

SARIPUL

Saripul is a northern province of Afghanistan, bordered on the west by Faryab, on the east by Balkh and Samangan, Jowzjan to the north, and Ghor and Bamyan to the south.

Nearly 70% of its cultivated land is concentrated in the 5 low-lying northern districts due to their vicinity to Saripul River. While the majority of Saripul inhabitants are raising livestock such as sheep, goats, and cattle, its two remaining districts see a concentration of livestock due to their mountainous terrain and the presence of hailstorms.

Known as the home of herdsmen, Saripul is best known for producing karakol, cashmere and carpet.

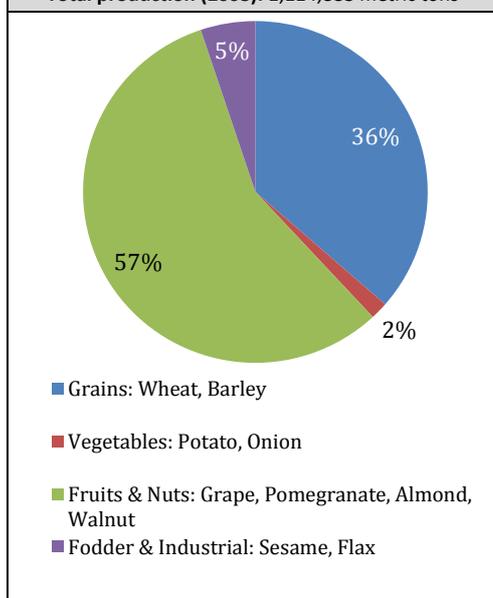
Saripul in a Nutshell

- Surface area: 16,000 sq. km
- Capital: Saripul Centre
- Districts: 7 - Balkhab, Gosfandi, Kohistanat, Sangcharak, Saripul, Sayyad and Sozma Qala,
- Main markets: Mazar-e-Sharif, Samangan, Faryab, Saripul, district markets, Herat
- *Population*: 0.5 million inhabitants (92% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts*: Saripul, Sangcharak, Kohistanat
- *Ethnic Groups*: Uzbeks, Pashtuns and Hazaras followed by Arabs and Tajiks
- *Main languages*: Mainly Dari and Uzbeki to a lesser extent
- *Kuchi Migration*: 50-100,000 people in Summer and Winter
- *Returnees, IDPs*: Saripul is the destination of 0.8% of the total returnee population (roughly 39,000 individuals), but not a main hosting province for IDPs

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS

Total production (2008): 1,114,883 metric tons



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Cultivation is mainly conducted by men in Saripul. Both men and women are involved in harvesting for all crop categories.

Processing:

Both men and women are involved in drying fruit and shelling nuts, although women are more heavily involved in these activities.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

Men handle a large majority of the selling and trading of horticulture goods.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children under 15 are typically not involved in the cultivation of any crop types in Saripul. They do, however, participate in the harvesting of all crop types. Children also participate in drying fruit and shelling nuts.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Use of fertilizer (% of farming households):

- Field crops: 78%
- Garden plots: 0%
- Both field and garden plots: 23%

Other improved practices: According to key informants, tractors, and notably threshers, have been introduced in the province.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Main Animals	District Concentration	Total Heads
Sheep	Balkhab, Kohistanat & Sangcharak (65% of livestock)	483,500
Goats		68,000
Cattle		102,748
Poultry	No significant concentration	80,000

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members in Saripul. They are involved in the production of dairy products. While they are typically not involved in the sale of livestock, it is common for them to sell eggs, milk and dairy products.

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both women and men raise livestock in Saripul, although men appear to play a greater role than women in raising cattle. Poultry are mainly raised by women, although men are also involved in this sector.

Processing:

Men perform most of the butchering and shearing of animals. Women are in charge of producing dairy products and processing wool into yarn.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

- Livestock & Poultry: Men sell and trade most livestock and poultry. Eggs are sold by both men and women.
- Dairy: Both men and women sell milk and dairy products.
- Commodities: Trading of commodities is handled solely by men

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of animal vaccination.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Agriculture is a major source of revenue for three quarters (75%) of households in Saripul province. In rural areas, 13% of the households derive some income from trade and services, and around 45% earn income through non-farm related labour. Livestock also accounts for 20% of the rural households' income.

Key Income Sources

Poor: Labour, sales, crop sales, livestock sales, carpet weaving and wool spinning

Better-off: Livestock sales, crop sales, trading

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Herat mainly go to Banks, shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on, as well as Microfinance institutions.

More than half of interviewees in Herat said women are able to borrow money or buy goods on credits. The main sources of credit for those women are: family and neighbours, suppliers or storekeepers or microfinance institutions.

Microfinance Institutions

The implementing partners of MISFA present in the province are BRAC and FMFB:

All Programs	Ag and Livestock Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active clients: 3,734 • Active borrowers: 2,982 • # Loans disbursed: 9,037 • Amount of loans disbursed: 4,982,643 Afs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active clients: 2,149 • Active borrowers: 1,513 • # Loans disbursed: 6,828 • Amount of loans disbursed: 2,138,082 Afs.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 31% of the households in Saripul owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. Now, according to our interviews, commercial farmers in Saripul primarily own their land (sole ownership), while subsistence farmers either own (sole ownership) or lease their land.

Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are both sedentary and nomadic. Their main challenges with regards to access to land are overgrazing and insecurity.

IRRIGATION

The main water sources of Saripul are Darya-e-Sya river in Kohistanat district and Darya-e-Safed in Sozma Qala district. Due to the lack of dams, the water is not sufficient to irrigate the existing land. In 2007, on average, 18% of the rural households in the province had access to irrigated land and 90% had access to rain fed land. According to our interviews in the province, the proportion of farmers using irrigated land has increased somewhat over the past three years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

The transport infrastructure in Saripul was not well developed in 2007, at which point only 12% of roads could handle car traffic in all seasons, two thirds (67%) could take car traffic in some seasons, and in 21% of the province, there were no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders in Saripul perceive the quality of roads linking rural areas to markets to have improved somewhat in the past three years. But despite this perceived improvement, the quality of the roads is still considered as poor and the number one issue to access markets for rural farmers is the lack of roads and transportation.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 24.7%

Per Capita monthly total consumption: 1,532 Afs.

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 8.9%

The Kuchi population in Saripul has low levels of literacy with 4.3% of men and only 0.4% of women able to read and write.

FOOD SECURITY

Problem satisfying food need of the household during the year (households %):

- Never: 9%,
- Rarely (1-3 times): 19%,
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 49%,
- Often (few times a month): 14%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 9%

Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 5.7%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 3.9%

School Enrolment: 33.4%

Among Kuchi children, 21% of the boys and 6% of the girls attend school in Saripul during the winter months. During the summer months, 5% of the boys and a hundred girls (1%) attend school.

SECURITY

Perceived level of security: ↘

According to the interviews, the security situation in the province has deteriorated somewhat over the past year and most roads that link rural areas with the provincial markets are perceived as somewhat unsafe.

STATUS OF WOMEN *Female literacy rate:* 2.9%; *Female share in active population:* 23.9%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, around half of the women in the provincial centre are able to go to the local market to buy goods and almost no women go to sell items. Women outside of the provincial centre are less likely to go to the local bazaar to buy goods and more likely to be accompanied by a male relative.