

## 8.0 SUCCESS STORY FOR QUARTER 1 – FY 2009

*The following story is provided by Helmand FSC's well experienced owner/operator group and local agricultural*

Local agricultural input providers typically focus on profits. Therefore the quality of products and the care from using those products is ignored. This has had negative impacts on the local farmers and ranchers, and likewise their livelihood and the economy. Ten Helmand Association members took action to resolve the problem by supporting the establishment of a farm service center which would earn the trust of the farmers, and other local community members. To achieve this, the group attended an investor meeting in Kabul, which was organized by CNFA's Afghanistan Farm Service Alliance (AFSA), and supported their efforts by becoming directly involved.



Helmand FSC advising the Shepherd

dealers:

on only results resulted

local decided

center nomads



Shepherd Discussing Livestock Success

Following the meeting, the group agreed with the concept which was presented by CNFA, and then worked together with AFSA's project management to establish a Farm Service Center (FSC) in Helmand.

Once the Helmand Farm Service Center was established, the store's owners immediately started to gain the trust of the community - from Village, to District, to Province. And soon the FSC's offerings were reaching neighboring provinces.

Since the establishment of the Helmand FSC, successes have been noted in:

- Offering more competitive prices of

quality products with free technical advice.

- Increasing number of customers.
- Getting licenses and connecting with quality producing companies.
- Gaining the trust of farmers and nomads in the area.
- Treating various wheat diseases in Helmand Province.
- Increasing wheat production in Helmand Province.
- Eliminating pomegranate spoilage diseases. Sixty-eight farmers were able to control diseases which have hampered production for the past ten years.
- Reducing the loss of sheep and goats in the area, due to the introduction of high quality livestock medicines and vaccines.

Mr. Haji Amir Hussain Chupan, a local shepherd of Helmand Province, thanked the FSC with these words (paraphrased):

"I have 8 sons, and dozens of nephews. There are so many that I don't remember all their names. I have almost 1,500 animals, mostly sheep and some goats. My sheep recently got a skin disease called Mangoran (skin parasites). For a long time I tried my best to find a place where I can treat my sheep. Mostly I was told to use many different medicines, but none of them helped. I was almost to

the point where I wanted to start selling my sheep, of course at a great loss due to their condition with the skin disease. My family was sad. One of my nephews returned from Lashkargah Bazaar and told me that there is a center called Helmand Farm Service Center which was newly established, and I should discuss my problem with them. I went to Lashkargah, and experienced a place which treated me in a very good way. I was amazed when they told me use an injection under the skin of each sheep and Insha'Allah, it will help.

I didn't want to buy over 1,000 injections and it not help, so I started by buying 10 injections as a test. I found in one week that it greatly helped the problem, so I went again to get treatment for more sheep.

My family and I are thankful to the farm store for their great service, and for saving my sheep.”