Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

AFGHANISTAN

Agricultural livelihoods and food security in the context of COVID-19

Monitoring report
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Abbreviations and acronyms

CHIRPS	Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DRMKC	Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System
IDP	Internally displaced person
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
NDVI	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
NSIA	National Statistics and Information Authority
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Key highlights

- This survey of agricultural livelihoods and food security in the context of the impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and other shocks was undertaken during February 2021 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1 380 villages within 129 districts of 20 provinces, covering all agro-ecological zones of Afghanistan. In all, 7 250 household-level respondents and 389 key informants were interviewed in person using Kobo mobile-based questionnaires.
- During the assessment period, 46 percent of respondents (farmers and herders) reported experiencing idiosyncratic and covariate shocks. The mutually reinforcing nature and timing of these shocks (during the lean season, when food security is already precarious, as well as the main growing season for wheat and other winter crops) heightened difficulties for farmers and herders.
- Thirty-eight percent of interviewed farmers cultivated a smaller area than last year, indicating that conflict and insecurity affected planting their decisions. Most farmers (88 percent) faced difficulties with crop production – particularly wheat farmers and those in the provinces of Zabul, Helmand and Faryab. The most frequently reported difficulties were the drought that is currently affecting the country, followed by difficulties accessing fertilizer or pesticides and quality seeds. Even amid the pandemic, land-access restrictions (cited by only 7 percent of respondents) appeared to have had fewer negative impacts than more chronic problems.
- In addition to drought, the data suggest a potential bottleneck in accessing inputs. These results were corroborated by key informant interviews with agricultural input vendors. Most vendors reported that their businesses were affected by COVID-19 restrictions through lower sales, business restrictions, higher operating costs and an insufficient supply of agricultural inputs.
- Of all farmers interviewed, 75 percent expected their harvest of winter wheat and other crops to be lower than last year (41 percent expected production to be reduced by at least 25 percent). Drought and difficulties accessing seeds and other inputs appeared to be associated with poor harvest expectations.

- Among livestock-keeping households, 82 percent reported facing difficulties during the three months prior to the survey. In the province of Kandahar, all respondents reported difficulties. The most frequently cited difficulties were in accessing water (39 percent), feed (31 percent) and veterinary services (22 percent). Livestock production faced the greatest problems in the west (Herat, Ghor and Farah provinces), and in Parwan and Nangarhar provinces.

- Throughout the 20 provinces surveyed, 68 percent of interviewed crop- and livestock-producing households faced unusual difficulties in selling their production in the three months prior to the survey – particularly in Kandahar and Herat provinces (42 percent and 43 percent, respectively). Respondents whose main source of income was the sale of livestock and livestock products faced more difficulties in marketing their production than crop farmers.

- Forty-six percent of farmers interviewed reported experiencing shocks; their impacts varied depending on the farmers' main source of income. Households living off livestock and livestock products, field crops, agricultural labour and loans were most affected. Movement and access restrictions were particularly experienced as a shock for households whose main income was the sale of livestock and livestock products (29 percent – higher than the average across the sample). These households also cited insecurity and conflict more frequently than other respondents (51 percent).

- Almost all surveyed households reported the need for some form of assistance with crop and livestock production. Most of these households reported being in need of fertilizer and seeds over the coming three months in order to support their agricultural production. Many households also reported being in need of animal feed and veterinary services for animal raising.

- The cumulative effects of recent shocks appear to have led a significant number of households to adopt coping strategies. For example, 91 percent of respondents had to borrow food while 84 percent sold more animals than usual, 85 percent spent savings and 84 percent consumed seeds. These coping strategies heightened respondent households' vulnerability and increased their exposure to future shocks.

Methodology

With financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), FAO leads the establishment of a data and analysis facility in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks. The objective of this facility is to improve decision making in support of the food security and livelihoods of all actors in key agricultural, livestock and fisheries value chains in high-priority, food crisis countries, with a focus on producers.

FAO has set up an information system in Afghanistan to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and related shocks in order to generate evidence for informed decision making. Following the first round of the agricultural household assessment in 12 provinces between July and October 2020 through computer-assisted telephone interviews, data for the second-round assessment were collected between 7 and 26 February 2021 using in-person interviews focused on agricultural households in rural areas of 20 provinces. A third round of data collection is planned for July 2021 to coincide with the harvest season.

Sample design and analysis

Household survey

Interviews were conducted in 7 250 households. This sample was stratified, and a two-step cluster approach was adopted using National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) 2020 data (NSIA, 2021) as sample frame in order to be representative of the 20 targeted provinces.

At the provincial level, all 34 provinces of the country were stratified into eight agro-ecological zones: (i) north-eastern; (ii) north-western; (iii) eastern; (iv) central; (v) west-central; (vi) south-western; (vii) south-eastern; and (viii) western. Then 20 provinces were selected according to the: proportion of irrigated and rainfed land, fruit trees and vineyards (FAO, 2016); frequency of single, double and triple cropping for irrigated and rain-fed conditions (FAO, 2019); and wheat production (NSIA, 2019). Within each of these 20 provinces, 30 clusters were selected based on their size (600 clusters in all).

Within each cluster, 12 households were selected (for a total of 7 200 households). Household selection was based on random sampling by field staff after extensive consultation with selected communities.

The following eligibility criteria were applied:

- The respondent is an active farmer.
- The respondent (farmer) has cultivable land.
- The respondent produces one of the following: cereal crops (wheat, rice, barely, maize); vegetables; fruits; or cash crops (potato, sugar cane, etc.).
- The respondent has animals and produces livestock products.

The sample size by province is provided in Table 1. Sampling weights were applied so that the proportion of agricultural households interviewed in each province matched the proportion of agricultural households among the general population.

Table 1. Characteristics of sample, by province and activity

Province	Total agricultural households	Crop/cereal farmers	Livestock producers
Balkh	373	364	9
Kunduz	373	254	119
Jawzjan	372	361	11
Kabul	370	336	34
Ghor	370	331	39
Takhar	366	336	30
Kunar	365	208	157
Parwan	365	336	29
Wardak	365	324	41
Bamyan	363	330	33
Paktika	363	240	123
Kandahar	363	306	57
Nangarhar	362	288	74
Ghazni	361	359	2
Farah	360	306	54
Helmand	360	189	171
Nimroz	360	258	102
Zabul	351	330	21
Faryab	345	255	90
Herat	343	180	163

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Key informant interviews

In addition to the household survey, 130 agriculture extension officers and 259 agriculture input vendors were interviewed. At least one agriculture extension officer and two agriculture input vendors were interviewed in each targeted district across the 20 provinces.

