



Opportunities in AFGHANISTAN

The Secretary of Agriculture is seeking applications from qualified U.S. citizens for detail assignments in **Afghanistan** as **Agricultural Experts** on civilian and/or military units.

In Afghanistan the U.S. Government (USG) works to foster security, stability and development under situations of conflict or post-conflict, through the use of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), military/civilian-led units typically composed of about 50 or more military and civilian personnel. In addition to PRT assignments, Experts are also assigned to National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams (ADT) and Department of Defense (DOD) military organizational units (Task Force, Brigade or Regional Commands). USDA Agricultural Experts support reconstruction projects and programs in a province or region, depending on assignment, to enable the national government to accomplish their reconstruction goals. The Experts work with other USG partners and the host government to undertake meaningful reconstruction projects. **Work will be conducted in hazardous environments and under difficult living conditions.**

Deployments begin in summer 2009 and are 12-months in duration. Assignments are contingent upon obtaining and maintaining medical (Class 1 worldwide, unrestricted) and security (Secret) clearances. These positions are subject to special pay allowances and differentials which are equal to 75 percent on top of base salary and locality pay plus applicable premium (overtime) pay. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) provides overall coordination for the Department's efforts in Afghanistan. For current USDA employees, FAS covers the actual costs associated with the 12-month detail once the employee has obtained the necessary clearances and has completed all mandatory trainings.

TO APPLY: Applications must be submitted to USAJOBS the official job site of the federal government. Please go to <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/agency.aspx>, select Foreign Agricultural Service.

Duties

- Coordinate and implement projects and programs linked to the U. S. Agricultural Assistance Strategy.
- Assess agricultural needs and advise the PRT, ADT, Regional Command, Task Force and Ministry leadership on projects to support agricultural reconstruction;
- Provide agricultural project development and technical expertise and serve as the key agricultural team leader to the ADT Leader, PRT Leader, Regional Commands, Task Forces, USAID field project officer, and the U.S. State Department representative as well as officials of the Afghan Government, and representatives of humanitarian aid organizations and UN agencies;
- Build capacity of Afghan agricultural officials to develop and implement agricultural extension and development activities; and
- Work as a key team member of the PRT, working closely with the PRT Leader, civilian representatives from USAID and the U.S. State Department; and other aid organizations and agencies.

Skill Areas

- Agricultural extension
- Livestock health and animal production (e.g. sheep, goats, cattle, or poultry)
- Dry land agriculture, especially improvement of wheat yields and crop diversification
- Production and processing of horticultural crops, especially dried fruit and nuts, fresh melons, pomegranates, and grapes
- Irrigation and farm water use efficiency and storage
- Tree production, reforestation, re-vegetation
- Agribusiness and marketing
- Engineering for a variety of agricultural needs
- Strategic planning for the agricultural sector

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs)

- Expertise in one or more of the skill areas listed (**see left**)
- Experience working in developing countries and in multicultural settings, e.g., living and working under difficult conditions in a developing country
- Ability to work on a team and train others (build their technical capacity)
- Ability to develop projects with a basic understanding of military planning and operational processes and structures
- Ability to prioritize and define agricultural priorities, weigh various approaches to achieve objectives, and motivate changes in approach or funding as warranted
- Good research, analytical, writing, and oral communication skills, and a high degree of personal initiative to enable the incumbent to effectively seek, advocate and gain acceptance of agricultural technical ideas
- Familiarity with MS Office (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint) programs

For Afghanistan: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/country/Afghanistan/us-afghanistan.asp>