

# VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND CULTIVATION

## Alternative Development Programme, Afghanistan, 2016-2020

Under the UNODC Alternative Development Programme, income generated from short duration crops supported farmers for their daily sustenance, as they planted and nurtured medium and longer duration perennial crops. As part of this endeavour, crops such as aloe vera, chilli pepper, cucumber, eggplant, okra, and tomato were grown in greenhouses and fields.

The project trained beneficiaries on vegetable cultivation best practices, including how to maintain and expand greenhouses using locally available materials such as polyethene sheets, steel pipes, and wooden pallets. Further, techniques such as drip irrigation, and timely technical and market support enabled farmers to get better yields from small patches of land.

Growing vegetables in greenhouses encouraged farmers to cultivate off-season vegetables, which they could sell at twice the price. Greenhouses also enabled farmers to produce more vegetables by farming throughout the year on a small patch of land with less water.

### Key Activities

The programme supported 1,080 women by providing them with seeds, fertilizer, and training on how to cultivate and grow vegetables. They were also trained in processing the vegetable they cultivate to make pickles, tomato paste, and chilli paste, as well as packaging and labeling of the processed vegetables. Additionally, they were provided with low tunnels, where they could grow vegetables in nurseries and then transplant them when the environment outside was suitable. The yields they got as a result contributed to the food security of their household. At the same time, surplus vegetables were sold to earn income for the family.

### Our donors



## Achievements\*

- 76 large greenhouses established (39 for women and 37 men)
- 150 small greenhouses established
- 200 low tunnels for women)
- 500 farmers trained in Integrated Pest Management
- 880 kitchen garden established for women
- 1306 jobs created; 1119 for women (85.7%) and 187 (14.3%) for men
- USD 0.78 million net income generated

Each woman sold an average of 1500 kgs of vegetable produce and earned USD 292 per year.

Farmers earned an annual revenue of USD 1,823 (AFN 140,000) from large greenhouses and USD 911 (AFN 70,000) from small greenhouses.

Each greenhouse produces an average of 2,400 kgs of vegetables a year, allowing a farmer to earn approximately USD 1,029.

Project beneficiaries earned a net income of USD 0.78 Million from vegetable production and sales.

The annual income of target beneficiaries increased approximately 52% from USD 536 to USD 1,029, enabling them to provide food, education, and healthcare for their families.

The program highlights that a well-planned and long-term interventions on vegetable value chains have the capacity to eradicate poppy fields.

\*Based on the impact assessment study conducted in Helmand province in August 2020 by the programme implementing partner, Mercy Corps