

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Afghanistan

**Post:** Kabul

### Afghanistan Fruit and Nut Nursery Industry

**Report Categories:**

Planting Seeds

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**Report Highlights:**

The Afghanistan National Nursery Growers Organization (ANNGO) sold a total of 400,000 certified saplings and three million non-certified saplings in calendar year 2012. The nursery industry expects that ANNGO will produce a total of one million certified saplings by the end of CY 2013. Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock is unable to stop fruit and nut tree imports through undocumented procedures.

**Production:**

The size of the fruit and nut nursery industry is not clear due to unavailability of reliable data; however, nursery growers under the Afghanistan National Nursery Growers Organization (ANNGO) sold a total of 400,000 certified saplings and three million non-certified saplings in calendar year (CY) 2012<sup>1</sup>. The nursery industry expects that they will produce a total of one million certified saplings by the end of CY 2013.

Afghanistan's perennial horticulture industry was revived with the assistance of the international community through projects focused on the production and quality of planting materials and commercial horticulture.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) Perennial Horticulture Development Project (PHDP)<sup>2</sup>, which is funded by the European Union (EU), has played an active role in the conservation of the National Collection of fruits and nut trees by providing technical assistance on plant regulations and certification, producing clean and true-to-type planting materials, establishing nursery growers associations, and forming the Afghan National Nursery Growers' Organization (ANNGO) in addition to the Afghanistan National Horticulture Development Organization (ANHDO).

ANNGO is a private national nursery growers' organization that produces true-to-type clean and traceable planting materials in cooperation with PHDP. ANNGO is also responsible for certification of fruit and nut saplings, distribution and release of certification labels, and promotion of certified saplings at the market level.

There are more than 30 Nursery Growers Associations (NGAs) and 1,000 registered nurseries operating under ANNGO producing approximately 60 percent of certified and non-certified saplings.

ANNGO has defined three categories of fruit sapling in the Afghan nursery industry: Certified Saplings, Non-Certified Saplings, and Unclassified Saplings. Category 1 certified saplings are true-to-type planting materials produced in the ANNGO nurseries and traceable from the National Collection. Category 2 non-certified saplings are produced in ANNGO registered nurseries with ANNGO's brand name. The unclassified saplings are non-certified saplings from non-registered nurseries and plant material can be imported without control.

### **Planting Material Certification and Registration**

Under the Afghanistan Seed Law, the Seed Certification Agency has the mandate for the certification of seeds and planting material. However, the agency has not yet been established because of the low institutional capacity at MAIL and scarce resources. PHDP program assisted MAIL in the development of planting material regulations and certification scheme and preservation of the National Collection of fruit trees. The National Collection produces clean true-to-type saplings and rootstocks and releases mother plants to the private nursery industry. The National Collection has preserved a total of 855 different accessions or varieties of 13 fruit species such as almond, apple, apricot, cherry, citrus, date palm, fig, grape, loquat, peach, pear, plum, and pomegranate.

Among these PHDP has registered 271 imported fruit and nut varieties in the National Collection database.

ANNGO implements a voluntary regulation scheme for planting materials to produce true-to-type and certified fruit and nut trees at the national level. The implementation of ANNGO regulations is monitored by 28 technical field officers. ANNGO, with the help of a committee that includes members from traders, nurseries growers, and

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the Afghan calendar year begins on March 21 and ends March 20. For example, CY 2011 runs from March 21, 2011 to March 20, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Perennial Horticulture Development Project (PHDP) is one of Mail's projects funded by the European Union and implemented by Agriconsulting.

project staff, determine fruit accessions or varieties to be propagated in nurseries. Mother Stock Nurseries (MSNs) receive true-to-type accession and varieties from National Collection centers. Nursery growers purchase true-to-type bud woods and root stocks either from National Collection centers or MSNs and produce certified saplings. ANNGO distributes labels to nurseries and certified saplings are labeled with ANNGO brand name.

### **Fruit and Nut Trees Pricing**

According to the MADERA group survey, the average market price of the certified saplings ranged from \$1 to \$1.60 U.S. Dollars (USD) and the average non-certified sapling ranged from \$0.60 to \$1.20 USD. On average the price of certified saplings are 60 percent higher than non-certified saplings.

### **Import Regulation**

The Afghanistan Seed law does not clearly specify the procedure and obligations for the importation of planting materials. The Seed law stipulates that seeds for import must apply to the National Variety List and receive permission from the Seed Certification Agency. As the Seed Certification Agency does not exist, the fruit and nut tree imports are allowed into the country through bureaucratic and undocumented procedures. Here are the procedures used by different organizations importing fruit trees into Afghanistan:

- Importers make an official request to MAIL's Plant Protection & Quarantine Department (PPQD) for the importation of fruits and nut seedlings describing the purpose of importation.
- PPQD sends a request to the Minister or Deputy Minister of Agriculture Affairs for review and recommendation.
- After the Minister or Deputy Minister grants approval for the importation of the planting materials, the request is sent back to PPQD.
- PPQD then forwards the request to the Quarantine Department at the custom offices located at the port of entry with their provisions.
- The Quarantine Department visually inspects the planting material consignment for pest and diseases and then allows fruit trees to enter the country.
- Since Afghanistan does not have specific requirements for importing plant materials, the country largely relies on health certificates and other documents associated with the imported materials from the country of origin.

### **Tariff**

Afghanistan applies a 2.5 percent tariff rate on live plant and cutting imports.

### **Trade:**

Private traders and NGOs imported fruit and nut seedlings to Afghanistan for which data is unavailable. The following trade matrix provides information on live plant cuttings imported into Afghanistan.

Reporting Countries Export Statistics (Partner Country: Afghanistan)									
Commodity: 060210, Live Plant Cuttings And Slips, Un-rooted									
Annual Series: 2004 - 2011									
Reporting Country	Unit	Quantity							
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Italy	Ton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenya	Number of Plant Cuttings	0	0	0	0	6000	0	0	0
South Africa	Number of Plant Cuttings	0	0	0	0	265	0	0	0

Source: Global Trade Information System