



**Afghanistan Development: Poverty and Major Crop Production (GAO-10-756SP), an E-supplement to GAO-10-368**

Read the Full Report: Afghanistan Development: Enhancements to Performance Management and Evaluation Efforts Could Improve USAID’s Agricultural Programs ([GAO-10-368](#))

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## **Background Information**

This e-supplement provides additional information on regional and provincial poverty and major crops produced in Afghanistan.

### **Background Information on Poverty**

As reported in GAO-10-368, between 2007 and 2008, Afghanistan had a national poverty rate of 36 percent. Approximately 9 million Afghans are living at or below the poverty rate—the level of per capita consumption at which the members of the household can be expected to meet their basic needs, such as food and housing.<sup>1</sup> As shown in figure 1, during 2007/2008, the poverty rate in Afghanistan ranged from a low of 23 percent in the Southwest region to a high of 45 percent in the East and West-central regions. For the 34 provinces only poverty rate ranges were available. The interactive map also provides information on selected indicators by provinces, which include access to land, safe drinking water, and electricity. (See figure 1.)

### **Background Information on Major Crops**

As reported in GAO-10-368, between 2007 and 2008 in Afghanistan, wheat was the most frequently cited primary crop produced during the summer planting season, followed by opium and potatoes on irrigated land and cotton and barley on rain-fed land,<sup>2</sup> corn, sorghum,<sup>3</sup> and rice were grown on irrigated land during the winter planting season. Some households also grew fruit and nut trees and grapes. Figure 2 shows the number of households that cultivated crops on irrigated land during the summer and winter months during 2007 and 2008. (See figure 2.)

A more detailed discussion of our scope and methodology is contained in our report [[GAO-10-368](#) ]

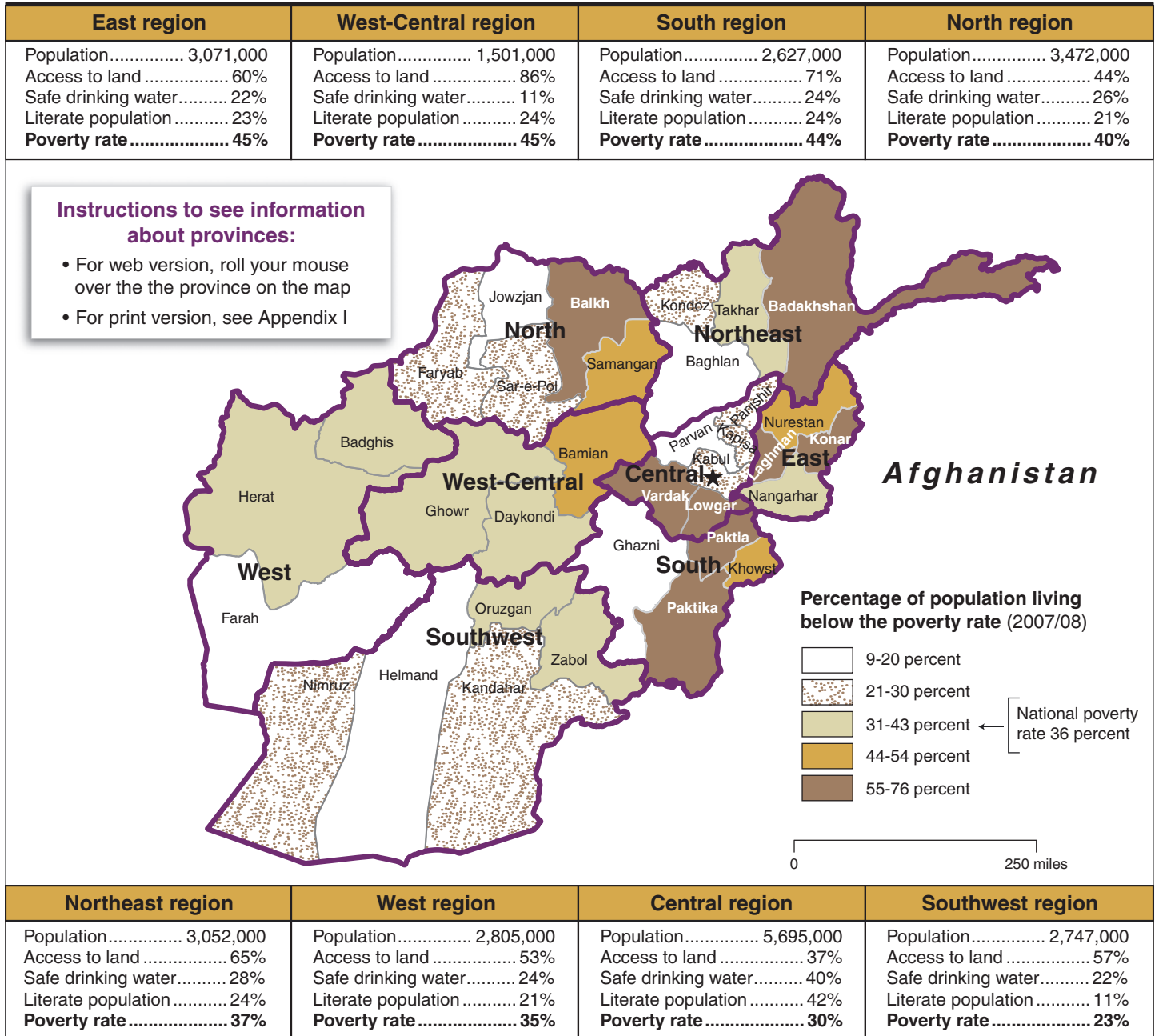
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<sup>1</sup>In monetary value, the poverty level in Afghanistan is less than \$1 per day.

