



## AGRICULTURE

ABOUT 85% OF THE POPULATION OF LOGAR SUBSISTS ON FARMING BUT LOCAL FARMERS FACE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, INCLUDING A SHORTAGE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, LACK OF QUALITY SEED STOCK, LIMITED WATER SUPPLIES, ALTERNATING PERIODS OF DROUGHT AND FLOOD, AND FEW CHANCES FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

Long years of war also hurt private enterprise. The Czech PRT supports farming as one of its main priorities, and its main focus is on growing produce and educating the farmers.

Boosting agricultural production mostly involves aiding farmers in areas with a history of a specific customer demand. In Logar it used to be dried fruit, growing wheat or producing milk and honey that were traditionally successful.

Restoration of the system for milk collection is the biggest farming project for the Czech team. At first the Czech PRT donated to farmers high quality stainless steel containers, which are used daily for transporting milk to collection centers owned by the farming cooperatives. These centers are gradually being refurbished and equipped with cooling facilities. The goal of the project is to increase the quality of the final product and

consequently to achieve higher profits for the farmers.

The members of these milk collection cooperatives have participated in intensive practical training for dairy cattle farmers.

Additionally, five storage cellars for fruit and vegetables have been built throughout Logar to help the farmers store their produce for a longer period and earn better proceeds. The PRT also donated effective solar dryers for the production of high-value dried fruits.

*“My husband is old and sick, and cannot work any more. We have no children and the only money we earn, come from milk. We have two cows and they provide us a living, each day we sell 15 liters of milk in the collection center. Thanks to that we are able to maintain our little home,”*  
Marzia Said Kamal from Logar.

Czech Republic making a difference in  
**Afghanistan**



Regular distribution of resistant seed types and supplying the farmers with the means of protecting plants can also contribute to a higher quality output. The Czech PRT always cooperates on their projects with both the provincial Ministry of Agriculture and the local farming cooperatives, which represent a revival of private entrepreneurship.

Czech PRT has built a Provincial Veterinary Laboratory, which is now able to diagnose the cause of death of animals and intercept spreading of infectious diseases among goats, sheep and cattle.

Czechs have also focused on the silk-worm breeding in Logar. PRT has constructed and equipped silk-worm breeding farm in Powrak village and trained 100 farmers. More projects are planned to support sericulture in Logar.

In Azra district, 240 farmers were given 14.400 fruit trees and explained how to establish fruit orchards.

In the area of education, the PRT intensely attends to the organization of courses on various themes. More than 600 farmers from the whole province completed courses on topics such as marketing, bee keeping or the use of solar dryers. A specialized library of the provincial Ministry of Agriculture or a provincial veterinary laboratory can also aid better education of farmers. In 2009 the Reconstruction Team began with the construction of a new agricultural and technical high school, which will be the only institution of its kind in the province.

***- The PRT donated high quality stainless steel milk containers to 1,500 Logar farmers.***

***- Newly refurbished milk collection centers will be used by more than 1,000 farmers.***

***- More than 1500 people completed training courses organized by the Czech PRT.***