



Promoting Afghanistan's Development Finance Sector



Awareness Rising on Agricultural Credit

Through grant funding provided by USAID's Agriculture Credit Enhancement Program (ACE-II), Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA) continues implementing a series of programmatic activities aimed at increasing awareness and access to agricultural credit in rural communities. During the quarter, two of eight planned workshops were facilitated by AMA:

1. At the end of March, AMA launched its public awareness event in Charikar, the capital of Parwan province. Approximately 200 people, mostly farmers, attended the workshop. Guests included the Provincial Governor, and representatives of the Directorate of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (DAIL), Community Development Councils (CDCs) and District Development Assemblies (DDAs). AMA member institutions had display stands at the event to provide information on

their financial service offerings (with a focus on agricultural credit) to farmers and community representatives.

2. During May, AMA held its second Agriculture Credit Awareness Workshop at DAIL office in Pul-e-Khumri city, Baghlan province. 62 participants, mostly farmers, attended the workshop. Other guests included representatives of the DAIL, CDCs, DDAs, and AMA member institutions.

To perpetuate awareness after the event, AMA handed over 25 display banners on agricultural credit to DAIL, Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD), DDAs, and one to each of the participating MFIs in Parwan and Baghlan provinces. In addition, 1,200 copies of AMA's recently published Agriculture Credit Information Booklet were also distributed among the participants of the workshops.



Kabul Green Homes (KGH) Project - Stakeholders Consulting Workshop

With completion of the first year of Kabul Green Homes (KGH) Project, the implementing partners; Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity (GERES), Rural Movement Organization (RMO) and AMA, along with Kabul Municipality organized Stakeholder's Consultation Workshop on May 23, 2017 in Kabul. The workshop aimed to share the first year achievements,

technologies and implementing strategy and receive feedbacks, suggestions and comments of stakeholders to introduce improvements in the project. 70 participants from key stakeholders including Government organizations; Kabul Municipality, Ministry of Energy and Water, Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), and national and international NGOs, UN agencies, MFIs and private sector representatives participated in the workshop. The Country Director of GERES opened the workshop followed by speeches from the Deputy of Kabul Municipality, Deputy Director General of NEPA, Head of Renewable Energy Department, and Head of Standard Development Department of ANSA on their achievements and planning for energy efficiency. GERES, RMO, and AMA had presentations on their activities and achievement during the first year. The participants shared their feedbacks and suggestions for better implantation of the project. The implementing partners are committed to consider the implementation of the feedbacks and suggestions received from the participants.



FINCA Afghanistan and ACE-II Partnership

In May, USAID's Agriculture Credit Enhancement Program (ACE-II) and FINCA Afghanistan signed a grant agreement for a grant that will strengthen FINCA's

agricultural lending program by supporting the recruitment, training and deployment of Agricultural Technical Advisors to 14 FINCA branches in 10 Provinces where agriculture is the main activity.

The purpose of this grant is to serve rural communities by strengthening agricultural financing through training of FINCA Afghanistan's staff, and providing advisory, education and financial services to the beneficiaries. The other aim of this grant is to increase outreach of FINCA Afghanistan.



Meeting with the Deputy Governor of Takhar Province

AMA meets the Provincial and District Governors to raise their awareness and knowledge about microfinance sector, discuss the challenges that MFIs face, and attract Government support.

With the above mentioned objective, AMA along with its member MFIs met Mr. Mohammad Farid Zaki the Deputy Governor of Takhar province on April 16, 2017.

The Deputy Governor was briefed on Development Finance Sector operations, its challenges and issues, and requested for extension of his support in overcoming the challenges. The challenges ahead of MFIs in Takhar are lack of enough support from local Government authorities especially the Security Departments, and Community Leaders.

Mr. Zaki appreciated AMA and its members MFIs' activities and operations in

Takhar province and promised his full support. He issued an official letter to all relevant government departments to provide necessary support to MFIs. The letter will be very helpful for MFIs in getting the required support from the Government line departments in Takhar province.

AMA Donors:



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