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E-newsletter - Issue 26

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Promoting Afghanistan's Development Finance Sector



Awareness Raising on Agricultural Credit

Through grant funding provided by USAID's Agriculture Credit Enhancement Program (ACE-II), Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA) continued implementing a series of programmatic activities aimed at increasing awareness and access to agricultural credit in rural communities. During July and August, AMA organized three separate Agriculture Credit Awareness Raising Workshops in Balkh, Samangan, and Kabul provinces.

195 participants, mostly farmers, attended the workshops. Other guests included representatives of the Directorate of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (DAIL), Community Development Councils (CDCs), District Development Assemblies (DDAs), and AMA member institutions.

To perpetuate awareness after the event, AMA handed over display banners on agricultural credit to the participants. In addition, copies of the AMA recently published Agriculture Credit Information Booklet distributed among all the participants.



Two MFIs sign MOUs with DAB|PCR

On August 5, 2017, Islamic Investment & Finance Cooperatives (IIFC) Group, and Exchangerzone signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Da Afghanistan Bank (Central Bank of Afghanistan) to get benefit of utilizing facilities provided by the Public Credit Registry (PCR).

The two MFIs will first receive necessary trainings to know more about the system and its functionalities as well as data uploading procedure. Once they gain the required knowledge about the system, the MFIs will be able to upload their clients' information to the system and make enquiries while disbursing new loans.

With joining of these two MFIs in PCR, all MFIs (seven) are now part of the system and use it in order to avoid multiple lending and selecting clients based on their credit history.



AMA launches its New Website

Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA) launched its website with new look, functionalities, and features in August 2017. Visitors of the website can have access to regular updates about Afghanistan microfinance sector through news, and publications as well as AMA history, its members, donors, services, projects and events.

A job portal is also considered in the website for announcing vacancies of the members and other stakeholders in the microfinance sector.

Please visit www.ama.org.af and share your constructive feedbacks with us.



USAID hosts Women's Agricultural Credit Shura in Balkh Province

When it comes to accessing credit for women farmers and women-owned agriculture-related businesses, challenges have often forced these operations to close because of a lack of understanding how credit works. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) wants to change that and help these women prosper in their businesses. With that in mind, USAID's Regional Agricultural Development Program-North (RADP-N), in partnership with Agricultural Credit Enhancement Phase-II project (ACE-II), hosted the Women's Agricultural Credit Shura in Mazar-e-Sharif City of Balkh province on August 16, 2017 to increase knowledge of the opportunities for women to secure agricultural credit. This event focused on practical training for women to apply for and manage credit. This event brought together a number of top microfinance institutions in Afghanistan along with other financial experts to work with Shura attendees. Click [here](#) to read more.

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