



Afghanistan Western-region Companies Produce Certified Seeds

Due to unawareness to use certified seeds, every year tons of wheat and other harvests of afghan farmers are decayed. Lack of awareness on the benefits, usage and limited access to certified seeds and improved varieties, and lack of awareness of seed saving methodology are other challenges that afghan farmers are facing.

The European Union (EU) is closely working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) of Afghanistan to support afghan farmers and enhance awareness to use certified seeds. The EU-MAIL Transition Project is closely working with the Seed and Planting Materials Certification Directorate (SPCD) of MAIL to build the capacities of seed certification companies in order to produce good quality of certified seeds.

During every harvest session, with the support of EU-MAIL Transition Project the SPCD staff conducts three field visits to verify good production of certified seeds. In first field visit, they perceive either company received seed from field. During second field visit, the SPCD staff observes technical problems and also collects seed samples from each farm to examine in SPCD laboratory and verify their conditions. In their final field visit, the company's request the SPCD staff to certify the seeds that they produced.

The Khawaja Mohammad Mosafer Private Seed and Agricultural Services Company (KMSASC) is one of certified seed producer in Herat province that produces tones of certified seed each year. The SPCD Herat is regularly visiting KMSASC to observe activities and certify their seeds. During their visits, the SPCD staff also provide them with necessary technical advises for better production of seeds. Once seeds are certified by SPCD, company distributes them in market. "We are closely observing and monitoring all seed companies in Herat and other western region provinces in order to produce quality seeds for farming. Therefore, farmer's crops are increasing every year in the western region." Mr. Enayatullah, the SPCD Regional Manager said. Due to increase in the usage of certified seed, crops of local farmers are increased compare to previous years and their revenues are also enhanced.



certification.

Photo Credit: EU-MAIL Transition Project



KMSASC Company where certified seeds are produced.

Photo Credit: EU-MAIL Transition Project

"We are processing around 10 tons wheat seeds on daily basis which fulfil the requirements of western provinces. However, we have enough potential to produce more certified seeds and sell them to other provinces of Afghanistan. During the seed certification, should we face with any technical problem we contact the SPCD staff to assist us. They provide us with excellent technical advises which solves our problems."

Mr. Haji Ahmad Farid, CEO of KMSASC Company