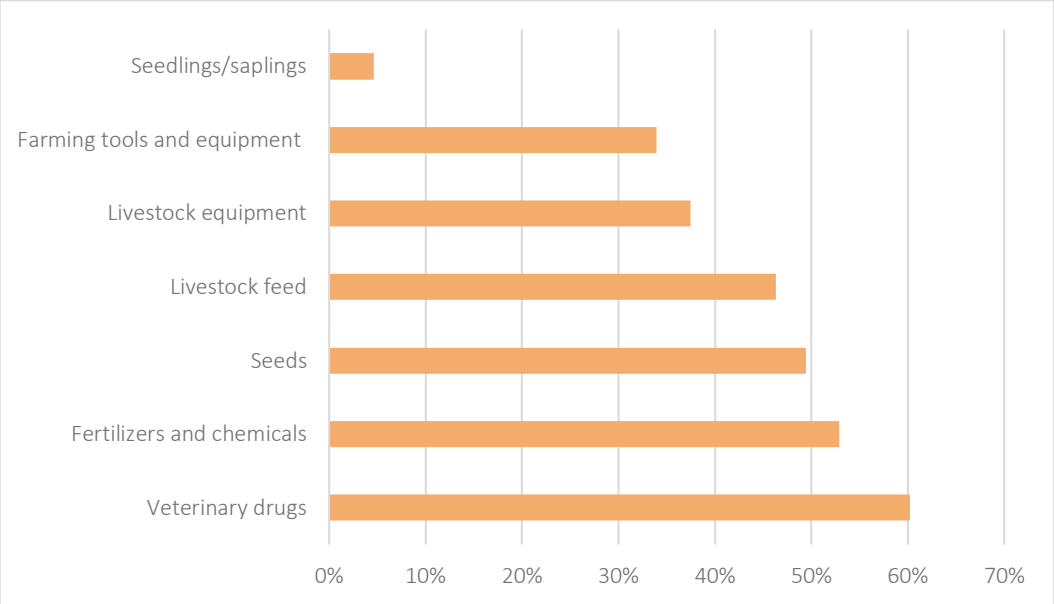
Table 2. Number of key informant interviews conducted in each province

Province	Agriculture input vendors	Extension officers
Nangarhar	20	10
Takhar	19	8
Ghazni	16	8
Herat	16	8
Paktika	16	8
Kunar	15	9
Balkh	14	7
Kabul	14	7
Kandahar	14	7
Faryab	13	5
Ghor	13	7
Helmand	12	6
Jawzjan	12	6
Parwan	12	6
Wardak	11	5
Zabul	10	6
Farah	10	5
Bamyan	8	4
Kunduz	8	4
Nimroz	6	4
Total	259	130

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Of the 259 agriculture input vendors interviewed, 60 percent reported selling livestock and veterinary inputs, and 56 percent reporting selling crop production Inputs. These inputs were sold by 88 percent of vendors through their own shops, followed by 10 percent at daily markets and 2 percent at periodic markets. Veterinary drugs, fertilizer, seeds, and livestock feed were the most frequent inputs sold by the vendors (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of agriculture and livestock inputs sold by agriculture input vendors



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Background

Afghanistan is a fragile and conflict-affected country where the security situation remains precarious. There was a 29 percent increase in documented civilian casualties between 1 January and 31 March 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020 (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, 2021). In addition, the country's humanitarian crisis has worsened, with increasing numbers of people internally displaced by growing violence. This insecurity also affects livelihoods and economic activities.

Afghanistan continues to face daunting challenges and uncertainties: economic activity plummeted in the first half of 2020 as COVID-19 negatively impacted the industrial and service sectors (World Bank, 2020). At the same time, the country's rugged topography, vulnerability to climate change and the growing population are imposing additional constraints on development. In 2020, the poverty rate was projected to reach 72 percent (World Bank, 2020). Poor nutrition, especially of children, threatens social and educational gains. Despite a 2 percent annual reduction in the stunting rate, 41 percent of Afghan children under five remain stunted. Higher food and consumer prices combined with lower incomes are expected to impact households' well-being and increase humanitarian pressures (World Bank, 2020).

Afghanistan is also highly prone to natural disasters (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2020), is one of the least-prepared countries for climate shocks and ranks 11th in vulnerability to climate change (European Commission, 2021).[1] In this challenging context, humanitarian needs have increased in 2021 (World Bank, 2021). Conflict and insecurity exacerbate the impacts of natural and economic shocks by making people more vulnerable and weakening response capacities (Mena and Hilhorst, 2021).

[1] The 2018 drought directly impacted more than two thirds of the country's land and 10.5 million people (FAO and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, 2019).

COVID-19 and other risk factors in the country

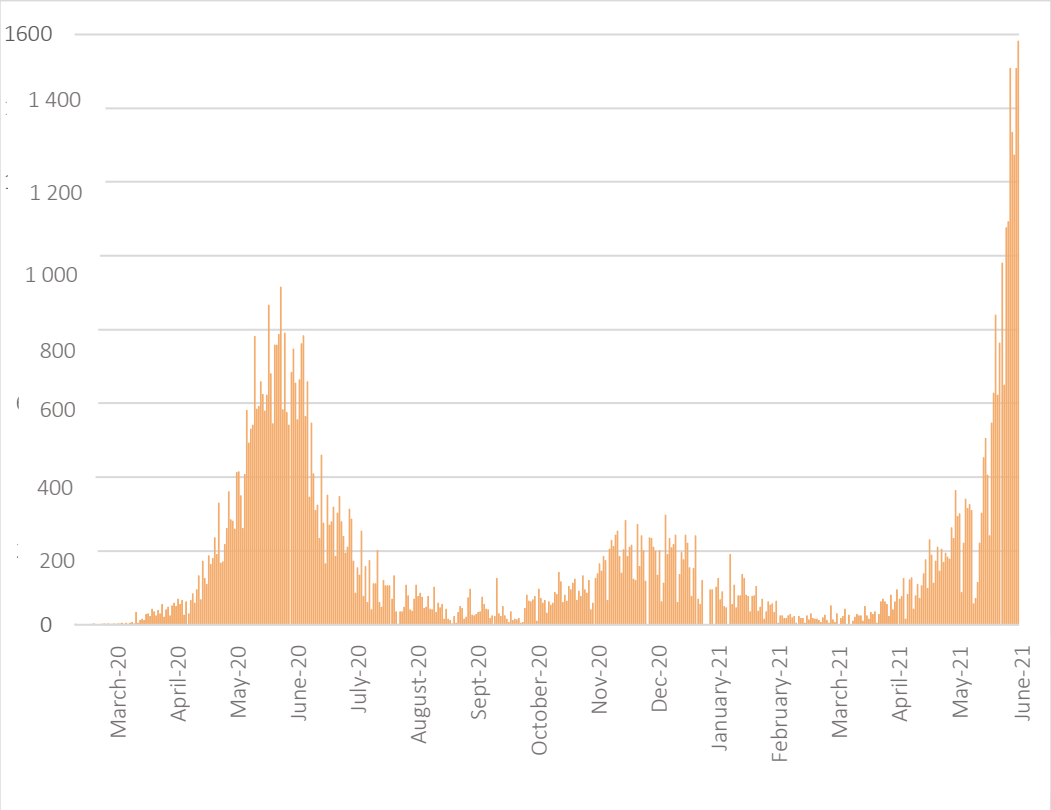
Afghanistan reported its first COVID-19 case on 24 February 2020. As infections spread, the government tightened containment measures and imposed a country-wide lockdown in late March 2020, which was subsequently extended twice. Afghanistan experienced a relatively moderate second wave of infections during November and December 2020, with infections declining in early 2021. Schools reopened on 28 February and universities resumed in person instruction in early March 2021.

