

KEEPING ESSENTIAL AG BUSINESSES OPEN IN THE AGE OF COVID-19: TRAINING APPROACHES FROM AFGHANISTAN

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

JANUARY 27, 2021

PRESENTERS

Joseph Lessard, USAID/Afghanistan

Abdul Nasir, USAID's Regional Agricultural Development Program –East (RADP-East)

Nasratullah Hashimi, Dairy Outlet Owner

Don Humpal, DAI

Christina Aguila, DAI

MODERATOR

Zachary Baquet, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security

Adam Ahmed: Greetings Everyone, the webinar will start in about 22 minutes.

Don Humpal: Good morning from stormy Sacramento.

Christina Aguila: Good morning, greetings from DC

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Welcome Don and Christina, glad to have you with us!

Mojibullah Sharifi: Greetings from Herat, Afghanistan

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Hi Mojibullah, glad you are with us today

Patrice Thomas: Patrice Thomas, joining from Cap-Haitien, Haiti

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Greetings All! Zachary Baquet with USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security and am joining from DC

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Welcome Patrice! Thank you for joining us today

Patrice Thomas: Happy to be here. Thank you everyone!

Maliz Khan Abbasi: Good Morning, Greetings from Kabul, Afghanistan

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Greetings Maliz! Thank you for joining today.

Iqbal Muhammad: Iqbal from CAAI project, USAID funded in Kabul Afghanistan

Iqbal Muhammad: I hope everyone is fine

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Hi Iqbal, thank you for joining us today.

Jillann W Richardson-Rohrscheib: Good Morning from snowy Vail, Colorado! I hope that everyone is healthy and happy! Thank you for putting together this webinar.

Dick Tinsley 2: Dick Tinsley, from frigid Colorado

Grant Norris: Good evening from Kabul. Looking forward to the webinar!

Iqbal Muhammad: How are you Grant Norris

Don Humpal: Welcome Grant!

Dick Tinsley 2: I think i am logged in twice

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Hi Dick, you are. I can remove the profile that you are not typing from

Agnieszka Grocholska: Good everyone. Look forward to hearing from you.

Noor Seddiq: Hello and Hope you are all well - Noor Seddiq from Virginia Tech -

Loretta Byrnes: Loretta Byrnes from snowy Germany.

Dick Tinsley 2: thank you

Trent Blare: Trent Blare University of Florida

Dr. Md. Salim Ullah Khan Eusufzai 4: Greetings to all

Sarah Pedersen: Greetings from snowy upstate NY, Sarah Pedersen from USAID/RFS, hello to all in Afghanistan!

Abie Spangler: Hello everyone! Greetings from Washington, DC.

Agnieszka Grocholska: Hello Hokies from Oklahoma

Megan Roosevelt: Hi from Montana!

Jasmin Jilma: Hi from Austria!

brian kiger: Good morning, from North Carolina. Looking forward to learning.

Austen Moore: Austen Moore from CRS in Baltimore. Hi everyone!

Jean Markendy CHARLES: Hi everyone

Pernilla Fajersson: Good morning from Mexico!

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Olimjon Bobokalonov: Greetings from Tajikistan!

Charbel Hanna: greetings from USAID/Lebanon

Diana Tixi: Greetings from UK!

Douglas Kerr: Hello from Washington DC

Nazim Ali: Nazim Ali, from USAID-Pakistan

Marzia Rahmaniya: hello

Sayed Mostafa Mododi : Hello to everyone,

Mary Leuci: Hello from Missouri in the USA

Abdul Raufi: Greetings from CAAI- Balkh to alla

yieb sambann: Greeting from Cambodia

Sayed Mostafa Mododi : From Afghanistan agricultural faculty

Annette Donnelly: Good morning fromchilly Illinois, Soybean Innovation Lab at the University of Illinois

Hamidullah Omarkhil:

Ramin Arsali: Hello from Afghanistan

Sayed Yaser Sadat: and agriculture Faculty of herat university sayed yaser Sadat from Afghanistan

Pranata Barua: Hello from Ottawa, Canada

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Hi Everyone, so glad to have you all with us today!

