

Joint Development Associates International

September 2012



Dear Friends,

Afghanistan is an agrarian country and relies for its internal strength and self-sufficiency on a thriving and adaptive agricultural industry. But it is impossible to take agricultural development for Afghanistan seriously and not want to invest in its universities and students who will prove the foundation of future development.

Since 2005, JDA has been working with a local university to build practical hands-on labs to complement the agricultural students' training. We have worked with the faculty to create lab space and equip it with local materials, and establish a university farm as well as additional research sites. Thousands of student lab hours along with internships are offered throughout the region with various agricultural organizations and businesses.



Building a core curriculum at the university is a key strategy for long-term success. The campus is a place where young people, the next generation of Afghan leaders, train and open to new and more effective methods around agriculture. These young adults often return to their homes and villages and gain influence in places NGO's cannot go to because they are too remote or unsafe. It is critical for students to see a promising future for their work and to be equipped to take on leadership roles in their country's development.

One of the students has implemented composting in her yard at home and explained to her parents the diseases affecting their tomato plants. She has continued her studies and her internship in opposition to pressure from her family to leave school and find work.

"I had never built a greenhouse. Our instructor gave us the plans. We went to the bazaar and bought wood and materials. I really wasn't sure we could do this, but we started and tried. And we built this greenhouse by ourselves!"
K. (male student) *



Discover Afghan Students

"I came to JDA one year ago. When I came I didn't know much about seeds, harvesting, or composting. I've learned how to plant strawberries and operate laboratory equipment. I now teach one of the lab subjects to other students. This program is the best chance for me and all of the students to learn by practicing."
H. (female, 3 -year Plant Science student) *

* We are omitting the names of the students for security reasons.

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together with you.**

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