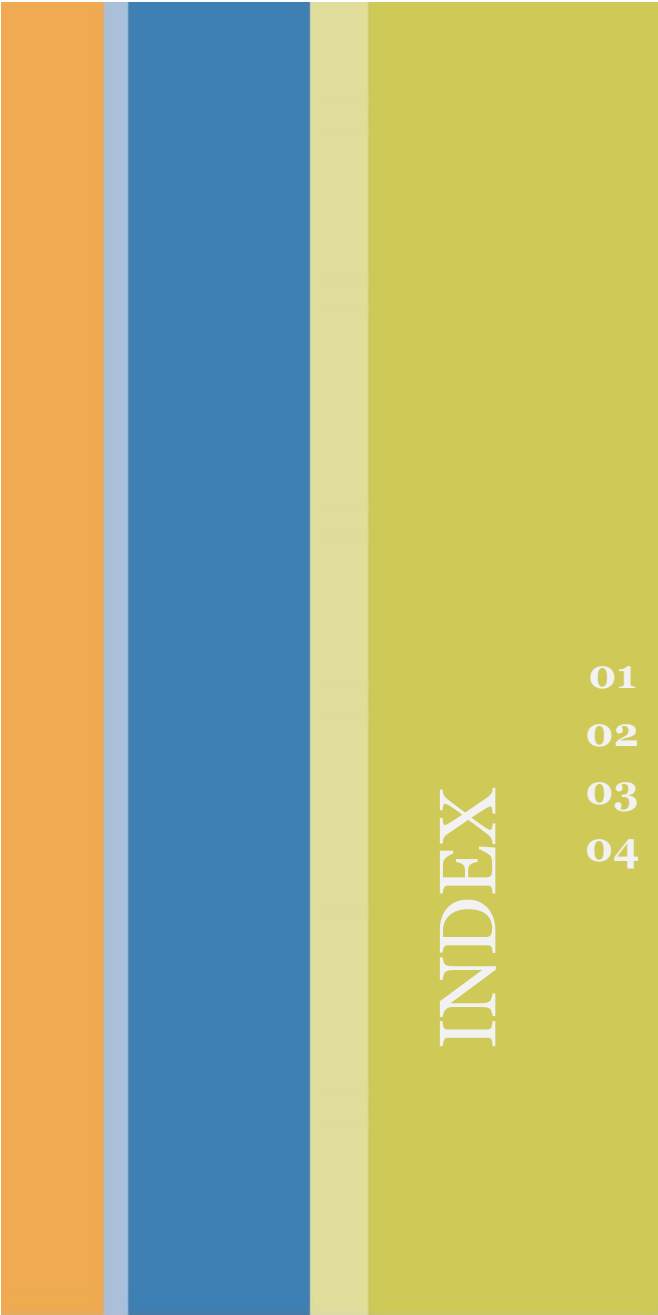


Culture design and social responsibility: an experience in Afghanistan

World Association of Agronomists
VI Congress

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Culture design and social responsibility: an experience in Afghanistan.

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About Grupo Tragsa

Grupo Tragsa at a glance

GRUPO TRAGSA is a **state-owned company** and a comprehensive provider of innovative solutions at the service of Administrations.

Experience

37 years managing successful projects.

Own Resources

10,000 employees and over 1,800 vehicles and heavy machinery.

Turnover

€ 613 million.

Presence

National and international projects in four continents.

R&D&I

More than 21 R&D&I projects with annual investment of € 2.6 million.

Grupo Tragsa activities



Activity in key sectors

- We co-operate with Administrations for sustainable development projects.
- We partner with local actors and contribute to the business fabric and job creation.
- We work on the transformation of territories and sustainable use of resources.

Advising governments

- We provide assistance to Administrations in the development and implementation of strategic plans for their territories.

