

FARAH

Located in western Afghanistan, Farah borders the Islamic Republic of Iran to the west, Helmand province to the southeast, Herat and Ghor provinces to the north and Nimroz province to the south.

One fourth of the province's cultivated area is concentrated in 4 of the 12 districts (located in the central and southern districts) and this is due to the proximity to the Farah Road River and fertile soil. Farmers raise livestock in the northeastern districts because of the area's hilly topography. Much of Farah is characterized by sand blown hills and there is a high degree of desertification as a result.

Farah is famous for producing wheat and fruits, especially watermelons.

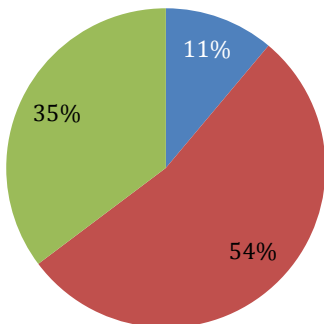
Farah in a Nutshell

- **Surface area:** 49,000 sq. km
- **Capital:** Farah City
- **Districts:** 11 – Anar Dara, Bakwah, Bala Buluk, Farah Center, Gulistan, Khak-i-safed, Lash-i-Juwayn, Pshtrud, Purchaman, Qala-i-Kah and Shib Koh
- **Main markets:** Darwazai, Herat, Trarabar, Maiden, Zaranj, Delorram, Chegcharan, Lashkargah, Iran and Pakistan
- **Population:** 0.5 million inhabitants (93% in rural areas)
- **Most populated districts:** Farah, Bala Buluk
- **Main languages:** Dari and Pashtu
- **Ethnic Groups:** Mainly Pashtuns and minority groups of Tadjiks, Sayyeds and Baluchs
- **Kuchi Migrations:** Winter, 100 – 200,000 individuals; Summer, 5,000 – 50,000 individuals
- **Returnees, IDPs:** Farah is the destination of 1.6% (roughly 75,300 individuals) of the total returnee population, but not a main hosting province for IDPs

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS

Total production (2008): 1,072,193 metric tons



- Grains: Wheat, Barley
- Fruits & Nuts: Grape, Pomegranate, Watermelon, Apricot
- Fodder & Industrial: Alfalfa

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Most crops are cultivated by men in Farah, with the exception of cereals and grain, which are cultivated by both men and women. Harvesting is done by both men and women for all crop categories.

Processing:

Both men and women are involved in drying fruit and shelling nuts, although women are more heavily involved in these activities.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

Men handle a large majority of the selling and trading of horticulture goods.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children under 15 in Farah are involved in the cultivation and harvesting of all crop types. Children participate in drying fruit and shelling nuts. They also assist in the selling of all crop types in this province.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Use of fertilizer (% of farming households):

- Field crops: 96%
- Garden plots: 1%
- Both field and garden plots: 4%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an introduction of tractors, notably threshers; and improved irrigation

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Main Animals	District Concentration	Total Heads
Sheep	No significant concentration	471,480
Goats		558,009
Cattle		105,291
Poultry	Farah Center (30%)	1,363,558

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members in Farah. They are involved in the production of dairy products. While they are typically not involved in the sale of livestock, it is common for them to sell eggs, milk and dairy products.

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both men and women care for goats and sheep in Farah. Women are the main caretakers for cattle. Unlike most provinces, poultry is mainly raised by men.

Processing:

Men perform most of the butchering. Both men and women participate in the shearing of animals. Women are in charge of producing dairy products and processing wool into yarn.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

- **Livestock & Poultry:** Men sell and trade most livestock and poultry. Both men and women sell eggs.
- **Dairy:** Both men and women sell milk and dairy products, although men sell a majority of the latter.
- **Commodities:** Trading of commodities is handled solely by men.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there have been no improvements in livestock practices recently.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Just over half of the rural households (56%) rely on agriculture as their major source of revenue; 21% households derive their income from trade and services. Livestock contributes one in six (17%) of rural households' income.

Key Income Sources

*Poor: Agricultural labor, migrant labor, livestock product sales
Better-off: Crop sales, livestock & product sales, trading*

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Farah mainly go to shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on credit as well as their family and neighbours.

Fewer than half of interviewees say women are able to borrow money or buy goods on credits. Those that do borrow, do so mainly from family or neighbors.

Microfinance Institutions

MISFA or any of its implementing partners have never had any microfinance activity in the province.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 72% of the households in Farah owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily lease their land, while subsistence farmers mainly have shared ownership of their land.

Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are mainly sedentary and nomadic. Their main challenges with regards to access to land are the conflict/insecurity and conversion of pasture into cropland

IRRIGATION

In 2007, a majority of households (92%) in Farah had access to irrigated land and 6% had access to rain-fed land.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

In 2007, The transport infrastructure in the province was reasonably well developed at which point nearly half (49%) of roads could handle car traffic in all seasons, and around a third (34%) could take car traffic in some seasons. However, in one-sixth (16%) of the province there were no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders in Farah perceived roads linking rural areas to markets, as being poor. The main challenges identified in road access to markets were lack of roads / poor quality roads and insecurity/conflict

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 12.2%
Per capita monthly total consumption: 1,866 Afs.

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 15.3%
The Kuchi population in Farah has particularly low levels of literacy with just 3.5% of men and 0.1% of women able to read and write.

FOOD SECURITY

Problem satisfying food need of the household during the year (households %):

- Never: 34%,
- Rarely (1-3 times): 27%,
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 29%,
- Often (few times a month): 6%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 4%

Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 25.2%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 35.1%
School Enrolment: 34.0%

Amongst the Kuchi population, 4% of boys and 1% of girls attend school in Farah during the winter and summer months.

SECURITY

Level of security in Farah: →
According to interviews in the province, the security situation has remained stable over the past year. They also perceive most roads that link rural areas with the provincial markets to be somewhat unsafe.

STATUS OF WOMEN *Female literacy rate: 5.1%; Female share in active population: 45.0%*

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, few women in the provincial centre go to the local bazaar to buy goods. Most that do are accompanied by a male relative when they do so. Very few go to sell items. Women outside of the provincial centre are less likely to go to the local bazaar to buy goods and more likely to be accompanied by a male relative.