As of 7 June 2021, there were officially 82 326 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan across 34 provinces, and 3 251 recorded deaths. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the highest prevalence of cases was recorded in first week of June 2021 (Ministry of Public Health, 2021). As of June 2021, Afghanistan was experiencing a third wave of infections (Figure 2) after the number of positive COVID-19 tests had risen since late April. Pakistan announced a closure of its border with Afghanistan for all non-essential travel on 6 May 2021 for an initial period of two weeks. Supported by donors, a vaccination campaign was launched with the goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the population.

On 29 May, the Ministry of Public Health announced that government and private schools, universities and training centres would remain closed in 16 provinces for two weeks as the country's COVID-19 cases surged. The government's response to COVID-19 largely focuses on social support (e.g. free bread to poor people in Kabul and other cities in April–June 2020; waiving electricity bills for those unable to pay). Similarly, the 2021 budget includes COVID-19-related spending for: a health package of AFN 2.4 billion (USD 30.3 million); a social package of AFN 8.9 billion (USD 112.3 million); and other support totalling AFN 3.3 billion (USD 41.7 million) (International Monetary Fund, 2021).

In the agricultural sector, the priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and FAO were: (i) increasing the availability and access to food for the most food-insecure populations by supporting summer and winter crops, controlling pests and providing backyard poultry production kits and livestock support; (ii) implementing unconditional cash transfers and cash-for-work activities, while adhering to COVID-19 safety practices; (iii) ensuring the continuity of the food supply chain through green corridors and access to financing for food processors; and (iv) enhancing local capacities for conservation, storage, drying, and processing of grains, fresh fruits and vegetables. These initiatives include adapting local traditions and adopting new techniques of food processing and cold storage, zero-energy storage and warehouses, and innovations in structural design and processing technologies (FAO, 2021).

Figure 2. New daily reported COVID-19 cases (March 2020–June 2021)



Source: Our World in Data, 2021 and Ministry of Public Health, 2021

In 2020, the COVID-19 crisis imposed a heavy burden on Afghanistan's economy, public finances, and private-sector investment (World Bank, 2021). The economy is estimated to have contracted by 1.9 percent in 2020 following an average growth rate of 2.4 percent over 2014–2019, reflecting weak confidence amid continued political instability and the impacts of COVID-19 (World Bank, 2021).

While non-food prices have remained stable since the pandemic, reflecting declining international energy prices (World Bank, 2021), food prices increased by approximately 17 percent in April 2021 compared to the same period in the previous year following the closure of borders and imposition of lockdown measures in urban centres. But despite weak demand, consumer prices are projected to increase by 3.8 percent. Inflation is expected to accelerate to approximately 5 percent in the medium term as aggregate demand picks up (World Bank, 2021).

Internal population displacement

Afghanistan faces one of the world's most acute internal displacement crises and migration is a major driver of food insecurity. While new settlements provide a safe haven from conflict with non-state actors, intra-communal conflicts over land use, a lack of access to basic services (electricity, water, access to latrines, education) and poor-quality shelter have become major issues. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain extremely vulnerable to a variety of risks. Due to the sudden necessity to migrate, many IDPs' assets are looted or sold for meagre prices. Access to public services for IDPs

can also be challenging since IDPs often migrate without legal identity documents or school certificates. In addition, IDPs bring agriculture-based livelihood skills to urban areas where there is no market for their skills. Their arrival increases pressure on local job markets, reducing wages and putting strain on infrastructure – ultimately fuelling tensions and conflict with the local population (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC], 2021). The food security situation for displaced populations remains severe as per assessments conducted by Food Security and Agriculture Cluster partners (IPC, 2021).

In 2020, a record 865 793 refugees returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan. This largely reflected a campaign of forced deportation of Afghans from Iran in the context of difficult economic conditions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and international sanctions (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, 2021 and World Bank,2021). As of December 2020, there were 3.54 million IDPs affected by conflict and violence, and 1.11 million affected by disasters in Afghanistan (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2020). From January to mid-March 2021, 62 200 IDPs fled their homes (IPC, 2021). Looking at the trends, IDP numbers tend to increase during the spring, summer and autumn, supporting expectations of an increase in the IDP population. On average, 500 000 people leave their homes every year because of conflict (IPC, 2021).

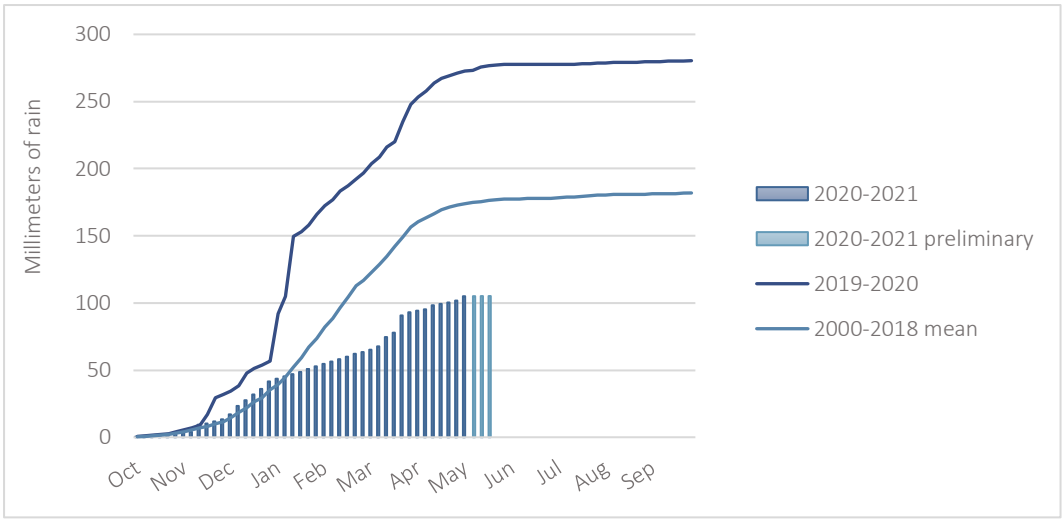
Food insecurity

Acute food insecurity is influenced by agricultural seasonality and production cycles. Food consumption gaps were already more common among rural households than urban ones during the pre-season survey used for the IPC analysis.[2] According to the latest IPC report (IPC, 2021), nearly 11 million people in Afghanistan (35 percent of the population) are estimated to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) due to conflict, COVID-19, high food prices and rampant unemployment between March and May 2021 (corresponding to the lean season in most parts of the country). This includes 7.8 million people (71 percent) experiencing Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and 3.2 million people (29 percent) in an Emergency food security situation (IPC Phase 4). Urgent action is required to save lives, reduce food insecurity and protect livelihoods.

