

Annual Report 2008

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Partnering with the People of Afghanistan

The International Foundation of Hope (IFHope) is a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, incorporated in the state of Colorado in April 1999, (EIN) 91 1959600. IFHope has been registered in Afghanistan as an international NGO since 2002, registration number No. 257.



Vision Statement

Partnering with the people of Afghanistan to realize their potential.

Mission Statement

To provide opportunities for economic, educational, and community development in Afghanistan.

Value Statement

IFHope values partnership rather than duplication or competition. IFHope promotes no political or religious agenda.

A. MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main activities of IFHope are at present in perennial horticulture establishment, nursery management, forest and shade tree establishment, horticultural training, and orchard management education and capacity building. In the past four years IFHope has planted over one million fruit and nut trees in 25 districts in four provinces in the Eastern Region for over 6,000 farmers and conducted orchard management seminars for over 5,000 farmers. IFHope also implemented a number of forest and woodlot project in all four Eastern Provinces and have established 50 women's nurseries in Laghman and Kunar Provinces.

IFHope's agricultural extension staff of 26 highly trained college graduates is daily providing technical assistance in orchard, woodlot and nursery management. In cooperation with UC Davis and Iowa State University, IFHope has developed an extension training module and five crop production modules used in a robust training program for Ministry of Agriculture Extension Workers and Nangarhar University Faculty. In addition, IFHope has developed training manuals and delivered training in Natural Resources Management and Nursery Management. Since the fall of 2002 IFHope has operated the largest tree nursery in Afghanistan with over 1,500,000 saplings and an annual production of over 800,000 fruit, nut, forest and shade tree saplings.

IFHope also manages and operates a secondary school in Kabul with over 1,100 students in grades 1-11.

B. RECENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Orchard and Woodlot Establishment

- No one in the country has more experience in orchard establishment. IFHope has completed the planting of 7,500 acres for over 6,000 farmers in 25 districts in four provinces.
- IFHope has implemented forest and woodlot projects for 300 farmers.
- IFHope is the leader in the eastern region in afforestation/reforestation in terms of acreage planted

Training and Capacity Building

- IFHope has an excellent relationship with Nangarhar University and continues to provide many training opportunities for their students.
- IFHope's agricultural extension staff of 26 highly trained college graduates provided technical assistance in orchard management to over 6,000 farmers
- IFHope works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the extension department in all four Eastern Provinces.
- IFHope worked with UC Davis and Iowa State on developing Extension Training Materials as well as Crop Production Modules for several varieties of fruit and nut crops
- IFHope has developed training manuals for Natural Resources Management and Nursery Training and uses them in training several hundred farmers in each sector
- IFHope delivered a robust training program for MAIL extension workers and Nangarhar University Faculty and led a month long training seminar for 90 MAIL extension workers.
- IFHope is part of the Purdue led A4 program working in capacity development for Nangarhar University.
- IFHope has strong community development component to all our projects having focused on establishing a province wide community leadership council system (shura system) with our first USAID project in 2002.

Nursery Management

- IFHope has operated the largest tree and forest nursery in the country for the past four years with over one and a half million saplings in the ground. The nursery is used to train area nursery managers including 50 women nursery managers.
- IFHope has 90 hectares of land for nursery, demonstration orchard and drip plots.

C. 2008 PROJECTS

1. A 4-Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance

This program is helping to develop the agricultural education program at Nangarhar University in support of the A4 Program. The University Development Coordinator is a resource to the faculty of agriculture, strengthening the academic and professional capacity of the institution.

Location: Nangarhar University - Herat University
Client: Purdue University / USAID
Cost in US Dollars: \$277,633
Start/End Dates: November 2007 – March 2010
Status: On Target, Ongoing

2. Nuristan Conservation Corps (NCC)

IFHope is establishing, training and engaging in operations a team of 90 young men called the Nuristan Conservation Corps or the NCC Team. The NCC team is working on Natural Resource Conservation and Community Infrastructure Projects. Initial activity was to establish 100 hectares of woodlot, followed by six months of deploying the Team to adjacent valleys to engage in other NRM and community infrastructure projects.

Location: Nuristan
Client: PRT-CERP
Cost in US Dollars: \$669,290
Start/End Dates: October 2008 - September 2009
Status: On Target, Ongoing

C. 2008 PROJECTS

3. Horticulture and Afforestation for Underserved Areas and Populations in the Eastern Region

IFHope is Increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). This is being accomplished by surveying and establishing an integrated forestry, horticulture development and women's nursery project targeting underserved areas and populations in Laghman and Kunar.