<sup>2</sup>Detailed crop data was available for crops produced on irrigated land, but not for crops produced on rain-fed land.

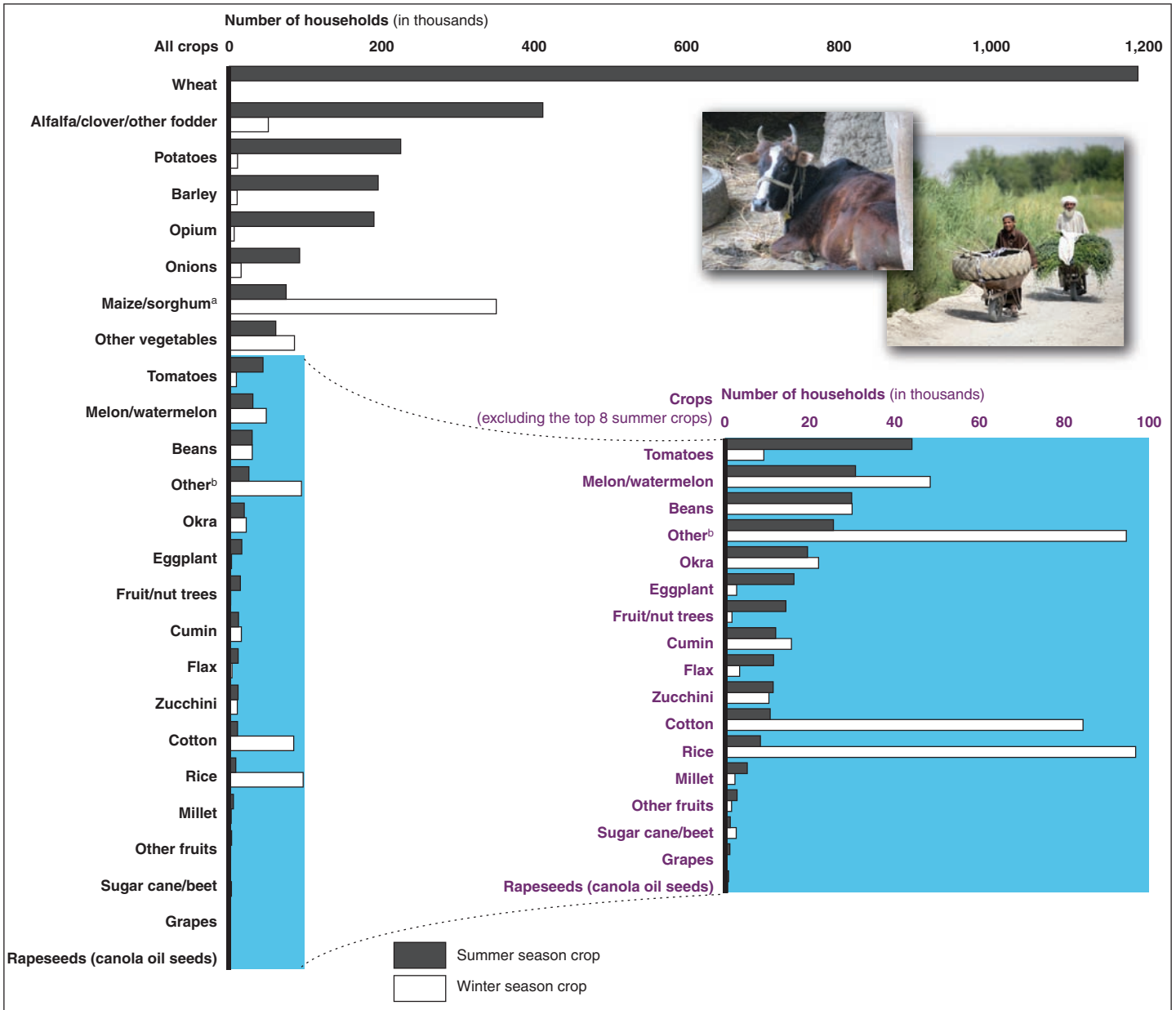
<sup>3</sup>Sorghum is a cereal grain used around the world in porridge, bread, couscous, and animal feed.