Household food access is expected to improve slightly with the onset of the harvest, better job opportunities and seasonal price decreases. Between June and November 2021 (the harvest and post-harvest seasons), a slight improvement in food security is expected, with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above decreasing to 9.5 million, 6.7 million in a Crisis food security situation (IPC Phase 3) and 2.7 million experiencing Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). Those areas in Phase 4 in the assessment period are expected to remain in Phase 4 in the near future, despite slight seasonal improvements. Nevertheless, below-average rainfall forecasts suggest that the harvest will also be below average. Despite the relative improvement in food security compared to the last three years, the situation is still concerning and expected to deteriorate further during the 2021–2022 lean season (IPC, 2021).

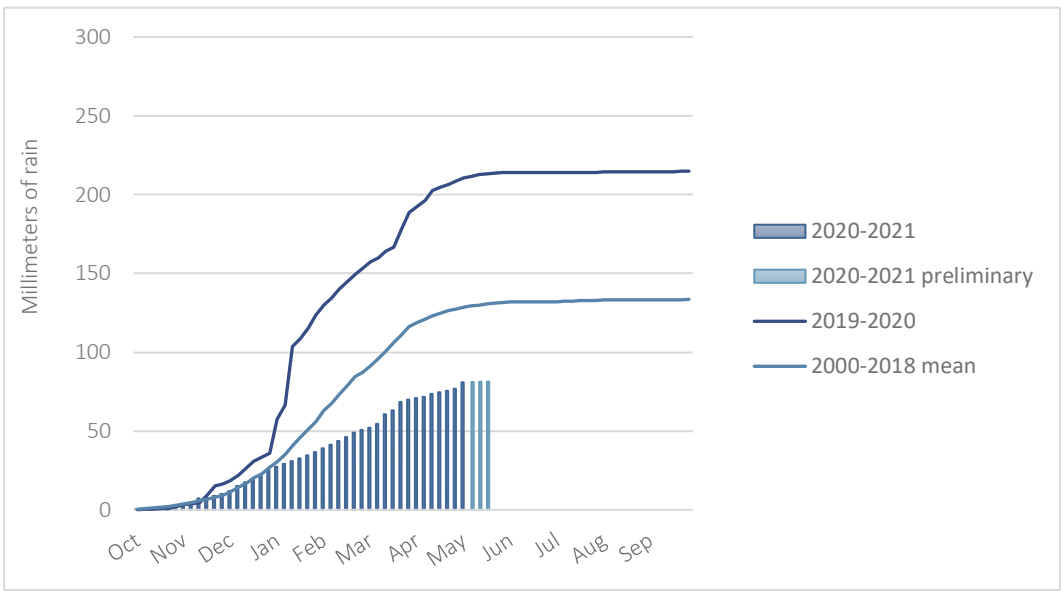
[2] Assessed with Food Consumption Score: 30 percent poor consumption among rural households and 23 percent among urban households (IPC, 2021).

Figure 3. Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station (CHIRPS) data estimates for Kandahar province (October 2020–September 2021)



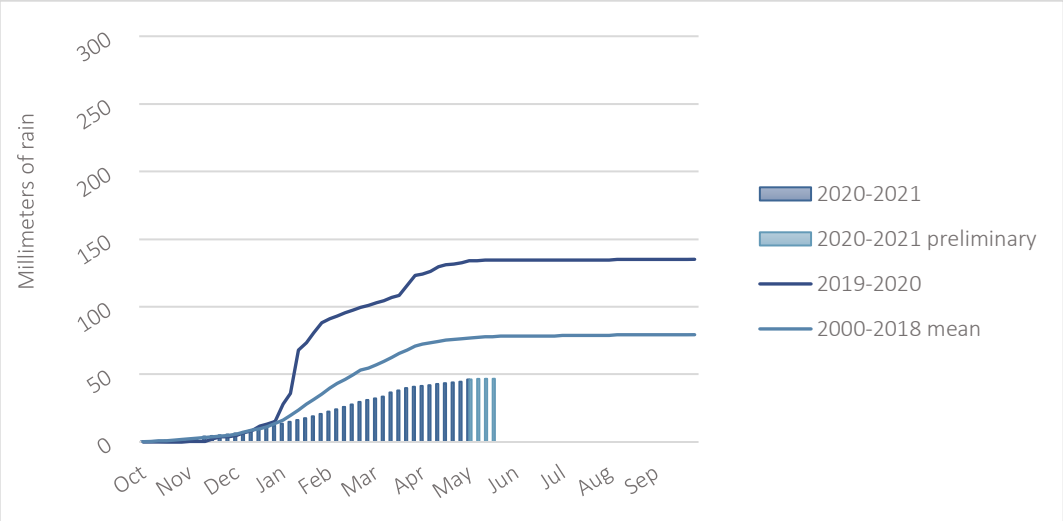
Source: United States Geological Survey, 2021a

Figure 4. CHIRPS data estimates for Helmand province (October 2020–September 2021)



Source: United States Geological Survey, 2021a

Figure 5. CHIRPS data estimates for Nimroz province
(October 2020–September 2021)



Source: United States Geological Survey, 2021a

To date, productivity in the 2020/21 wet season has been poor in Afghanistan due to prevailing La Niña conditions that typically bring reduced precipitation to Central Asia. As per a World Bank analysis of drought conditions as part of its Drought Early Warning, Finance and Action Project with the Government, 31 percent of the country faced meteorological drought while 23 percent of the country was experiencing moderate to extreme agricultural drought across the country's northern, north-western, western and southern regions, and central highlands. Cumulative precipitation from 1 October 2020 to 20 February 2021 was well below average across most of the country (Famine Early Warning Systems Network [FEWS NET], 2021).

Apart from a few provinces in central and northern Afghanistan that have recorded positive anomalies, most of the country has received below-average precipitation. Provinces in the north, northeast, west, south and east experienced precipitation deficits during the winter 2020/21 and spring 2021 precipitation seasons. When comparing preliminary Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station (CHIRPS) data with the 2000–2018 mean (United States Geological Survey, 2021b), the gap in cumulative rainfall reaches 61 percent in Kandahar and Helmand, and 65 percent in Nimroz (Figures 3, 4 and 5).

