

***AgriLinks Food Safety Inspection Service Monthly Report  
( September 4 to October 3, 2012)  
Contract No. W91JA4-11-C-4013***

**Afghan Food Safety Training and Outreach Project  
Regional Contracting Command Kabul**

***Food Safety Inspection Services  
Monthly Report  
(September 4 to October 3, 2012)***

***Contract No. W91JA4-11-C-4013***

Submitted by: AgriLinks Afghanistan Consulting Co.  
Contact: Mr. Andres Judeh  
Position: AgriLinks Executive Director  
Email: [andresjudeh@gmail.com](mailto:andresjudeh@gmail.com)  
Date: October 4, 2012

**AgriLinks Food Safety Inspection Service Monthly Report**  
**( September 4 to October 3, 2012)**  
**Contract No. W91JA4-11-C-4013**

## 1. Introduction

AgriLinks Afghanistan was awarded with the **Contract No. W91JA4-11-C-4013, Food Safety Inspection Services**, on August 15, 2011 and was formally notified to proceed on September 10, 2011.

Under this Contract, AgriLinks Afghanistan has to provide materials, equipment and training to perform food safety advisory services for grapes and raisins production in Kandahar Province; and food safety advisory in Bamyán Province for potato producers.

On November 29, 2011, Agrilinks Afghanistan Co. signed the Contract Modification P00004 for addition of equipment (see attached document Mod P00005).

This contract modification was done to purchase tools and equipment farmers learned to use at the Tree House Farm training. While TSBFO team visited the training center during the month of November farmers requested the support of TSBFO team to receive 2 sets of tools/equipment at each drying-patio and other demo-plots (see Monthly Report for the period October 10 to November 9 which has all details regarding this MOD).

On March 9, 2012, Agrilinks Afghanistan Co. received from the Contracting Officer a signed copy of Modification P00005, *Addition of Technical Assistance & Field Extension Services in Kandahar and Helmand (Marjeh District) Provinces*.

The objective of this Modification P00005 is to:

- a) Extend the current implementation work that AgriLinks Co. is performing in Kandahar province by providing additional training and technical assistance to grape/raisins producers in Kandahar
- b) Provide technical support and trainings to farmers in good agricultural practices and vegetables production in Marjeh district of Helmand province
- c) Construction of agriculture demonstration plots in Marjeh district with establishment of intercropped orchards, vineyards with trellis posts and high tunnels with vegetables production
- d) Pack-house managing services in Marjeh district of Helmand province.

**AgriLinks Food Safety Inspection Service Monthly Report  
( September 4 to October 3, 2012)  
Contract No. W91JA4-11-C-4013**

On August 27, 2012, Agrilinks Afghanistan Co. received from the Contracting Officer a signed copy of **Modification P00006**, *Additional work for Marjeh pack-house and additional training due to grapes harvest delay.*

*The objective of Modification P00006 is to:*

- a) Repair Marjeh pack-house solar system by installing new solar panels and batteries stolen and replacing solar panels that were damaged.*
- b) Provide additional training to farmers in Kandahar in how to properly dry grapes into raisins using the dryint-patio demo-plots; and training to operators in how to operate and repair 6 raisins' cleaning and grading machines imported from India.*

On September 30, 2012, AgriLinks Afghanistan Co. received from the Contracting Officer a signed copy of **Modification P00007**, **"30 days non-cost extension"**.

*The objective of modification P00007 is to extend for 30 days the duration of this contract for Agrilinks Afghanistan Co. to finish the construction and delivery of 60 latrines being built in Bamyan Province.*

## **2. Activities performed from September 4 to October 3, 2012**

### **2.1 Raisins' cleaning and grading machines training**

On September 20, in Kandahar City, 8 persons with machines and cars repair skills from Daman, Dand, Arghandab and Panjwai districts of Kandahar province were trained, during 3 days in how to assemble and operate the raisins' cleaning and grading machines imported by AgriLinks Co. Trainees assimilated very well the training and said that the machines have an easy operational system that will allow them to maintain and repair.



**Afghans technicians being trained in assembling and operations**

**AgriLinks Food Safety Inspection Service Monthly Report**  
**( September 4 to October 3, 2012)**  
**Contract No. W91JA4-11-C-4013**

After the training process, 6 farmers representing 15 demo-plots' beneficiaries received 6 machines and transported them to their different districts to be assembled by the trained technicians (two machines for Daman, two for Dand, one for Panjwai and one for Arghandab).



