden and contribute to the improvement of women's living conditions"*.



GERES has a new S&T Manager

GERES recently welcomed Marc Tuozolo from New York, USA. He has worked on remote power equipment for humanitarian missions, sustainable building designs, advocacy for public transit and conflict analysis. Marc has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a Master's degree in Public Administration. In GERES he is responsible for the design of new technologies.



Upcoming events

Winter Campaign

The month of September sees GERES staff busy preparing for the Winter Campaign which kicks off. This will include training of new craftsmen and providing the new season technologies. Keep a look out for awareness sessions and promotional events across the CHP working area in late September and October.

Women in Economy

GERES joined USAID funded programme "Women in Economy", providing opportunity of first-job experience to educated women through internships in non-governmental and private companies. From September on, GERES expects to welcome at least three new interns through this programme, opening new opportunities.

Animal Health Service Providers training

From September, MADERA launches six-month training for Animal Health Service Providers (AHSP). The providers help in Behsud districts to maintain animal health and teach farmers about appropriate breeding and animal health practices. In September batch, four AHSPs are going to participate on the training.

Events Calendar SEPTEMBER

GERES: 25–28 SEP: Craftsmen Award Ceremonies in Behsud and Yakawlang

GERES: Throughout September: Awareness Sessions of Energy Saving Solutions Technologies across all districts

MADERA: Throughout September: Animal Health Service Provider training will be launched in Behsud districts.

MADERA: Throughout September: A Three new irrigation projects are to be launched in Behsud. As well, four anti-erosion measure projects are to be launched in Behsud.



Getting familiar with CHP: Component IV

Component IV of Central Highlands Programme aims at creating bridges between governmental and non governmental stakeholders through knowledge production and transfer, awareness raising, advocacy and institutional dialogue. The activities since start of the programme encompass knowledge management and transfer of programme knowledge through various channels: data and information sharing, training sessions, studies, field missions for stakeholders and pedagogical activities. The awareness raising, advocacy activities and institutional dialogue helps to share lessons learned from the programme and reflect it in develop-

ment policies and activities. Important part of Component IV are as well two teams: one dedicated to Monitoring and Evaluation and team focused on audio-visual monitoring of development challenges in the Central Highland.

The outcome and expected result of Component IV is strengthened programme sustainability, increased lever effects between activities in the area and integration of the tools and best practices developed to regional standards and norm production. Component IV can be seen as the roofing part of the programme, connecting Bamyán people in efforts to improve the province.

Pavel Burian, CHP Coordinator GERES