Snowpack formation and the resulting snow-water equivalent is also well below average, likely decreasing irrigation potential in the coming months (FEWS NET, 2021). With low precipitation throughout the 2021 winter season, agricultural production and the availability of fresh fodder and pasture vegetative conditions are expected to be below average as well. While drought will likely increase poverty (World Bank, 2021), the June–August harvest (while below average) is expected to improve households' food availability and access, including agricultural wage labour opportunities in rural areas (IPC, 2021). The NSIA June 2021 Agriculture Prospective Report (NSIA, forthcoming) estimates a wheat deficit totalling 2.46 million metric tons in 2021 – higher than the typical annual deficit of approximately 1.8 million metric tons (considering domestic production plus imports).

Agricultural production

Agriculture plays an important role in Afghanistan's economy, accounting for 26 percent of the country's gross domestic product and employing 43 percent of its workforce (NSIA, 2020). With arable land covering 12 percent of the country, 2.7 percent is comprised of forests, 46.4 percent is covered by permanent pasture and 38.9 percent is made up of villages, mountains and rivers (NSIA, 2020).

Agriculture-based livelihoods are common throughout Afghanistan; however water availability is an important factor in optimizing production and ensuring food security. Traditional *karez*[3] systems and other gravity-flow systems are the most common types of irrigation in rural Afghanistan. These gravity-flow systems depend on snowfall during the winter months and the rate at which snow melts during the spring. Pump irrigation – either from deep wells or rivers – is also found in some areas (FEWS NET, 2021).

With the exception of the southwest, much of the country is dominated by pastoral farming in which transhumant pastoralists keep mixed herds of livestock. This system includes scattered pockets of irrigated crop farming, which mitigates the seasonal vulnerability of pastoralists; it usually involves rice, wheat and other food and fodder crops. Off-farm income is also an important source of livelihoods.

In the south, there has been a gradual transition from pastoralism to a sparse (arid) farming system. This system supports scattered irrigated farming in arid areas – in most cases used by pastoralists to supplement their livelihoods. The rest of these areas are utilized for opportunistic grazing where water is available. Across the Himalayas, from Central Afghanistan to the extreme northeast of India, a highland mixed farming system predominates, ranging from the rice-wheat plains of the lowlands to the sparsely populated high mountain areas above). Major crops include cereals, legumes, tubers, vegetables, fodder and fruits. While most cultivated land is rainfed, irrigation is also present, along with sizable herds of cattle and small ruminants. In the north, the sparse mountain farming system predominates at altitudes above 3 000 metres along the middle and upper slopes of the Himalayas. A number of small settlements depend on potatoes and buckwheat, along with cattle and yak herds. During the summer, herders graze cattle and yak on the higher mountain slopes, and many household incomes are supplemented by seasonal migration (FAO, 2021).

The natural environment plays an important role in determining what households are able to produce, sell and buy. In addition, the availability of technologies for tilling land, the use of rainfed or irrigation systems, market accessibility, transportation, infrastructure and conflict are also critical determinates of household food and livelihood security in Afghanistan. The survey data for this second-round assessment were collected

[3] A *kariz* is a traditional system for transporting water from an aquifer or well to the surface through an underground aqueduct.

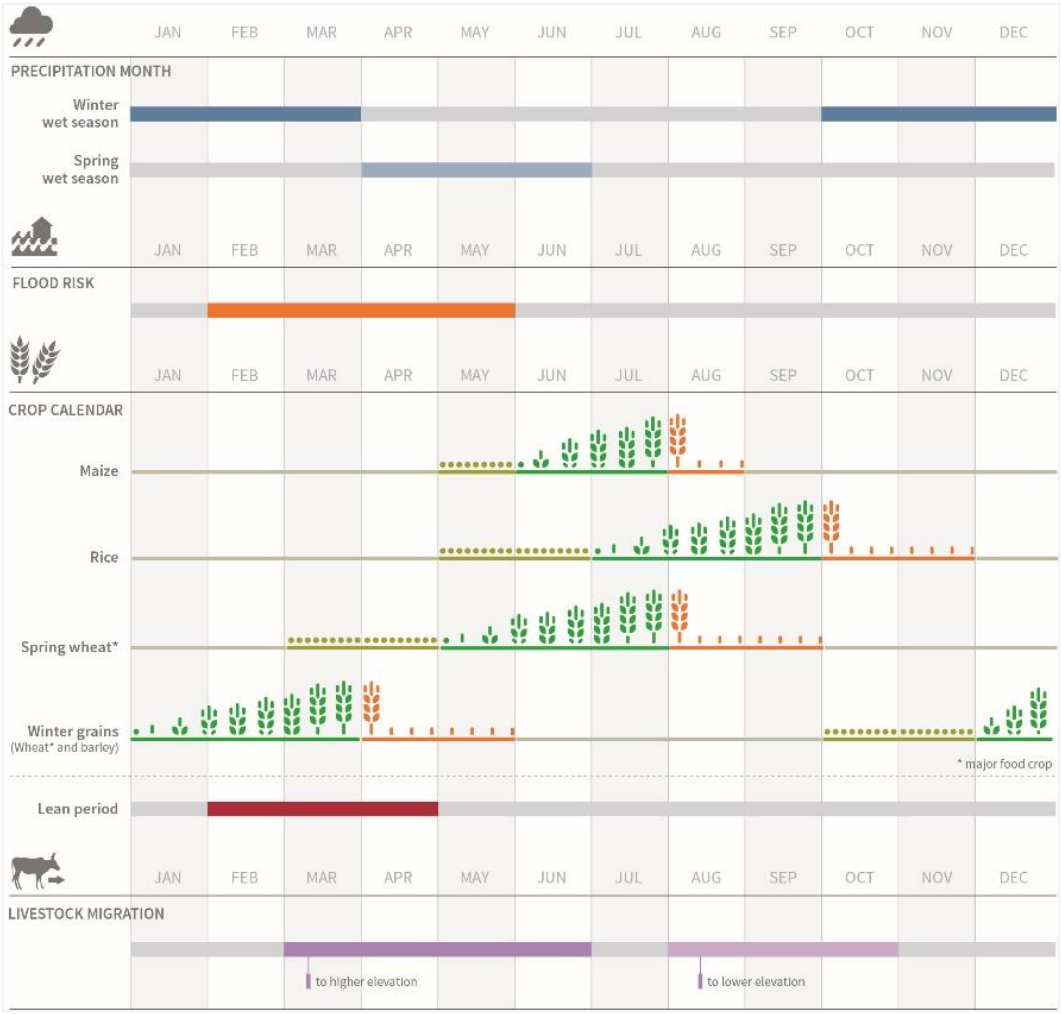
during the lean season, in which winter grains (i.e., wheat and barley) are in the growth stage (Figure 6).

Rainfed wheat is the country's main cereal crop, contributing to 89 percent of cereal consumption (NSIA, 2020). Fruits such as watermelon, cantaloupe, apricot, pomegranate and grape play a significant role in domestic consumption and exports (NSIA, 2021), along with dried fruit and nuts.

