

SAMANGAN

Samangan is located in northern Afghanistan. It borders the provinces of Balkh and Kunduz to the north, Balkh and Saripul to the west, Baghlan to the east and Bamyan provinces to the south.

The province's cultivated area is mostly concentrated in the northwestern and southeastern districts because of the vicinity to the Samangan River. Almost 70 percent of the cultivated land is concentrated in 4 of the 7 districts of Samangan. The remaining 3 districts are suitable for raising livestock because of the mountainous terrain.

The traditional agriculture sector in Samangan used to be dominated by cattle with a high-level production of meat and milk for local consumption. Pistachios from Samangan used to be a brand recognized across the world.

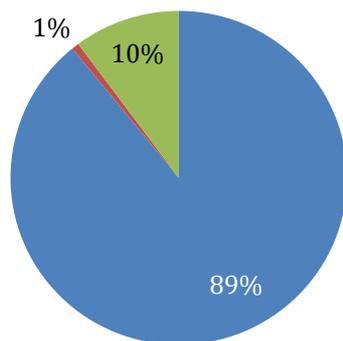
Samangan in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 13,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Aibek
- *Districts:* 7 – Aibek, Dar-i-Suf Balla, Dar-i-Suf Payan, Feroz Nakhchir, Hazrati Sultan, Khuram Wa Sarbagh and Ruyi Du Ab
- *Main markets:* Mazar-e-Sharif, Samangan, Faryab, Sari Pul, district markets, Herat
- *Population:* 0.4 million inhabitants (93% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Aibek, Dar-i-Suf Payan
- *Ethnic Groups:* Mainly Uzbeks (1st) and Tajiks (2nd) and minority groups of Hazaras, Pashtuns, Arabs and Tartars
- *Main languages:* Dari
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Winter, 5,000 – 50,000 individuals; Summer, 5,000 – 50,000 individuals
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Samangan is the destination of 0.4% (roughly 19,000 individuals) of the total returnee population, but not a main hosting province for IDPs

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS

Total production (2008): 292,286 metric tons



- Grains: Wheat, Barley
- Vegetables: Potato, Onion
- Fruits & Nuts: Pistachio, Almond, Melon, Watermelon

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Cultivation is mainly conducted by men in Samangan. Both men and women are involved in harvesting 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 are typically not involved in the cultivation of any crop types in Samangan. They do, however, participate in the harvesting of all crop types. Children also participate in drying fruit and shelling nuts.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Use of fertilizer (% of farming households):

- Field crops: 58%
- Garden plots: 12%
- Both field and garden plots: 30%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an Introduction of tractors, notably threshers.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Main Animals	District Concentration	Total Heads
Sheep	Aibek and Hazrati Sultan (61% of livestock)	468,296
Goats		69,353
Cattle		161,498
Poultry	No significant concentration	83,803

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been no improvement in livestock practices recently.

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both women and men raise livestock in Samangan. Poultry are mainly raised by women.

Processing:

Men perform most of the butchering and 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. Poultry and eggs are sold by both men and women, although men play a more active role in the sale of poultry.
- Dairy: Both men and women sell milk and dairy products.
- Commodities: Trading of commodities is handled solely by men.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

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

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Agriculture is a major source of revenue for more than a third (36%) of households in Samangan province, including 37% of rural households. Sixty percent of rural households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province. Around one-third (29%) of households in rural areas earn some income through non-farm related labor. Trade and services also accounts for income for one sixth (17%) of rural households.

Key Income Sources

*Poor: Labor sales, Crop sales, Carpet weaving & wool spinning
Better-off: Livestock sales, Crop sales, Trade*

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Herat mainly go to their family or neighbours as well as shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on credit. They do seek loans from private lenders, but to a lesser extent.

Half of interviewees say women are able to borrow money or buy goods on credits. Those that can borrow from family / neighbors, private lenders or suppliers/shopkeepers.

Microfinance Institutions

The implementing partners of MISFA present in the province are BRAC and FMFB:

All Programs	Ag and Livestock Programs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active clients: 7,660 • Active borrowers: 4,571 • # loans disbursed: 27,144 • Amount of loans disbursed: 11,786,335 Afs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active clients: 1,499 • Active borrowers: 941 • # loans disbursed: 2,697 • Amount of loans disbursed: 2,386,494 Afs.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 70% of the households in Samangan owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily lease or own their land (shared ownership), while subsistence farmers mainly lease or do sharecropping.

Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are mainly sedentary and nomadic. Their main challenges with regards to access to land are overgrazing, conversion of pasture into cropland and expansion of residential housing onto pastures.

IRRIGATION

On average two fifths (43%) of households in the province have access to irrigated land, and more than four-fifths (85%) of households have access to rainfed land. Interviewees claim that only some farmers in Samangan cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has decreased somewhat over the past 3 years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

The transport infrastructure in Samangan is not very well developed, with under a third (28%) of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 41% able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in 28% of the province there are no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders described the roads linking rural areas to the markets as being poor and had stayed the same for the last three years. The biggest challenges that were identified were lack of roads / poor quality roads and distance from markets.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

*Poverty rate: 55.1%
Per capita monthly total consumption: 1,188 Afs*

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 23.0%
The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 3% of men and no women are able to read and write

SECURITY

Level of security in Samangan: ↗
According to interviews in the province, the security situation has improved somewhat over the past year. They also perceive most roads that link rural areas with the provincial markets to be safe.

FOOD SECURITY

Problem satisfying food need of the household during the year (households %):	Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never: 23% • Rarely (1-3 times): 29% • Sometimes (3-6 times): 32% • Often (few times a month): 6% • Mostly (happens a lot): 11% 	29.7%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

*Child labour: 10.1%
School Enrolment: 45.7%*

Amongst the Kuchi population, around two-fifths (42%) of boys but no girls attend school in Samangan during the winter and summer months.

STATUS OF WOMEN *Female literacy rate: 8.8%; Female share in active population: 25.8%*

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, around half of women in the provincial centre go to the local bazaar to buy goods. Very few that do are accompanied by a male relative when they do so. Almost no women 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.