Location: Nangarhar / Laghman / Kunar Province
Client: LGCD
Cost in US Dollars: \$1,295,333
Start/End Dates: September 2007 – September 2009
Status: On target, ongoing

4. Nuristan, Nurgram, Fruit Tree Nursery Establishment in 4 Rural Valleys

IFHope is establishing four fruit tree nurseries, one in each of four targeted valleys of Nurgaram district. Approximately 50 rural fruit orchard owner-operators in each valley (for a total of 200) are being identified and trained to manage their orchards with modern technology. Orchard lot owners are being trained in quality fruit tree planting and growth and management standards. New and improved fruit tree planting materials are being introduced to local farmers with a production target of 20,000 saplings from the four nurseries.

Location: Nuristan
Client: Local Governance & Community Development (LGCD)
Cost in US Dollars: \$82,161
Start/End Dates: September 2008 - May 2009
Status: On target, ongoing

C. 2008 PROJECTS

5. Nuristan Natural Resources Assessment

Conduct extensive Natural Resource Assessment Survey of Five Districts in Nuristan Province: Duab, Nurgram, Wama, Waygal and Parun. Evaluate resource availability and resource demand. Offer recommendatons on NRM management programming.

Location: Nuristan
Client: LGCD
Cost in US Dollars: \$93,406
Start/End Dates: October 2008 - April 2009
Status: Completed - on-time and within budget

6. Orchard Planting Project for APPLE Program

Established 454 jeribs fruit and nut orchards in Nangarhar and Kunar Provinces focusing on farmers with a farm size of less than one jeribs in communities with a significant returnee population. Provided training and capacity building for 400 farmers as well as ongoing technical assistance.

Location: Nurgal District in Kunar Province and Kaz Kunar (Khewa) District of Nangarhar Province.
Client: Mercy Corps
Cost in US Dollars: \$133,272
Start/End Dates: Sept 2007 - Oct 2008
Status: Completed - on-time and within budget

7. Eastern Region Orchard Development Project

Survey and select sites and established 3,000 hectares of perennial fruit and nut orchards, trained 5,000 farmers, established nurseries and demonstration orchards

Location: Nangarhar and Laghman Provinces – 18 districts total
Client: DAI – ADP/E
Cost in US Dollars: \$3,485,700
Start/End Dates: Sep 2005 – Jun 2008
Status: Completed - on-time and within budget

D. Nursery Program:

IFHope started its nursery operations in 2002 on small scale with support from a USAID project. After completion of the project, IFHope has taken over the nursery operations with the intention to fulfill the vision of IFHope's president to "MAKE AFGHANISTAN GREEN" as well as provide quality trees in the region. Also, the nursery serves as source of training center for the local people as well as students of Nangarhar University. The nursery spans over 90 hectares and is considered by far the largest nursery in the country having more than two million trees. Various species of fruits and nuts and forestry/shade species suited to low and high elevation districts of the country are produced in the nursery and distributed to public places (schools, clinics, hospitals, mosques, etc) road side, ministry of agriculture, communities and various orchards as well as woodlots projects. Propagating materials including rootstocks and budwood are collected from the local known and certified sources and has shown adaptability to the local agro-climate. Following are the total number of both fruit and forest trees:

Fruit trees:	600,000
Forest/Shade trees:	900,000
Total =	1.5 million

E. Local Governance

Community Empowerment Program: IFHope has strongly supported the grass-roots initiative toward establishing representative democracy in Nangarhâr Province. Through its implementing partner, the Abdul Haq Foundation, IFHope has fostered a system of representative provincial-district advisory councils that interface between local communities, the provincial government, and the NGO community. These councils provide input to governing agencies from farmers and local communities regarding their needs in development policy planning, giving the grass-roots community a voice in its governance.

With the initiative through the National Solidarity Program implemented by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), community councils at the village level were established in 2004/2005. Because of the pre-existing shurah/community council structure in Nangarhar this process was made much easier in Nangarhar Province as the MRRD councils essentially merged with the councils established through IFHope's local governance community empowerment program. IFHope continues to partner with these community councils during the planning and implementation of all of its projects.

F. EDUCATION

The Hope School - Kabul

In the 2008 school year, a tenth grade was added and over 1,040 male and female students attended IFHope's growing Primary School in Kabul. Founded in 2000, the Hope School follows the curriculum mandated by Afghanistan's Ministry of Education and provides additional training in English, science and computer skills.

