



Updates from NEI

Eradicating malnutrition in Afghanistan.

Dear Friends,

We wish you and all your loved ones a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

During the Regional Agronomists Meeting in December 2012, agronomists from our North, West, and Central soybean cultivation regions reported that despite funding restrictions during the 2012 planting season, 63% of our soybean farmers had a harvest yield that either matches or exceeds the international average yield. This major accomplishment sets high hopes for the future and increases the livelihoods of thousands of Afghans as they generate the capacity to compete on the global market. This is great news for the self-sustainability of our program as we work towards producing enough soybeans that will provide enough protein to defeat malnutrition in the country.

In the last quarter of 2012, eight threshing machines were purchased from Korea and shipped to Afghanistan. These will be used by Soybean Farmers Associations (SFA) in Nangarhar, Kunduz, Parwan and Kapisa.

NEI celebrated the end of a successful 2012 with the opening of the “Soy Nutrition Center” in Kabul. The Soy Nutrition Center is comprised of a selling center where the public can buy various soy products and a training center which will provide free workshops on the health benefits of soy and how to use it in the home. The Soy Nutrition Center is running a pilot program and a Grand Opening will be held during Dr. Kwon’s next trip.

The Soy Nutrition Center is the culmination of NEI’s efforts in Afghanistan for the past 10 years during which NEI established the following facts: 1) Soy grows well in Afghanistan, 2) Soy is culturally acceptable to the Afghan palate, and 3) Consuming soy helps reduce malnutrition.

Our next 10 years in Afghanistan starts with the scale up of seed multiplication, soybean production and market development to make the soybean industry completely self-sustainable.

NEI attended a Food Security & Nutrition Conference in Washington, DC in early November and connected with many organizations, including USAID, World Vision, and Mercy Corps. Food security and nutrition are moving to the forefront of humanitarian aid and NEI’s programs are, in many ways, ahead of the game. NEI was recognized by USAID as an exemplary self-sustainable model that promotes resilience and food security.

Soybean harvests also support our ongoing humanitarian programs. NEI currently has ongoing soy nutrition intervention programs at elementary schools, Kabul School for the Blind, orphanages, and refugee camps, soy nutrition campaign for pregnant women in rural villages in various parts of Afghanistan.

~NEI Staff



Regional agronomists meet in Kabul



A Parwan farmer threshing his soy crop



Inauguration of Soy Nutrition center in Kabul



Christmas at a refugee camp in Afghanistan