Abdul Basir: Greeting from CAAI Nangarhar Afghanistan

Rebecca Savoie: Hello from Missouri

Tarik Elhummade: Greeting from Turkey

MOHAMMAD HASIB: Hi everyone this is Mohammad Hasib Najib Provincial technical speclist
Working with CAAI/USAID Afghanistan

Marzia Rahmaniyyar: from Afghnistan Herat university

Lakshmi Prasanna: slides are not moving

Evans Lartey: Hello! This is Evans joining webinar from Kabul

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Lakshmi, they are not moving yet, but they will once Joseph gives his
opening remarks

Oluwatosin Kennedy: Hi everyone, Regards from Nigeria

Charles Fasina: Hi everyone, greetings from Nigeria.

Noor Seddiq: CAAI - Catalyzing Afghan Agricultural Innovation is a USAID funded and Virginia Tech implemented project in five provinces in Afghanistan in the Ag Education -working with TVET, universities and private sector.

Dick Tinsley 2: In promoting agro-business to what extend are you promoting individual enterpriese vs cooperative group enterprises?

Belaluddin Jami: Hello everyone.

Okanlade Lawal-Adebowale: Hi

MOHAMMAD HASIB: great introduction Noor Sahib

Mona Salehyar: helo every one

Belaluddin Jami: Hello everyone This is Belaluddin Jami from Herat Afghanistan.

Noor Seddiq: Greetings Mr. Hasib

Dr. Md. Salim Ullah Khan Eusufzai 2: Echo

Patrice Thomas: Thank you for the question Dick

Iqbal Muhammad: How much is the contribution of RADP-East to overall dairy improvement in Eastern province, particularly Nangarhar?

Okanlade Lawal-Adebowale: Greetings to the organisers and the participants. By Okanlade from the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria

Maliz Khan Abbasi: Greetings Noor Sahib

Dr. Md. Salim Ullah Khan Eusufzai 2: Much echo. I cannot hear clearly.

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Dr. Md. Salim, it looks like you are logged in twice, which is why you are having an echo, please log out of one of those profiles

Judith Payne: How do you deliver the videos -- downloaded to individuals?

Noor Seddiq: Greetings Abbasi Saheb

Judith Payne: Viewed in groups? Perhaps Don will cover...

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Hi Judith, thanks for your questions. We will certainly cover it during the Q&A portion of the webinar if not answered by the presentation.

MOHAMMAD HASIB: Many thanks Noor Sahib good morning

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: As an FYI, all of your questions submitted through the chat pod will be asked verbally to the presenters during the Q&A portion of the webinar.

Agnieszka Grocholska: Farmers to Farmers Volunteer Program will be a great benefit to help shape the AG landscape.

Mona Salehyar: who os from agf

Mona Salehyar: who is from afg

Aroma Patrick: Good evening. I am Aroma Patrick from Camkwoki Grassroot Initaitive For Development Limited- LIRA CITY-Northern Uganda

MOHAMMAD HASIB: I am Mohammad Hasib y from Afghanistan

Mohammad Hamed Khusrawy : hello to all, yes Mona jan any question?

Iqbal Muhammad: HI evans, How are you?

Aroma Patrick: Aroma Patrick,camkwoki@gmail.com,+256782658458

Marzia Rahmaniyar: How can we start a successful and lucrative agricultural business?

MOHAMMAD HASIB: thanks Iqbal Sahib good evening

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): We will start the Q&A session after Ms. Aguila finishes. Please enter your questions in the chatbox

Mary Leuci: Will the slides be available from the presentations? Great applicability to other parts of the world, e.g. Africa.

Loretta Byrnes: Did you find that the businesses were already using good sanitation practices-- regardless of Covid? For example, did the poultry business already have practices to prevent exposure to Avian Influenza or salmonella?

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Hi Mary, yes they will. I will share them again at the end of the webinar, and they will be available on the Agrilinks event page.