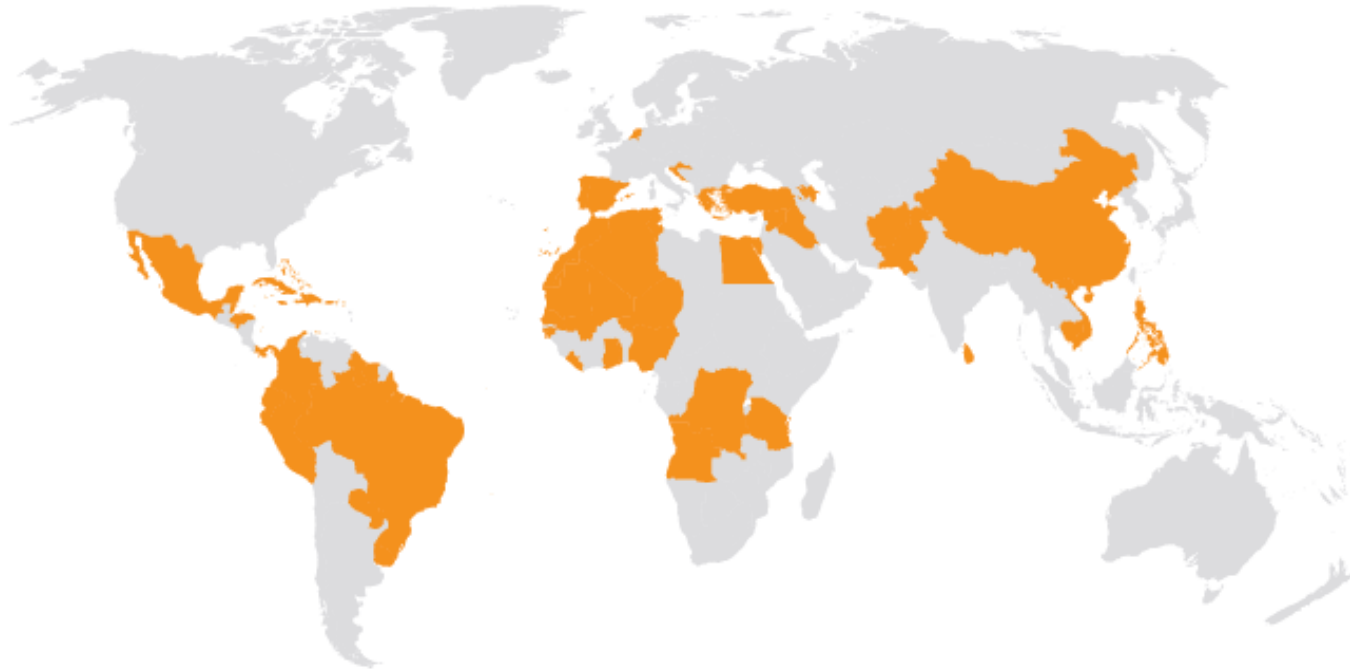
Trusted partner

- With the support of the Spanish Administration.

Grupo Tragsa activities



- ❑ **TRAGSA:** execution of Works and provision of Services.
- ❑ **TRAGSATEC:** implementation of Consulting and Engineering projects.
- ❑ **Lines of Activity:**
 - Environment
 - Rural Infrastructures
 - Building and architecture
 - Water Cycle
 - Services, Agricultural production, fisheries and food. Farms.
 - Public health and Sanitary services
 - Studies, Technical support and Consultants for Government Policies.
 - Emergencies



- Spain: offices in 17 regions and 52 provinces.
- More than 120 projects worldwide.



02

Of the intervention on the proposed theme

02

Of the intervention on the proposed theme.

Experience of an agronomist at an international and conflictive environment of Development Aid:
Ag Programme in Afghanistan



