

Existing infrastructures

The Helmand Valley Project has the following basic infrastructures.

- The Kajakai reservoir with capacity of 3 billion cubic meter water storage; having 160,000 KW electric power & 405,000 hectares of irrigable land under its command.
- Darweshan Canal Diversion 362 meters long
- Boghra Canal 75 kilo-meter long with 74 m capacity.
- Boghra Canal Diversion 108 meter long
- Shamalan Canal 66 km long with capacity of 21
- West Marja Canal 19 km long with 13 m 3/S
- Darweshan Canal 50 km long with 29 m 3/S
- Laterals 50 km
- Sub laterals 2042"
- Canal spill-ways 136"
- Main Drains 1326 "
- Sub Drains 774 "
- Covered " 180 "
- Inter Project roads 1365 "
- Hydro electric power 66,000 KW
- Land leveled 22055 Hectares
- Main mosques 7 Units
- High Schools 9 "
- Main hospital 1 " (with 70 beds)
- Clinics 6 "
- Cinema 1 "
- Cotton Gin and Press corporation 1 " (24000 tons/Yr.)
- Morbles and Carpentary " 1
- Workshop for repairing of heavy and light machineries 1
- Parks 7
- Drinking Water wells 14 "
- Airport 1 "
- Irrigated land about 108000 hectares
- Artificial project made forest 4000 hectares
- Trees (Fruit and fruitless) 42,000,000
- Settlers settled on newly reclaimed lands 1083 families

Additional infrastructures and Government Agencies:

H.V.A. (Helmand Valley Authority): HVA is the principal agency for coordinating and executing the Government's

numerous programs for development of the Helmand Valley. . HVA functions regionally and is responsible mainly for planning, agricultural development and project operations and maintenance.

The objectives of the HVA (Helmand Valley Authority) are the following:-

- to provide new agricultural lands for nomads and landless farmers.
- to raise the living standard of people in the Valley:
- to produce agricultural and manufacturing products:
- to develop electric power
- to create government income which eventually will pay off the investment:
- to provide protection against floods:
- to improve the irrigation system of the Valley
- to help Afghanistan in grain self sufficiency and other matters.
- to provide for early utilization of water and soils resources of the Helmand Valley.

Afghan Fertilizers Company. The A.F.C. is a government enterprise that manufactures and distributes fertilizer for the whole country. This programme is very successful in Helmand Valley since the Helmand Valley consumes one fourth of the total fertilizer consumption in the country. The A.F.C. has pesticides, insecticides and spraying equipment stores in Lashkargah, the center of the Helmand valley.

Farm Credit and financial institution. The Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan (Ag Bank) has a branch in Lashkargah to assist farmers with short and mid-term production credits. Credit is given for the purchase of tractors, seeds, fertilizers, pumps and for the establishment of vineyards and lives-tock farms. Private money lenders are also the source of finance for small farmers in the Helmand Valley.

Education: In Helmand Valley, elementary, secondary and high schools exist for both boys and girls. In 1968, a vocational agricultural school one of the two in the country was established in Darweshan area of the Helmand Valley.

Health: A modern hospital is located in Lashkargah and provides basic medical services to the inhabitants of the Helmand Valley. Facilities for mother and child care along-

with family planning is also existed there. Pharmacies in the larger villages carry substantial stocks of a variety of imported modern medicines and antibiotics.

Agricultural Cooperatives: Though cooperative movement is new to the Helmand Valley, its future is quite promising however. While started in 1976, there were seven agricultural cooperatives in the Helmand Valley project areas by 1978. These cooperatives are involved in agricultural production activities, mainly chemical fertilizer and Farm machinery.

Technical staff: The project educated valuable personnel in different fields which are the back-bones of nearly all irrigation projects in Afghanistan undertaken within the last 15 years. The Helmand Valley project is actually a practical university for all those who wish to learn. The project introduced a sound technological and agro-technic know-how to the Helmand Valley.