

1.0 SUCCESS STORY

The following story is provided by Haji, the Kandahar FSC Owner:

The Kandahar Farm Service Center (FSC), also known as Sahrai Limited, has increased staff size from five to sixteen people since the FSC was established in August 2008.

Following the establishment of the FSC, machinery is now being utilized extensively to process animal feed for customers, and supply even large contracts such as FAO. The FSC is using the machinery to produce many nutritional products which are fed to a variety of farm animals.



The availability of this service, combined with the completion of construction of the (Sahrai) FSC has attracted the interest of many national and international organizations, such as Mercy Crop (MC), FAO, etc., who have chosen to do business with the FSC. Also, the FSC has provided agricultural training to 514 area farmers, while benefiting 2,308 households through the supply of high quality inputs and effective services.

Other machinery, including tractors and ploughs, which were provided from a USAID grant through the CNFA AFSA project, allowed the FSC to significantly reduce the cost of tractor services in the area. Area farmers have shown great appreciation to the FSC for the more economical and quality services which are now provided. Machinery use logged 114 hours within two months after the equipment arrived. This will increase substantially as we enter the spring season.

In addition, the FSC offers all types of high quality, certified seeds. Area farmers are now able to produce high quality vegetables and fruit, and yields not previously experienced. Also farmers are provided high quality products at competitive prices, and with the availability of credit.

Besides the benefit to the area farming community, the owner/employees of the FSC, and their families have enjoyed a much better standard of living through employment at the FSC, at a fair wage which gives them the ability to provide for their families, including better education for their children. “We can now afford to give our children the highest standard of education available in the area.” Families are now able to deal with their previous challenges of poverty and unemployment.



As stated by the FSC owner, “even with the great improvements that have been made, there are other problems we are facing. The local community is expecting more from us, especially in fields of agriculture and animal health. We are therefore looking forward to the AFSA project’s technical assistance and new business development efforts which will help to insure the sustainability of the Kandahar Farm Service Center.”

Shahrai family and families of 16 employees are very thankful to CNFA-AFSA for helping them to establish a needed and comprehensive farm store in Kandahar Province. Haji Sahrai and the customers of the Kandahar FSC would like to say:

Stasi Chakha Dera Dera Manana “Thank you very, very much”