Some **learned lessons** about professional practices





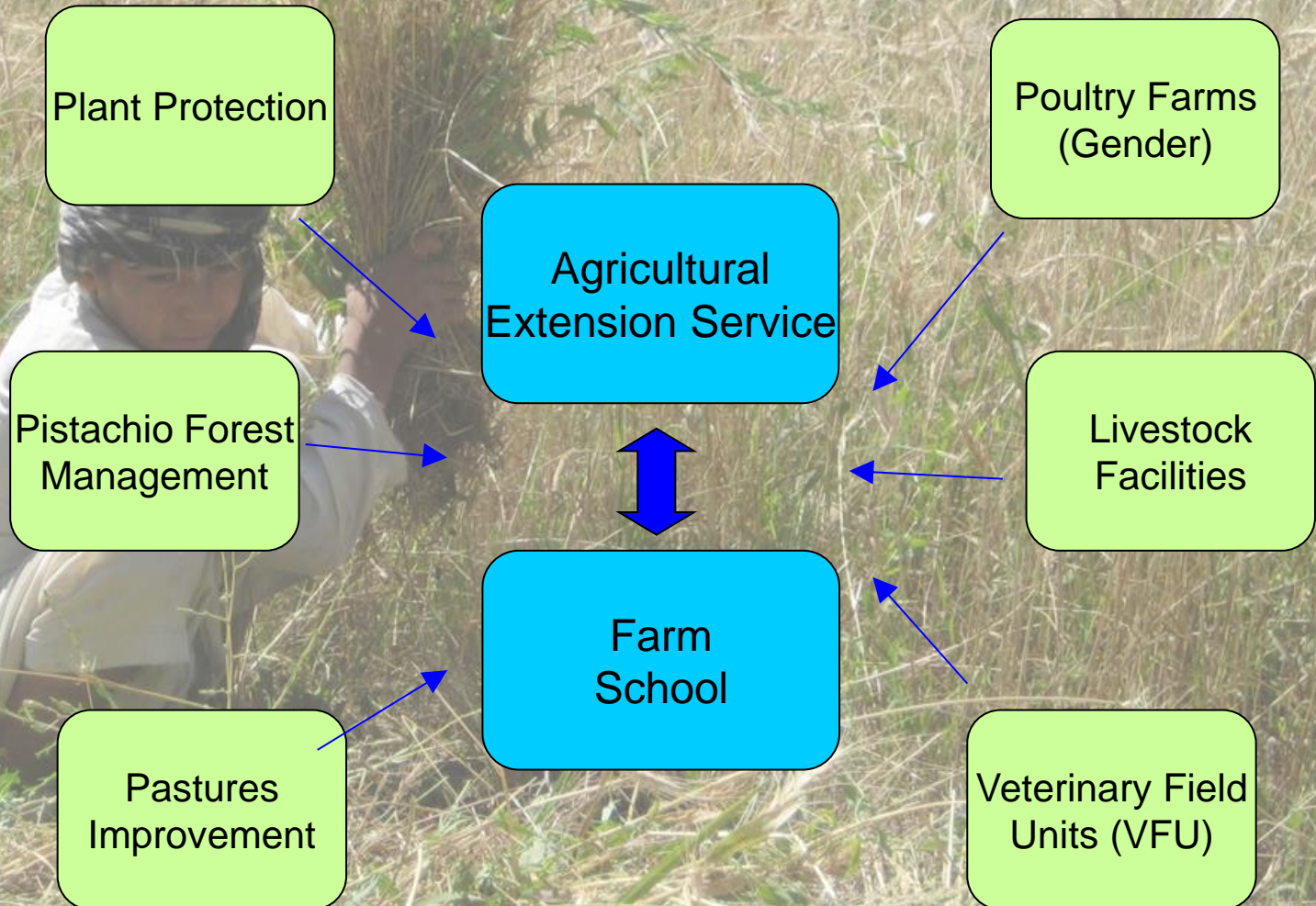
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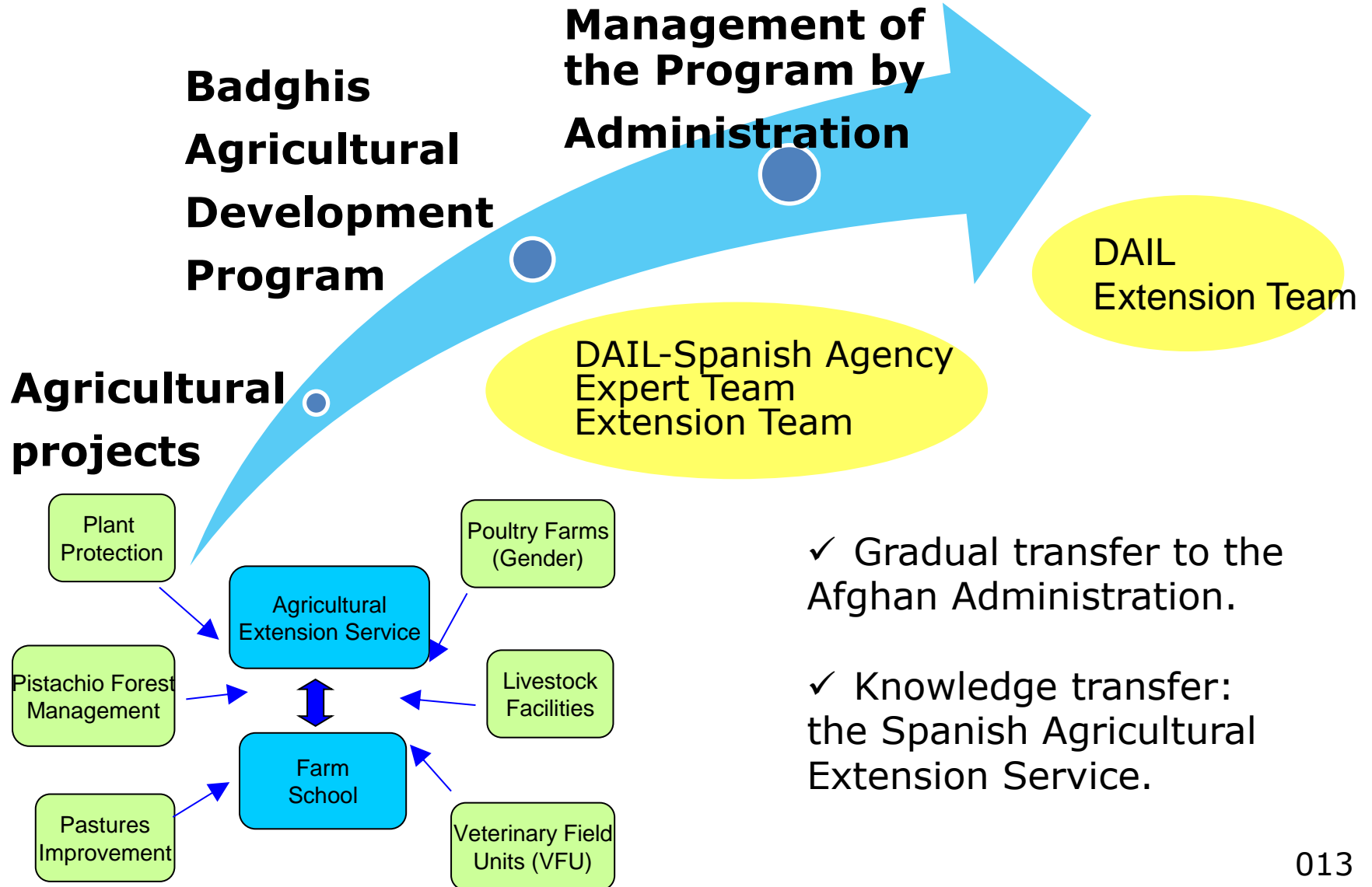
An Agronomist in Afghanistan