**Figure 1: Poverty Rates and Selected Indicators by Region, 2007/2008**



Sources: GAO analysis of Government of Afghanistan data; Map Resources (map).

**Figure 2: The Number of Households that Cultivate Crops on Irrigated Land in the Summer and Winter Planting Seasons, during 2007/2008**



Source: GAO analysis of Government of Afghanistan data.

## Appendix I: Selected indicators for Afghanistan Provinces and Regions, 2007/2008

The table below shows selected indicators for Afghanistan provinces and regions, including the population in thousands and percentages for each province that reported having access to land, safe drinking water, electricity, health facilities, literate population over the age of 15, households with livestock, and urban population.

**Table 1: Selected Indicators for Afghanistan Provinces and Regions, 2007/2008**

Province/Region	Population in thousands	Access to land <sup>a</sup>	Access to safe drinking water <sup>b</sup>	Literate population 15 years and over <sup>c</sup>	Urban as percentage of total province population	Access to electricity <sup>d</sup>	Access to health facilities (1 hour or less by foot) <sup>e</sup>	Percentage of households with livestock <sup>f</sup>	Regional poverty rate and provincial poverty rate range <sup>g</sup>
<b>Central</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>30%</b>
Kabul	3,528	16	56	48	81	85	96	21	21-30
Kapisa	401	77	18	33	0	40	88	84	21-30
Lowgar	410	58	15	31	0	33	64	71	55-76
Panjshir	144	78	11	28	0	49	80	91	21-30
Parvan	630	77	19	28	0	39	76	71	9-20
Vardak	582	71	9	33	0	50	71	84	55-76
<b>East</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Konar	978	60	15	21	22	34	81	85	55-76
Laghman	441	59	32	26	0	40	67	79	55-76
Nangarhar	1,520	57	24	24	12	34	65	79	31-43
Nurestan	132	93	10	16	0	56	34	95	44-54
<b>North</b>	<b>3,472</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>40%</b>
Balkh	1,182	48	29	28	34	57	82	65	55-76
Faryab	954	50	25	19	11	36	49	73	21-30
Jowzjan	477	21	43	18	21	46	92	30	9-20
Samangan	345	70	14	24	0	32	55	85	44-54
Sar-e-Pol	515	31	12	10	0	56	54	31	21-30
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>3,052</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>37%</b>
Badakhshan	885	75	20	29	0	37	70	85	55-76
Baghlan	820	72	24	25	19	37	53	87	9-20
Konoz	417	65	53	20	0	39	50	92	21-30
Takhar	930	51	26	18	12	19	81	84	31-43
<b>South</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>44%</b>
Ghazni	1,092	78	17	33	0	73	72	77	9-20
Khowst	546	68	36	16	0	29	83	93	44-54
Paktia	550	56	18	12	0	13	77	84	55-76

