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Contact: Kristin Scuderi, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-4623
Linda Habenstreit, U.S. Department of Agriculture (202) 720-9442
Professor Hany Khalil, Cal Poly, (805) 756-2852

Cal Poly College of Agriculture Helps USDA Aid Afghanistan

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Cal Poly College of Agriculture is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help Afghanistan build its agricultural exports sector.

Cal Poly Food Science Professor Hany Khalil recently presented food safety workshops for government Agriculture Ministry personnel in Kabul, Afghanistan. The workshops aimed to train Afghans on meeting international food safety standards – key to building exports.

Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner this week praised Cal Poly and the efforts of several USDA agencies and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for their work in providing the food safety training to Afghanistan’s dried fruit and nut industries.

“Afghanistan’s horticulture sector has the potential to drive rural income growth,” said Conner. “To see this potential come to fruition, Afghanistan needs effective regulations that meet international food safety standards. The food safety workshops we are conducting will give the Afghan dried fruit and nut industry the knowledge it needs to meet other countries’ import requirements so they can participate in foreign exchange.”

With financial support from USAID, USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service worked in conjunction with the food science department at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo recently to conduct a workshop in Kabul, Afghanistan, for Ministry of Agriculture officials.

The workshop provided an overview of sanitary policies, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point principles and Good Manufacturing Practices. The USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Agricultural Marketing Service helped to design the workshop. More workshops are planned in the future. These workshops are part of a larger effort between USDA and USAID to assist in the development of Afghanistan’s agricultural sector.

For details, contact Philippe Chabot with USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service at (202) 690-2209, or e-mail philippe.chabot@fas.usda.gov.

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