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GRAIN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



Global Center for
Food Systems Innovation
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Grain Research and Innovation (GRAIN)

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GRAIN is a five-year Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). It aims to build effective human and institutional capacity for agricultural research that provides wheat producers with the knowledge, inputs and technologies they need to increase yields, reduce post-harvest losses, enhance grain nutritional and milling quality, reduce susceptibility to disease, drought and pests, minimize financial risks, and manage and sustain limited natural resources.

Key Objectives



Enhance MAIL capacity to conduct field and laboratory research



Communicate results, translating research into usable information for farmers



Partner to prioritize research that responds to real needs in the wheat sector



Cross-cutting: Empower women in agricultural research, prepare Afghan research community to engage in gender-responsive research

49%

Average increase in knowledge among training program participants

30%

Average change in yield, when comparing tested improved practices to research controls

1,262

Total participants in GRAIN-supported food security programs

Activities and Key Achievements

With key partners at Afghan and Indian universities and MAIL, GRAIN is preparing future leaders in agricultural research and innovations.

26

MSc Scholarships
awarded

7

PhD Scholarships
awarded

57

Research Interns
supported

150

Youth Participants
in first two years



By providing technical and financial backstopping to our research partners at the Agriculture Research Institute of Afghanistan (ARIA), GRAIN has supported 40 agronomic research trials.



GRAIN is excited to support ARIA's new basic breeding program, with over 598 lines crossed to-date with the aim of developing new wheat varieties with higher yields, quality, and resistance to pests and drought.



Young women are breaking perceived barriers in agricultural research, with 60 women graduating from the GRAIN Mentorship Program in its first cohort and 30 women Research Interns across the last two years.



Collaboratively with MAIL, GRAIN developed and launched a new Data Management System to improve field data collection and transparency for trusted results.

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