Crops

Across the 20 provinces surveyed, 79 percent of households were involved in crop production. Nearly all interviewed households reported that wheat and vegetables were in the growth stage, fruit was at the land-preparation stage, and potato was not in season, consistent with the crop calendar (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Afghanistan seasonal crop calendar

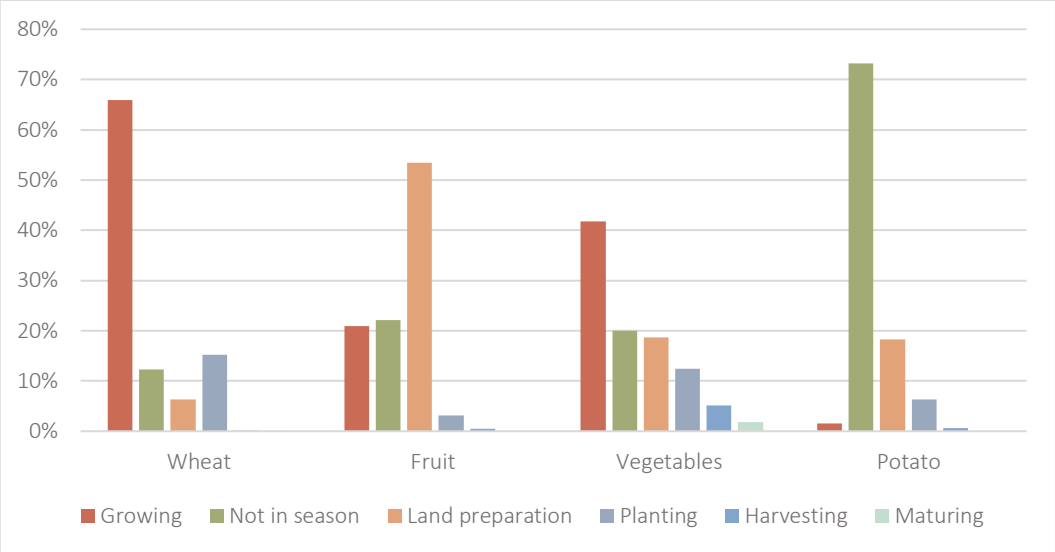


Source: FAO, 2021

Wheat was the most common crop grown in winter, cultivated by 84 percent of crop producers. This was followed by fruits (6 percent), potato (3 percent), vegetables (3 percent), maize, rice, barely and other crops (4 percent). By province, the highest

proportion of households cultivating wheat was in Faryab (99 percent), fruit in Parwan (41 percent), vegetables in Wardak (13 percent) and potatoes in Bamyan (48 percent).

Figure 7. Percentage of surveyed households conducting agricultural activities

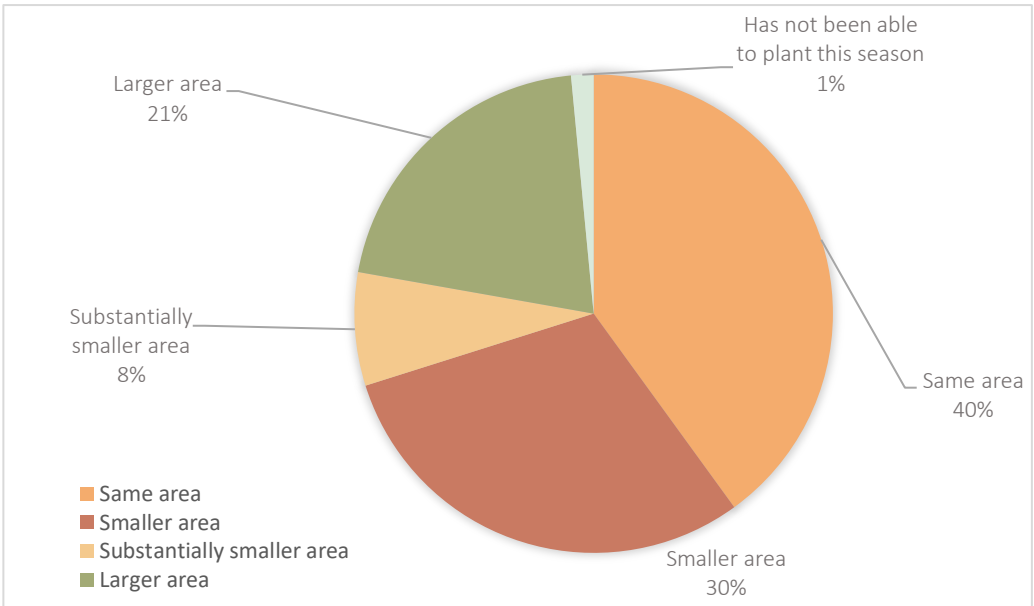


Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Area planted

Compared to the previous year: 40 percent of surveyed agricultural households reported planting the same area; 30 percent farmed a smaller area; and 21 percent planted a larger area. A substantially smaller area was farmed by 8 percent and 2 percent were not able to plant at all (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Change in area planted by surveyed households compared to the previous year (percentage)

