

## Promoting working lands in harmony with a healthy environment

### Background

Since the 1930s, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has worked around the world, providing technical assistance to protect soil, water and related resources.

The International Programs Division (IPD) helps other countries identify and address natural resources issues by offering technical assistance and scientific exchanges of information. The IPD also contributes to the overall achievement of U.S. foreign policy which seeks to promote economic stability, reduce poverty and solve food problems worldwide.

### Goals/Objectives

NRCS works to improve the management and conservation of natural resources globally by providing long-term and short-term technical assistance and leadership to foreign partners.

### International Activities

IPD assistance for foreign partners, visitors and producers includes:

- Training in erosion control and flow irrigation systems;
- Workshops on conservation practices for grazing lands, grasslands and watershed rehabilitation;
- Training on public policy issues, and leadership and facilitation skills, and planning for post-flood reclamation;
- Evaluating environmental threats in agricultural areas;



NRCS Civil Engineer Jon Fripp (right) supervises the installation of a greenhouse irrigation system during a workshop in Afghanistan.

Photo taken by an Afghanistan workshop participant.

- Restoring damaged lands and flooded fields for agricultural productivity; and
- Distributing seeds and fertilizers.

### Partnerships

NRCS partners with land-grant universities, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of State and other Federal organizations, foreign governments, non-government organizations and multilateral organizations for potential funding and implementation of foreign activities.

### Benefits to Producers

IPD assistance with international conservation efforts provides benefits to producers, including:

- Stability of soil, water and related natural resources for the production of food and fiber;
- Improved soil health, soil fertility and water quality;
- Increased water availability for irrigation and household uses;
- Increased agricultural production; and

- Reduced sedimentation on and off farms.

### Benefits to Foreign Countries

IPD provides benefits to foreign countries, including:

- Improved soil health and air quality;
- Improved water quality and quantity;
- Reduced sedimentation of water bodies;
- Increased availability of food and fiber for export;
- Decreased imports of food and fiber; and
- Economic growth.

### More Information

For more information about the International Programs Division, please visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service website at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/international](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/international).