The Purdue College of Agriculture Afghanistan team, formed in March 2002, and led by Dr. Kevin McNamara, has developed an interdisciplinary program to support a range of teaching, extension, and research efforts related to agricultural capacity-building efforts in Afghanistan and training of the Indiana National Guard and U.S. Army personnel. More than 50 Purdue University faculty and staff have been involved in these activities, which include:

**Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance (A4)**

A4 is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) (five-year grant, 2007–2011). The A4 program:

- Develops agricultural education in Afghanistan, which is part of USAID’s overall goal to support the rebuilding of Afghanistan’s economy.
- Focuses on the agricultural and veterinary programs at Kabul University, Herat University, Balkh University, Kandahar University, and Nangarhar University.
- Works closely and builds links between the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), and Afghan Extension Services, as well as the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE).
- Provides short-term and long-term educational opportunities for Afghan professors at universities in the United States and India.
- Trains young faculty, upgrades curriculum, and develops closer links to the agricultural sector through co-curricular activities, internships, and job fairs.
- Develops demonstration/student farms, faculty research farm, greenhouses, livestock facilities, and labs and integrates them into academic programs.

To accomplish the above, Purdue subcontracted with other U.S. land-grant universities including the University of California at Davis and Kansas State University and partnered with Cornell University, Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services, Joint Development Associates, IF Hope, and other nongovernmental organizations.

**Afghan Merit Scholars**

This Purdue/USAID partnership provides master’s degree educations to junior Afghan agricultural faculty members. This scholars program:

- Gives twelve junior Afghan faculty members an opportunity to study in the Purdue University College of Agriculture.
- Involves Purdue faculty mentors/advisors for these students. Past mentors participated from the Departments of Agricultural Economics, Agronomy, English, Food Science, and Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.
- Includes working toward a master of science degree at Purdue. Students also learn how a land-grant university functions and how agriculture faculty members combine research and extension within their individual professional programs.
- Helps students develop relationships with advisors and others while at Purdue that allow these students to...
to continue their professional development when they return to Afghanistan. Advisors have continued their relationships by e-mail, Adobe Connect, or other means. They have helped Afghan faculty members update courses they are teaching and develop applied research programs.

**Faculty Exchange/Borlaug Fellowships**

These are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide short-term, capacity-building training opportunities for junior faculty members. Each faculty member and Fellow is assigned a mentor in his/her respective field. Through the program, they:

- Gain one-on-one support to help develop their teaching programs.
- Learn new teaching skills.
- Upgrade their academic skills.
- Modernize the courses they teach.
- Travel to other land-grant universities to learn about teaching and research and to see the diversity of U.S. agriculture.
- Develop personal relationships with mentors who provide on-going support on their return to Afghanistan.
- Link to a broader community of agriculture faculty members and resources.

**National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams (ADTs) and U.S. Army Training**

This effort:

- Provides a weeklong training program for National Guard ADTs from Indiana, Texas, and Oklahoma. One-hundred and ten individuals have participated to date.
- Provides 1- to 2-day training for National Guard ADTs. A total of 195 National Guard members have participated from Arkansas, California, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.
- Prepares the National Guard members to work as agriculture extension/outreach agents in rural Afghanistan.
- Links National Guard ADTs to university capacity-building efforts.
- Models training after the Extension programs in the United States, applying university research to support and improve people’s lives.
- Provides training on Afghanistan’s economy and agriculture, animal health and livestock production, bee-keeping operations and maintenance, forestation/reforestation, fruit production and maintenance, high-tunnel vegetable production, irrigation concepts, pest management, post harvest storage, rangeland management, small dairy operations, small grains, and soils and soil fertility. All these topics are location-specific and adapted to the province where the ADTs are being deployed.
- Ties into the goal of helping Afghanistan move toward economic and political stability, which meets U.S. and Afghan policy objectives.
- Provides an opportunity for the ADTs to interact with junior Afghan faculty members (AMS) studying at Purdue.

As a result of this training, the ADTs can contact Purdue faculty on technical issues when they are in the field. They have reach-back support.

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