Context: working in Afghanistan

- Assignment by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.
- This programme was developed from 2008 to 2013 and transferred to the Afghan Provincial Administration.
- 2008-09: One year on-field mission to formulate and design an Agricultural Programme for Badghis province.
- Working at an hostile environment, where the priority is the security







A study case: Plant Protection project against Melon Fly Plague

Melon crops: a relevant source of **incomes** in the province. In 2006, drought and melon fly, 50-60% decrease of yield in Herat (Univ. Herat, 2008).

Last cycle pupa generation comes into **dormant period**, around 30 cm deep in soil.

Useless a **chemical treatment**, apart from additional pollution and resistance effects.

Use of **insecticides** raised a 30% the ratio of infestation in the province, the last 5 years (Univ. Herat, 2007).



A study case: Plant Protection project against Melon Fly Plague

Identification of key points about the pest and melon fly importance in the province.

Seek of primary sources and collaboration with Herat University.

A sustainable solution: mechanical methods through **household agriculture**.

A **project** developed by AECID-Tragsa, along with an Afghan university and transferred to the provincial government.



A study case: Plant Protection project against Melon Fly Plague

ACTIVITIES:

1. Cleanliness of the field
2. **Extension** activity: training workshops, posters at villages and radio broadcasting.
3. **Collection** of infested melon plants.
4. Collection of larva and pupa of melon fly

OUTPUTS:

- In two years (2009 and 2010), a **60% decrease** of infestation at provincial basis.
- **Using a 20% budget** less than the one was used by other chemical initiatives previously (Univ. Herat, 2012)





04

Professional practices at the international development arena

Some learned lessons (not codes) about good professional practices.

- **Observation** and **empathy**. We got information mainly from local technicians and household farmers.



- **Analysis** further than current situation (armed conflict) and tried to use an approach based on inclusion and reciprocity. Participatory Rural Appraisal.

Some learned lessons (not codes) about good professional practices.

- **Independency of the agronomist.** We set own objectives, further and besides general goals. Priority to technical and social criteria.



- **Respect** to local cultures and costumes, but we gave priority to Universal Human Rights (reference: UN Normative).

Some learned lessons (not codes) about good professional practices.

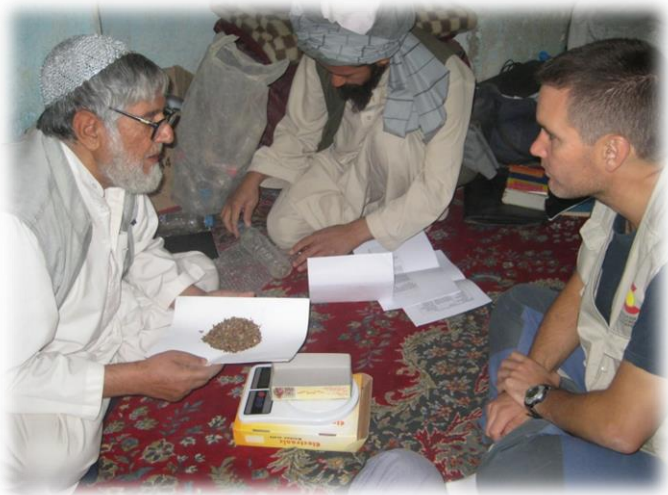
- **Capacity building and project design.** We were aware of security, culture and language restrictions. We gave emphasis to train extension local agronomist training.



- Tried better little changes that big ones on **agricultural practices**: adapted new technologies and modern agricultural methodology, according to local situation.

Some learned lessons about good professional practices.

- **Appropriation concept and sustainability.** Environmental and economic sustainable perspective but also, in the forefront, focus on later use and management by technical staff and household farmers.



- **Focus on results but also on principles.** We tried to avoid the 3 Ms: Missionary, Mercenary, Martian



Grazie mille!

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