



AREDP Background

AREDP is geared towards “improving employment opportunities and income of the rural men and women and substantially of targeted local enterprises. AREDP aims to achieve these goals by enhancing participation of rural poor in economic activities; supporting them through business development services, access to finance, improving market linkages, product development and value chains.

Program Objective

The Community Enterprise Development (CED) Unit facilitates rural micro enterprise development in the villages within AREDP operational provinces. CED undertakes community enterprise development activities to mobilize rural men and women from eligible families around Savings Groups.

These saving groups encourage micro saving habits and create opportunities to access loans and develop financial prudence. Members of different savings groups in CDCs/villages are encouraged to form enterprise groups. These individuals might be already engaged, or would like to start rural micro enterprises /income generating activities of a similar nature.

Facts and Figures

Taban Enterprise Group was established by joining eight Saffron enterprises of Herat province together. Through their combined efforts they became very successful and make 400,000 AFs annually, giving job opportunity to 120 people.

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Taban Saffron Enterprise Group - a Benchmark of Environmental and Social Safety

Context: Mohammad Naim is a 50 years old man who lives with his eight children in Saranav village of Injil district, Herat province. Naim has never gone through a complete education; only can do basic writing and reading. All his life Naim was involved in agricultural work and it was his source of income. Mainly Naim was involved in growing up Saffron in his two jeribs land.

In 2013, Naim with the support from Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) joined effort with seven other saffron related enterprises in Herat province and established Taban Enterprise Group (EG). Through AREDP support Taban Enterprise Group received training on marketing, Enterprise Development and Environmental and Social Safeguard as well as exposure visits within Afghanistan. Taban Enterprise Group participated in four Agriculture Fair in Balkh and Herat. Taban EG became a very effective enterprise in managing the cultivation and processing of saffron. Further benefiting from AREDP's services the EG was provided promotional banners which helped them in customer attraction and visibility.

Outcome: Ever since the EG became a beneficiary of AREDP, it has immensely improved their saffron quality and increased the production quantity. Taban Enterprise Group has now employed around 120 women who work for the EG during the saffron harvesting and processing periods. The overall improvements of this enterprise has helped enhance the economy and lives of the enterprise members and has also become source of income for more than hundred other Herat residents.

Following many of AREDP's significant supports for the EG, the Safeguard Implementation Unit (SIU) also visited the Enterprise Group to carry out an Environmental and Social Safeguard assessment, during which a number of issues related to environment were detected, which includes lack of proper tools for collection and storage of saffron, inappropriate personnel safety tools, gloves and masks, and the enterprise hiring underage/child labors. Taban Enterprise received constant training on Environmental Safety for the enterprise members and provided them with the basic required tools to establish an environmentally safe surrounding.

Today Taban Enterprise Group besides being a very successful enterprise, it is also referred as environmental friendly enterprise with their professional working procedures, hygienic saffron processing, well equipped staff and high quality products. With a big smile on his face, Mohammad Naim said: “I was just a small-scale enterprise owner, but after AREDP supported me, I have become a nation-wide entrepreneur. From not being able to cover my own family expenses to an annual income of 400,000 AFs is a dream come true, and I have AREDP to thank for making this happen.”

Way Forward: Taban Enterprise believes in constant improvements and reaching highest standards of enterprise development. They will continue collaborating with AREDP and benefiting from the program.