



Updates from NEI

Eradicating malnutrition in Afghanistan.

Dear Friends,

It has been a great start to 2012 as NEI has been busy with a number of activities. Here are a few updates on what NEI has recently been involved with.

As the spring planting season draws near, NEI's agriculture teams are preparing to meet, train, and supervise soy farmers. Currently, the agriculture teams have set a goal of identifying and reaching out to select 10,000 farmers in all 34 provinces. The season begins on April 1.

The World Food Program (WFP) of the United Nations signed an agreement, which will support NEI in helping farmers cultivating soybean in 100 districts spread across 20 provinces. The WFP has already begun assisting new farmers since the start of February.

In our ongoing effort to popularize the consumption of soy naan, we have successfully collaborated with 40 Kabul bakeries and have introduced soy naan to approximately 20,000 clients. In this round, we have concentrated our efforts with female-owned home bakeries, and have worked with the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the UN (FAO) to train 25 female bakers in two Kabul districts. These women will produce soy naan for their neighbor clients. This collaboration with the FAO will undoubtedly help bring NEI's soy nutrition message to the general public, especially in rural populations who need to improve their food security and livelihood. It is hoped that by involving female-run bakeries, greater awareness on the health and nutritional benefits of soy will spread among the female gender of the general population.

2012 is turning out to be an expansion year from 2011 in regards to personnel. There have been many more requests for assistance from farmers throughout the country and in order to meet these needs, NEI is proud to introduce Mark Beuhler as our new Chief Operation Officer (COO). Serving as a volunteer leader, Mr. Beuhler will be joining the team in Pasadena and will use his 30 years of management experiences in public and private sector to help build a stronger soy program and all related infrastructure.

Without a doubt, there is much work to be done. Despite the recent security issues that have arisen, NEI's work is strong and going well. Again, we are extremely thankful for everyone's faithful decision to partner with us. We invite you to join us once more: whether in time, financial resources, or talent, please consider continuing your support. With one mind and heart, let us stand behind the simple idea that we can help give life back to the people of Afghanistan.

Thank you so much. Let us work together for a brighter Afghan future.

From NEI Headquarters



Agricultural Team Kick-off 2012



Women's Bakeries Soy Naan Training



Women's Soy Naan Training



Mark Beuhler, COO