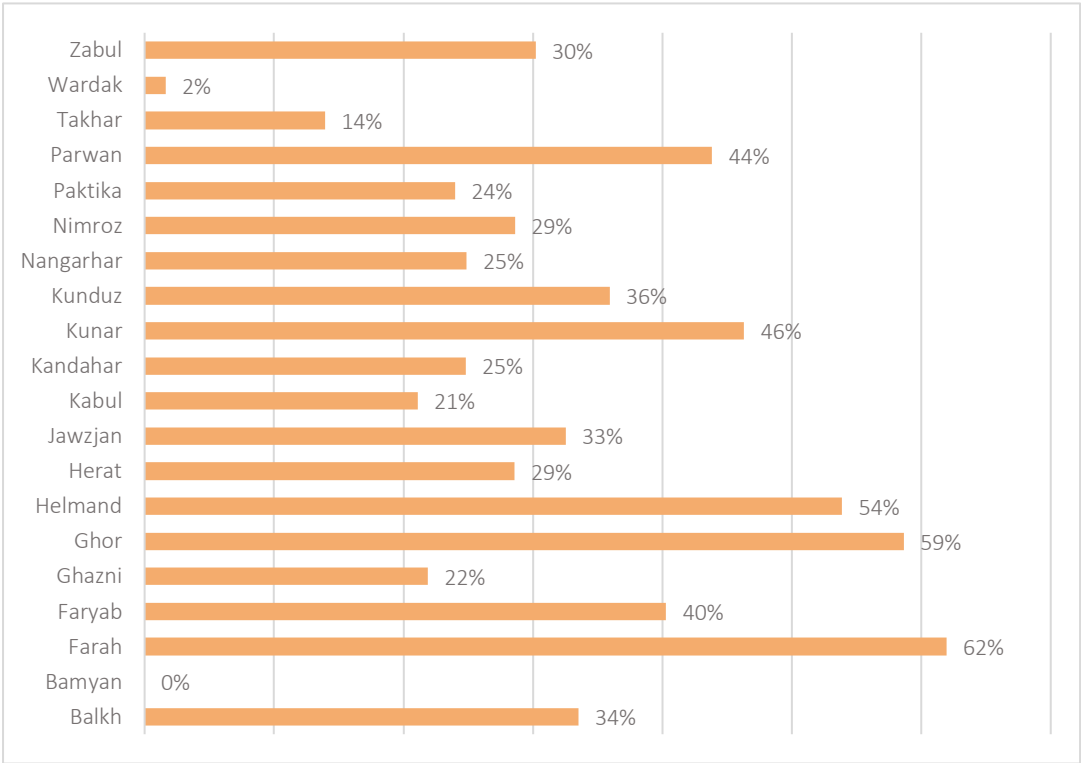


Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

The highest proportion of households that planted the same area as last year was in Nangarhar (67 percent). In Zabul, 22 percent of respondents reporting planting a substantially smaller area while in Ghor, the largest group of respondents reported planting a smaller area (48 percent). Figure 8 presents the percentage of respondents that reported planting less or substantially less area than the previous year. In Kandahar, 41 percent reported planting a larger area planted than last year.[4] All interviewed households in Bamyan reported that the survey period was not a season for farming.

Comparing the areas planted by crop type, 27 percent of wheat producers planted a smaller area, followed by 26 percent of vegetable producers and 20 percent of fruit producers.[5]

Figure 9. Percentage of surveyed households reporting a smaller or substantially smaller area planted compared to last year, by province

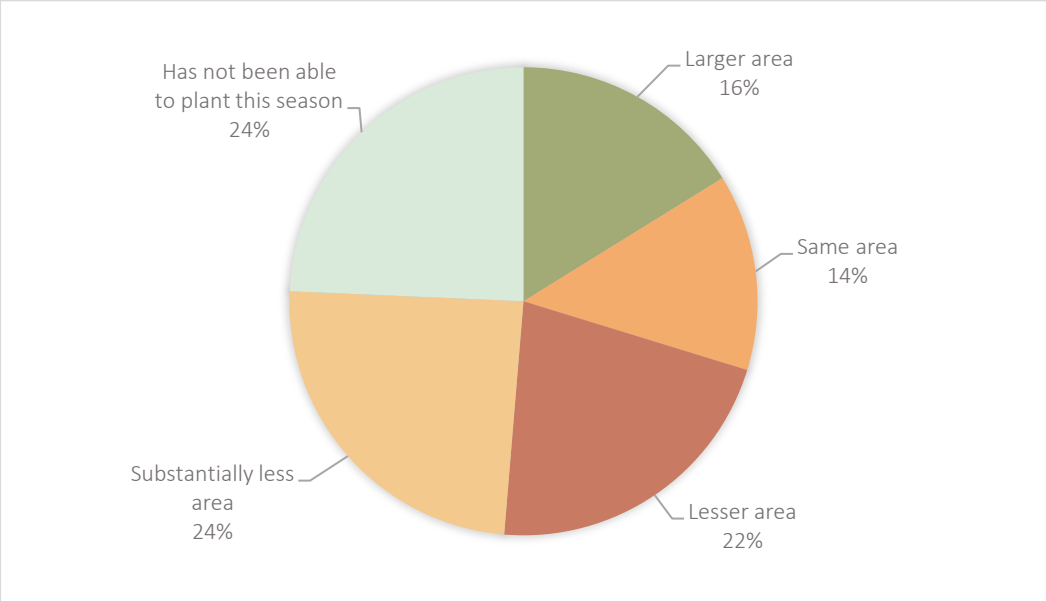


Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

[4] While results for the first-round assessment are not directly comparable with these data because the sampled provinces did not overlap, some consistencies were found. Similar to the first round, Zabul was the province where the most households reported planting the same area.

[5] The decrease in area wheat of wheat cultivation was confirmed with a positive Pearson's chi-squared test ($p<0.05$).

Figure 10. Change in area cultivated for households reporting insecurity or conflict as a shock (percentage)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

It is difficult to establish a cause-effect relationship between area planted and household characteristics. Difficulties in accessing seeds and other inputs may have contributed to farmers' decisions to plant a smaller area, especially considering that a high proportion of households reporting insufficient income as a constraint to inputs also reported cultivating a smaller area than the previous year. However, among respondents who cultivated a substantially smaller area (or could not plant at all), a high proportion also reported insecurity and conflict. This suggests that insecurity may also have contributed farmers' planting decisions.[6]

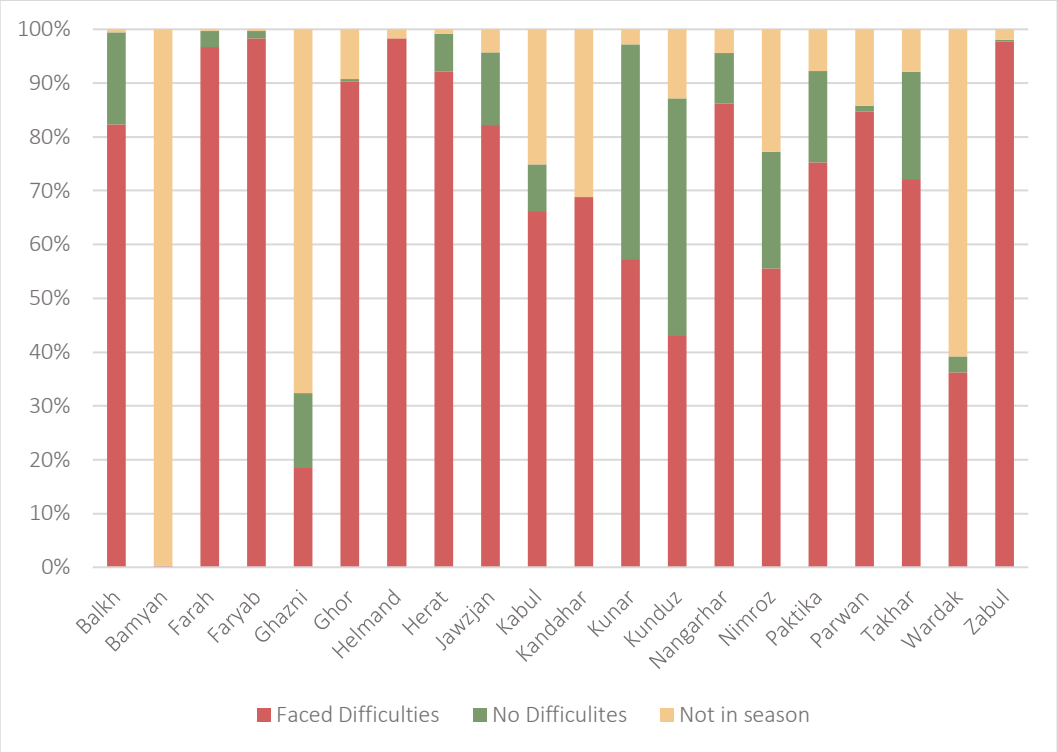
Difficulties in crop production

Among surveyed households, 88 percent reported facing difficulties with crop production in the three months preceding the survey. In Zabul, Helmand, and Faryab provinces, 98 percent of farmers reporting facing difficulties (97 percent in Farah faced difficulties) (Figure11).[7] This was confirmed by key informant interviews with agriculture extension officers: 92 percent of these extensionists mentioned difficulties for crop producers.