Province/Region	Population in thousands	Access to land <sup>a</sup>	Access to safe drinking water <sup>b</sup>	Literate population 15 years and over <sup>c</sup>	Urban as percentage of total province population	Access to electricity <sup>d</sup>	Access to health facilities (1 hour or less by foot) <sup>e</sup>	Percentage of households with livestock <sup>f</sup>	Regional poverty rate and provincial poverty rate range <sup>g</sup>
Paktika	439	81	35	27	0	6	60	98	55-76
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Helmand	860	81	5	12	5	12	81	88	9-20
Kandahar	1,070	29	37	8	33	29	39	38	21-30
Nimruz	155	42	12	18	0	30	71	70	21-30
Oruzgan	342	90	18	10	0	0	24	100	31-43
Zabol	320	75	30	18	0	7	26	97	31-43
<b>West</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>35%</b>
Badghis	522	74	17	10	0	4	36	95	31-43
Farah	488	72	16	16	0	17	60	90	9-20
Herat	1,795	42	28	26	25	42	85	55	31-43
<b>West-Central</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Bamian	411	87	13	22	0	41	44	86	44-54
Daykondi	410	91	15	20	0	45	17	91	31-43
Ghowr	680	82	8	26	0	31	14	96	31-43
<b>National</b>	<b>24,970</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>36%</b>

Source: GAO analysis of Government of Afghanistan data.

Notes:

<sup>a</sup>Percentage of farmers who own and cultivate land, own land only, and cultivate land only are considered to have access to land.

<sup>b</sup>Access to safe drinking water is measured by the percentage of population using improved water sources. Improved water sources include: household connection to municipal supply, public standpipe, borehole, protected dug well, protected spring, and rainwater collection (U.N. Millennium Development Goal indicators).

<sup>c</sup>Percentage of the population over the age of 15 with the ability to read and write and to use written words in everyday life.

<sup>d</sup>Proportion of the population with access to any source of electricity.

<sup>e</sup>Access to health facility is measured by the percentage of population that is able to reach a public health facility by foot within one hour.

<sup>f</sup>Livestock includes cattle, oxen, horses, donkeys, camels, goats, sheep, and poultry.

<sup>g</sup>The poverty line represents the level of per capita consumption at which the members of the household can be expected to meet their basic needs, such as food consumption and housing. In monetary value, the poverty line is less than \$1 per day.

## Appendix II: Number of Households Cultivating Crops on Irrigated Land

The table below shows the number of households that cultivate crops on irrigated land during the summer and winter months during 2007 and 2008. Farmers indicated their first, second, and third crops cultivated. During the summer months, wheat, opium, and potatoes are most prevalent, and in the winter months, maize, rice, and other vegetables are most prevalent.

**Table 2: The Number of Households that Cultivate Crops on Irrigated Land in the Summer and Winter Planting Season, during 2007/2008**

Number in thousands			
Crop	First, second and third crop		
	Summer households	Winter households	
1	Wheat	1,192.2	0.9
2	Alfalfa/clover/other fodder	411.3	51.1
3	Potatoes	224.8	10.7
4	Barley	195.2	10.2
5	Opium	189.7	6.3
6	Onions	92.2	15.4
7	Maize/ Sorghum	74.5	350.2
8	Other vegetables	60.9	85.4
9	Tomatoes	44.1	9.2
10	Melon/ Watermelon	30.8	48.4
11	Beans	29.9	30.0
12	Other (specify)	25.6	94.6
13	Okra	19.5	22.1
14	Eggplant	16.3	2.8
15	Fruit / nut trees	14.4	1.7
16	Cumin	12.0	15.7
17	Flax	11.5	3.5
18	Zucchini	11.4	10.4
19	Cotton	10.7	84.4
20	Rice	8.4	96.8
21	Millet	5.3	2.4
22	Other fruits	2.9	1.6
23	Sugar cane/beet	1.3	2.7
24	Grapes	1.2	0.5
25	Rapeseeds (canola oil seed)	0.9	0.7

Source: GAO analysis of Government of Afghanistan data.

Note: Farmers were asked to indicate their primary, secondary, and third crop grown on irrigated land during the summer and winter planting seasons.

