



Pine Nut Commercial Forest Gardening

Project Summary

PPP Model
BOT

Project location
Paktya, Paktika, Khost

Lead Agency
Ministry of Agriculture,
Irrigation and Live stocks (MAIL)

Contract Period:
25 Years



Project Description

Natural Resources of Afghanistan have significant ecological, economic, social and cultural value. Proper management, conservation and value addition of natural resources is vital for the present and future economic development/wellbeing of this country. The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, is committed to work towards sustainable management and utilization of the country's natural resources and empower private investments in agriculture and natural resources sector to accelerate the economic growth of the country.

Chilgoza pine (*Pinus gerardiana*) is the most commercially important pine species in Afghanistan. Chilgoza pine occurs in a discontinuous belt in south-eastern Afghanistan at 1700 to 2700 m elevation covering Paktika, Paktia, Khost, Logar, Nuristan, Kapisa, Laghman and Nangarhar Provinces.

Afghanistan currently produces on average 23,000 MT of pine-nuts annually from the naturally grown pine forests. This may reach at maximum approximately 35,000 MT of annual production conditional to suitable climate and vigilant harvesting of last year otherwise this may drop to a minimum production level of 11,000 MT annually due to punitive dry weather and harvesting damage; produced from the last year's harvest. The current estimated market and forest gate value of the value chain stands at approximately USD 290 Million. The production comes mostly from above-mentioned provinces of Afghanistan of which the largest producing provinces are Paktia, Paktika and Khost provinces. (Loya Paktia Region). The Loya Paktia region on average basis produces about 20,000 MT of pine-nuts annually with the total market value of about USD 250 Million benefiting directly about a million people with more than approximately 120,595 families.



Key Project Objectives

- 1) Watershed management and water supply system improvement with partnership of the government.
- 2) Qualitative and quantitative enhancement of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) through value addition and post-harvest management practices.
- 3) Mobilization of communities to support businesses through provision of the labour and supporting establishment of pine nut national union.



Successfully achieving this project will provide integrated benefits to all (ecosystem, public and private sector), ranging from safeguarding local livelihoods to protecting the biodiversity and ecosystems provided by forests, reducing rural poverty, enhance national economy and mitigating the effects of climate change and particularly extensive generation of profits to private investors through high value natural/wild non-timber forest productions.