AFGHANISTAN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROJECT - II (AAEP II)

Training Report:
DAIL Extension Worker Transfers AAEP II-Learned Knowledge to Farmer Field School Farmers to Help Increase Crop Yield

The Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Project (AAEP II) works alongside the Herat Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) Extension Department to build capacity of government extension workers. One program component of AAEP II is to implement Farmer’s Field Schools (FFS) and empower extension workers to facilitate the FFS. Through the FFS program, DAIL Extension Workers are transferring the knowledge obtained from AAEP II lead-trainings to rural farmers in order to increase production, food security, and overall extension methodology.

A prime example of this is in Faqdan Village, Ghoryan District where Mr. Borhannedin Afzali provides leadership for FFS activities. In collaboration with AAEP II, Borhannedin established an FFS to learn new methods of mungbean cultivation that have the potential to increase yields.

Borhannedin graduated from the Agriculture and Veterinary Institute (AVI) of Herat and works as an extension worker in Ghoryan District. According to Borhannedin, “When I graduated and started my job, I had no experience working in the field. I also had little information about the crops grown here, so I attended the AAEP II trainings and they were very useful for me. They discussed the local techniques of
cultivation and more modern techniques of growing crops”. He added, “I attended a training about mungbean cultivation and even received the training materials (PowerPoints). The training materials helped a lot when in conducting the mungbean FFS and in discussing new cultivation techniques.”

Farmers in this FFS compared two methods of cultivation (row vs. broadcast). According to Mr. Borhannedin “They harvested 142 Kg of mungbean from 2,000 m². 80 Kg was collected from the row cultivated plot (1,000 m²) and around 60 Kg was harvested from the broadcast plot (1,000 m²). Farmers in the village shared that they normally cultivate local seeds which harvest only 42-43 Kg/2,000 m².

FFS members are pleased to have Borhannedin leading them and appreciate his efforts to equip them with new ideas and technologies. Mr. Basir Ahmad, a farmer from the FFS, stated “We learned good things about seed selection, irrigation, harvesting, and drying of mungbean which we were not using before. As a result, we are following the guidance that is shared with us by Borhannedin”.

Finally, Borhannedin thanks AAEP II for providing the opportunity to be more in touch with farmers. He believes the FFS activity provides him a platform to transfer his knowledge and build his leadership, managerial, coordination and communication skills. Mr. Borhannedin Afzali can be reached at: 0799542589.