



Updates from NEI

eradicating malnutrition in afghanistan.

A Word from the President

I just returned from my trip to Afghanistan where several weeks were spent monitoring soybean production by Afghan farmers. Except for the areas affected by flood, soybeans are growing well in all provinces. Thankfully, no apparent plant diseases were detected. We are already very excited about the possibility of a bountiful harvest this upcoming October. In addition to the successful production efforts of the farmers, soybean seed growers are also witnessing much success in growing soybean seeds, making it possible to end a reliance on the importation of soybean seeds from the USA as soon as next year.

Besides monitoring, our activities during this July/August period were focused on finding ways to assist Afghan entrepreneurs build soy flour factories. A couple of entrepreneurs stepped up and are now in the process of ordering the necessary equipment to build the factories. NEI will continue to partner with these entrepreneurs by providing the technical support these businessmen need to succeed.

The output of this soy flour production is already greatly anticipated and in high demand by the Kabul Baker's Union. As soon as this flour is available the Union leadership (representing 1,200 naan bakeries) wants to bake soy naan (made from a 10% soy flour, 90% wheat flour blend) for their Kabul based clients. In this way the bakers are directly contributing to the fight against malnutrition by providing highly absorbable proteins for the wellbeing of their customers.

Because of heavy flooding many farmers lost all their crops. Not only did they lose their soy crops, but their corn and rice crops as well. In order to meet the needs of these farmers and help mitigate some of their losses, NEI re-supplied them with soybean seeds so they can once again grow soybeans as fodder crops. Soybeans can be dried and used to feed livestock, thereby increasing overall livestock health. Additionally, soybean production for direct consumption by Afghan farmers and their families is expanding. Farmers have begun utilizing the soybeans to produce milk to nutritionally empower women and children and provide another protein source to significantly reduce malnutrition.

Finally, we remain solidly committed to continuing the work of the soymilk distribution program that provides direct and immediate nutritional support for children in refugee camps, schools, and the most devastatingly impoverished villages daily.

Thank you for continuing to partner with us!

Sincerely,

Steven Kwon



Successful soybean farming in Panjshir Province, which is known for its high altitude and lack of water



Parwan Improved Seed Company



Kabul Baker's Union leaders who are promoting the health benefits of soy naan to Kabul residents



Resupplying of soybean seeds to flood-victimized soybean farmers



Kabul refugee camp children who are receiving soy milk daily.