Judith Payne: Did you have to start from scratch on developing the videos or were you able to find others' videos to adapt? Have you saved/shared these openly so others can use them? (e.g., somewhat like Digital Green facilitates access to its farmer advisory videos via an interface built on top of Youtube where people can search by topic and language and rate the videos.

Noor Seddiq: I believe Afghanistan is not a Feed the Future (FTF) country. Can it be added to the FTF? Thank you

Mona Salehyar: tnx mr hasib. can you describe that what she is speaking about

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Please let us know if your questions are directed to a particular presenter(s)

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: The webinar deck is available for download on the Agrilinks Event Page <https://www.agrilinks.org/events/keeping-essential-ag-businesses-open-age-covid-19-training-approaches-afghanistan>

Judith Payne: were trainings able to chat among themselves (e.g., via parallel WhatsApp group) to share info, ask questions on how well measures worked? We know that group discussion while watching videos can increase effectiveness.

Agnieszka Grocholska: I like the presentation of the Identification of high-risk points. How this was addressed in the field?

Mary Leuci: What are you doing to update guidance as new research surfaces about effectiveness of certain measures vs. others, e.g., importance of ventilation even more so than plastic barriers?

MOHAMMAD HASIB: thanks Mona they are present

Mary Leuci: Great to see the increase in business sales for firms who had implemented measures. Same has happened in my community in the US

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Greetings All! Please feel free to share links but refrain from doing a paste of large pieces of content into the chatbox.

Julian Peach: Q please: what was the wider effect in the sector? How many businesses copied the mitigating measures that were recommended?

Mona Salehyar: i.cant hear clairly 🙄🙄🙄

Marzia Rahmaniya: me too

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Hi Mona, currently Mr. Hashimi is speaking in his local language and Abdul Nasir is translating in English

Agnieszka Grocholska: Fantastic very well-educated presentations from Lebanon sources.

Brian Hernandez: Hi Mona & Mariza, are you able to hear clearly now?

Maliz Khan Abbasi: Great presentation!

Noor Seddiq: Many thnaks for the wonderful presentation

Agnieszka Grocholska: Yes, very Transparentnt.

Megan Roosevelt: I think the Rapid Reponse Grants were mentioned in connection with the initial lockdown period -- were they to be used to subsidize/replace lost income while businesses were completely shut down, or to fund adaptations to their business model?

Mona Salehyar: yes i can clearly now

Mona Salehyar: i can hear clearly

Sayed Hamidullah Husainy: thanks dear

Agnieszka Grocholska: When you are expected to start the vaccinations process for COVID 19?

Mona Salehyar: thankyou for your great peresentations

Maliz Khan Abbasi: The rapid Grants are very helpful to keep essential food business open in the age of COVID

Abdul Raufi: Appreciate the time you took it was nice presentation

Jillann W Richardson-Rohrscheib: My apologies if I missed this - what training was provided to the farmers on mitigation and what quality control measures were put into place by the GoA/businesses to ensure that the entire supply chain remained "Covid-safe"?

Sayed Hamidullah Husainy: please send me this slide

Sayed Yaser Sadat: how we can boom saffron business thanks

Iqbal Muhammad: When there is first lockdown in Afghanistan, I experienced the unavailability of live chicken in Afghan market, it indicates that if such seriousness was continue, it would

have been a disaster for ordinary Afghans to feed their families with white meat. It is a wonderful program of training for coping with COVID-19 in agribusinesses.

Aroma Patrick: Great presentation. Thanks@Aroma PATRICK -Lira City-Northern Uganda

Woody Navin: If you haven't already, please comment on how sustainable the trainings are, particularly given the history of unsustainable past efforts from the donor community over the past 15+ years?

Judith Payne: Thanks.

Judith Payne: The video modules were 10-15 minutes, correct?

Megan Roosevelt: Thank you!

Dick Tinsley 2: Thank you for an interesting webinar

Abdul Basir: What was the percentage of firms/grantees contribution in RADP-E grants during COVID 19?