**Table 3: The Number of Households that Indicated Cultivating Crops on Irrigated Land as their First, Second, or Third Choice during the Summer Planting Season, 2007/2008 (irrigated land, summer)**

Number in thousands					
First crop	Households	Second crop	Households	Third crop	Households
Wheat	1,035.8	Alfalfa/clover/other fodder	209.2	Alfalfa/clover/other fodder	171.3
Opium	161.2	Barley	152.5	Potatoes	55.9
Potatoes	42.9	Wheat	152.1	Other vegetables	35.6
Alfalfa/clover/other fodder	30.8	Potatoes	126.0	Barley	27.8
Onions	16.8	Maize/ sorghum	59.9	Onions	27.0
Barley	14.9	Onions	48.4	Beans	19.1
Tomatoes	9.0	Opium	22.7	Other (specify)	16.6
Maize/ sorghum	8.6	Tomatoes	22.3	Tomatoes	12.8
Other vegetables	6.9	Other vegetables	18.4	Melon/ watermelon	12.0
Melon/ watermelon	5.6	Melon/ watermelon	13.2	Okra	11.0
Eggplant	4.7	Beans	10.8	Fruit / nut trees	10.5
Cumin	3.5	Cotton	7.8	Flax	6.7
Other (specify)	2.3	Okra	7.3	Maize/ sorghum	6.0
Fruit / nut trees	1.6	Rice	7.0	Cumin	5.8
Okra	1.2	Other (specify)	6.7	Opium	5.8
Zucchini	0.9	Eggplant	6.5	Eggplant	5.1
Flax	0.8	Zucchini	5.5	Zucchini	5.0
Grapes	0.7	Flax	4.0	Wheat	4.3
Millet	0.6	Cumin	2.7	Millet	3.2
Sugar cane/beet	0.3	Fruit / nut trees	2.3	Cotton	2.9
Other fruits	0.1	Millet	1.5	Other fruits	1.8
		Other fruits	1.0	Rice	1.4
		Rapeseeds (canola oil seed)	0.7	Sugar cane/beet	0.6
		Sugar cane/beet	0.4	Grapes	0.2
		Grapes	0.3	Rapeseeds (canola oil seed)	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,349.2</b>		<b>889.2</b>		<b>448.7</b>

Source: Government of Afghanistan, National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008 online tables.



**Table 4: The Number of Households that Indicated Cultivating Crops on Irrigated Land as their First, Second, or Third Choice during the Winter Planting Season, 2007/2008 (irrigated land, winter)**

Number in thousands					
First crop	Households	Second crop	Households	Third crop	Households
Maize/ Sorghum	296.2	Maize/ sorghum	49.4	Other vegetables	48.8
Rice	84.5	Melon/ watermelon	28.6	Alfalfa/clover/other fodder	22.4
Other (specify)	53.3	Cotton	27.6	Melon/ watermelon	16.7
Cotton	50.6	Other (specify)	27.4	Other (specify)	13.9
Other vegetables	18.7	Other vegetables	17.9	Okra	6.6
Beans	16.2	Alfalfa/clover/other fodder	15.6	Cotton	6.2
Alfalfa/clover/other fodder	13.1	Okra	14.9	Onions	5.4
Barley	3.4	Cumin	13.6	Maize/ sorghum	4.6
Melon/ watermelon	3.1	Beans	12.1	Potatoes	2.5
Tomatoes	3.0	Rice	11.2	Cumin	2.1
Zucchini	3.0	Onions	7.8	Zucchini	2.1
Onions	2.2	Potatoes	6.1	Sugar cane/beet	1.8
Potatoes	2.1	Opium	5.9	Beans	1.7
Flax	1.1	Barley	5.8	Tomatoes	1.4
Other fruits	0.9	Zucchini	5.3	Flax	1.1
Okra	0.6	Tomatoes	4.8	Rice	1.1
Eggplant	0.6	Millet	2.0	Barley	1.0
Sugar cane/beet	0.6	Eggplant	1.4	Fruit / nut trees	0.9
Grapes	0.5	Flax	1.3	Eggplant	0.8
Millet	0.3	Wheat	0.9	Other fruits	0.4
Fruit / nut trees	0.3	Rapeseeds (canola oil seed)	0.7	Opium	0.1
Opium	0.3	Fruit / nut trees	0.5	Millet	0.1
		Other fruits	0.3		
		Sugar cane/beet	0.3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>554.7</b>		<b>261.4</b>		<b>141.7</b>

Source: Government of Afghanistan, National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008 online tables.

## Contact Information

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