



OVER 17,000 SOYBEAN FARMERS TRAINED



Soybean cultivation is a critical component of NEI's vision to eradicate protein-energy malnutrition in Afghanistan, especially among women and children. In preparation for the soybean growing season, NEI performs farmer training throughout Afghanistan. This year NEI's training program reached 17,386 farmers in 2,445 villages. One of the primary goals of training is to help soy farmers become self-sufficient. Therefore, farmers receive hands-on training where they gain first-hand knowledge of soy farming processes and techniques. During training farmers also receive inputs. This year soy farmers received 200 MT of non-GMO seeds, as well as fertilizers to ensure high yields.

NEI PARTICIPATES AT U.N. CONFERENCE



NEI participated in the United Nations' sixty-sixth Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference in Gyeongju, Korea. The 2016 Conference focused on creating and strengthening global partnerships in support of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NEI had a dedicated booth at the conference, where team members from Korea and US were available to discuss our program. In particular, NEI provided UN conference participants with information regarding NEI's strategy in Afghanistan that builds the local capacity in the country.

SOY MILK FACTORY EQUIPMENT ARRIVES TO KABUL

Protein-nutrient foods are scarce and costly in Afghanistan. To address this issue, NEI and a local business partner are building a sterilized soy milk factory that will produce 40,000 packs of soy milk daily. The packaged milk will be distributed throughout the country, providing Afghans greater access to affordable and nutritious protein. In April, the soy factory equipment was loaded into 23 shipping containers, where it traveled from Korea to Kabul. Soy milk production will begin next spring and be made available to households throughout the country.



SEEDS OF HOPE YOUTH CLUBS ESTABLISHED

This year NEI began a youth development program called Seeds of Hope. The goal of the program is to inspire the next generation of Afghans to move their country forward for the wellbeing of the nation. The Youth Club members are disadvantaged children who have limited educational and vocational opportunities. As part of the program, youth receive school supplies and soy foods for themselves and their families.



The program consists of 400 children in ten clubs located in Herat and Nangarhar provinces. The program spans nine months, during which time, youth will learn about soy farming and nutrition, leadership skills, and poultry farming. In addition to learning, the youth will also participate in the community. They will design and implement community service volunteer projects.

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