Abdul Basir: COVI 19 Lokdown

Julian Peach: Q please: was any cost-benefit analysis done of this work.

Julian Peach: Overall, what was the gain in \$ vs the cost by program?

Judith Payne: Thank you to all presenters for "meaty" webinar!

Okanlade Lawal-Adebowale: can we facilitate research linkage on civil 19 mitigation in Africa

Okanlade Lawal-Adebowale: covid-19

Okanlade Lawal-Adebowale: will it be possible to have access to the PowerPoint presentations?

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Hi Okanlade, you can download the slides from the Agrilinks event page <https://www.agrilinks.org/events/keeping-essential-ag-businesses-open-age-covid-19-training-approaches-afghanistan>

MOHAMMAD HASIB: How can RAAP Support poor and vulnerable farmer's as well as small business owner

Julian Peach: excellent moderation, thanks.

Pernilla Fajersson: Congratulations on your very clear and effective strategy and implementation, which has yielded excellent results with regard to both the business, food safety and health aspects of your project. Impressive! Thank you for a very interesting webinar.

Woody Navin: Adam, Thank you for your response and highlighting the need for cost-sharing and having the trainings geared to making more money for the participants.

Maliz Khan Abbasi: Did you get to all business in the areas you are intervening or only you assisted the targeted business?

MOHAMMAD HASIB: sorry RADAP E

Judith Payne: You mentioned up-front that you established or used an e-commerce platform. A few words on this?

Maliz Khan Abbasi: yes

Woody Navin: Same to you, Judy!

Noor Seddiq: Can you please let us know what was the grants making mechanism? In-Kind or Fixed Amount Award or any other . Thank you.

Maliz Khan Abbasi: Thanks

Mary Leuci: Thank you for a great, rich in content, and thought-provoking webinar with lots of lessons for application elsewhere.

Noor Seddiq: Thank you

Kazal Kumar Basak: The training approach & idea was time demanding

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Thanks to all of you, our audience, as you are the ones that really make these webinars great.

Agnieszka Grocholska: Did you provide basic Personal Protective Equipment for people and facilities you are working with?

Iqbal Muhammad: What is the mechanism of accountability of grants from the anchor firm perspective?

MOHAMMAD HASIB: Many thanks Nasiri Sahib for the fruitful answers

Maliz Khan Abbasi: Thanks Joe, Abdul Nasir, Zachary Baguet, Don Humpal and Christina for the great presentation with excellent examples

Abdul Raufi: Is there any data for understanding the complicated role of Input suppliers in Agricultural Extension and advisory Services

Abdul Raufi: ?

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Thank you to everyone for participating in our webinar today. We will have another webinar next Wednesday that we hope you join. You can access the registration here <https://www.agrilinks.org/events/ictforag-unpacking-sustainability-journeys>

Sarah Weatherby: thank you for a great presentation and discussion!

Iqbal Muhammad: Thank you for the answer.

Iqbal Muhammad: Thank you all for the good presentation and answer-question session

Jillann W Richardson-Rohrscheib: Thank you everyone for sharing!

MOHAMMAD HASIB: Thanks for your meaningful presentation and QA discussed

Ramin Arsali: Thanks for your great webinar and your wonderful presentation

Abie Spangler: Thank you for such a great presentation!

BENEDICT POSADAS: Thank you.

Jean Markendy CHARLES: Thank you all!

Agnieszka Grocholska: Thank You

Ramin Arsali: Thanks

Noor Seddiq: Thank you

Sayed Yaser Sadat: Thank you

Mohammad Hamed Khusrawy : thank you

Maliz Khan Abbasi: Once again thank you very much

Diana Tixi: Thank you for the great webinar

Don Humpal: Thank you all for your participation and questions! We learn by all of them!

Abdul Basir: Thank you

Adam Ahmed - Agrilinks: Bye Everyone!

Abdul Basir: Salam Noor saib

Abdul Basir: How are you?