**Machines being loaded to trucks for transportation to District**

## **2.2 Marjeh pack-house, 15 demonstration plots and other infrastructure at Bolan farm.**

### **a. Demonstration plots**

**Tomato, bell pepper, eggplant and bitter guard** are still being harvested as summer crops in open field, intercropped areas and greenhouses. However, the harvested quantities are declining due to the end of season for these crops.

Up to October 3, these are the total quantities of products harvested at Bolan Farm demo-plots. Harvesting started on July 4:

1. Cucumber: **6,100** pounds
2. Squash: **8,500** pounds
3. Eggplant: **4,560** pounds
4. Tomato: **5,600** pounds
5. Melon: **9,620** pounds
6. Watermelon: **18,600** pounds
7. Bell pepper: **1,460** pounds
8. Bitter guard: **615** pounds

**Total..... 55,055 pounds**

**AgriLinks Food Safety Inspection Service Monthly Report  
( September 4 to October 3, 2012)  
Contract No. W91JA4-11-C-4013**

Fall/winter crops (carrot, broccoli, white beets, white and red radish, white and red cabbage, and cauliflower) are growing very well intercropped with orchards and in the greenhouses. Tomato plants are still producing inside the greenhouses but in small quantity.

**b).Solar panels installation at Marjah Pack-house**

AgriLinks has received Contract Mod P00006 that allows the purchase and installation of broken/missing solar panels and batteries. During this period solar panels were purchased and installed at the pack-house to replace the missing and broken ones. Two new batteries were also purchased and installed to replace the two units missing. All panels and batteries have installed.



**Solar panels being installed and cleaned (South side)**



**Solar panels (East side)**



**Solar panels (West side)**

**c) Brand-new cold room Installation at Marjeh pack-house**

AgriLinks Co. built a new cold room facility at the pack-house. This cold room has been erected (walls, roof and floor) with polyurethane sandwich panels with 100mm thickness of insulation and pre-painted galvanized iron sheets. The dimension of the cold room is 4m x 4m x 3 m, and has a storage capacity 25,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables.

All the refrigeration equipment and electrical installation is operated by “solar power” and was installed by the previous contractor. Compressor of this cold room was not functional due to an electrical panel burnt. Agrilinks Co. technician took this panel to an electrician in Lashkargah and had it repaired. Compressor started working normally after the electrical panel was fixed and refrigerant gas (Freon) was charged. AgriLinks will continue to monitor the performance of the compressor.



**Technicians installing the sandwich panels of the cold room**



**Construction being finished**



**Evaporator installed**

**AgriLinks Food Safety Inspection Service Monthly Report  
( September 4 to October 3, 2012)  
Contract No. W91JA4-11-C-4013**

**2.3 Food safety and hygiene proof-of-concept for potato producers in Bamyan**

AgriLinks Co. requested to the Contracting Officer representative and extension of 30 days to finish the construction of 60 latrines in Bamyan province. The main reasons to request this extension are:

- 1) Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock of Bamyan was delayed in providing the location where latrines should be built, and
- 2) The distance between latrines is simply enormous. Latrines are being built in villages that are 15 miles away, in four directions, from Bamyan Province center. Transportation of construction materials is a real nightmare due to the distance and the difficult access to these sites and the terrain.

Up to October 3, 27 units have been built in more than 20 different locations. It is estimated to finish the construction of all 60 units by October 25.



**Latrine being built**



**Latrine finished**



**Latrine ready to be used**

### **3. Conclusions and comments**

Security situation in Lashkargah and Marjeh district of Helmand province deteriorated dramatically during the month of September. However, AgriLinks Co. activities were performed normally and without any security incident.

### **4. Next Steps (August September 4- September 30)**

#### **4.1 Kandahar**

- Project has finished

#### **4.2 Bamyar**

- Conclusion of all latrines estimated by October 25.

#### **4.3 Marjeh, Helmand**

- Project has finished
- Delivery of all assets, tools and materials purchased by Agrilinks Co. to DAIL Helmand and the Union of Cooperatives.