[6] The Pearson's chi-squared test ($p<0.005$) suggested an association between area cultivated and insecurity/conflict as a shock.

[7] During the first round, the provinces where farmers faced the most difficulties were Zabul, Kandahar, Helmand and Herat.

Figure 11. Percentage of surveyed households reporting difficulties with crop production in the three months prior to the survey, by province



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

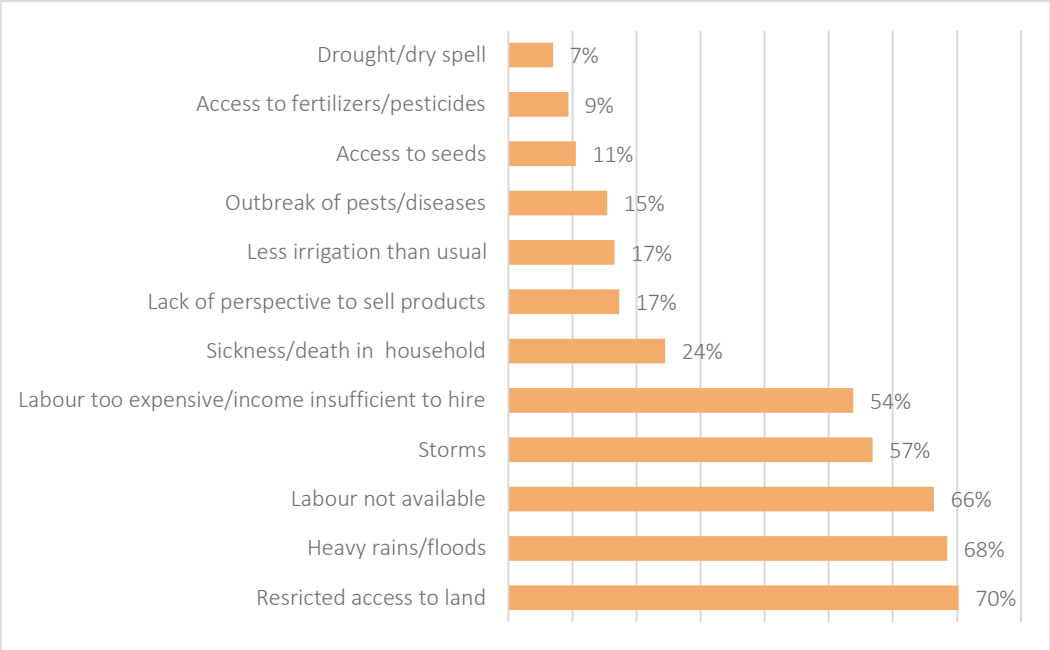
By crop, 86 percent of wheat producers faced some kind of difficulty along with 73 percent of vegetable farmers and 48 percent of fruit farmers. Among farmers cultivating less-commonly planted crops, this share reached 86 percent for those producing cereals other than wheat (including rice, maize and barley).

Among those who faced difficulties, the most frequently reported was drought/dry spells (70 percent), followed by difficulty accessing fertilizer/pesticides (68 percent) and difficulty accessing seeds (66 percent).[8] It is noteworthy that even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, land-access restrictions seemed to have had relatively minor impacts (7 percent) compared to more chronic problems faced by rural farmers (Figure 12).

Interviews with agricultural extension officers indicated that the majority of farmers (83 percent) faced drought or dry spells, and 60 percent faced difficulties in accessing seeds due to low availability and high prices (consistent with the results of the household survey). In addition, extension officers reported that 68 percent of farmers faced crop diseases and pests.

[8] During the first round of data collection, which was conducted earlier in the cropping season, drought was not a particular concern. At the time, outbreaks of pests and diseases were cited as the main difficulty. However, caution must be used when comparing the samples since sampled provinces do not completely overlap.

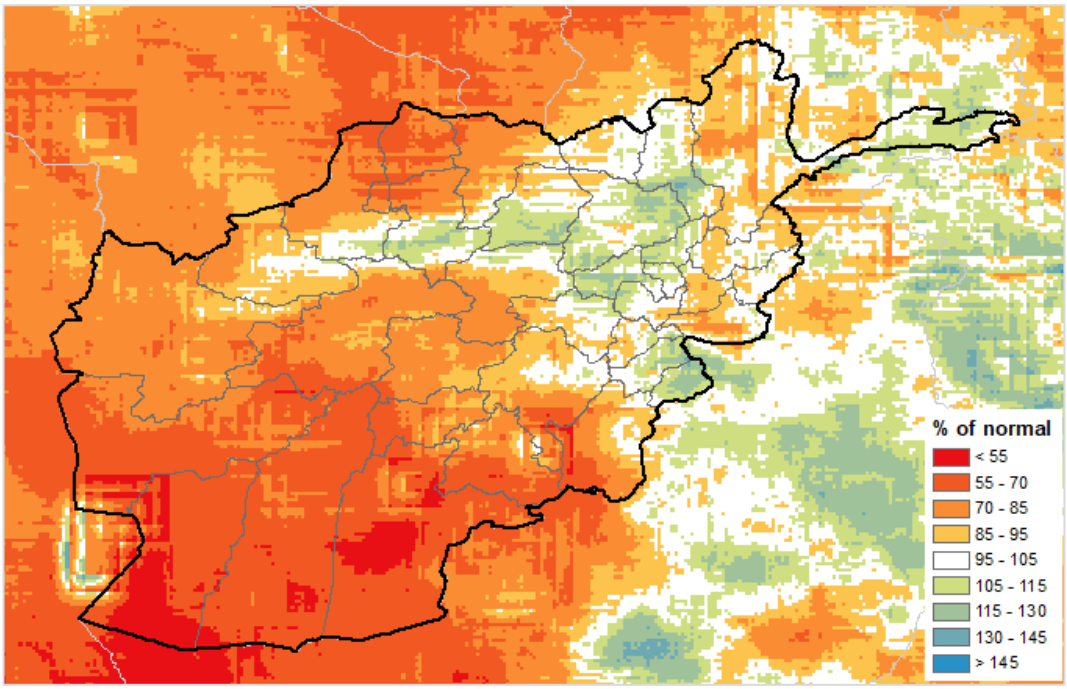
Figure 12. Main difficulties in crop production reported by surveyed households (percentage)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

The analysis of production difficulties is also consistent with secondary information highlighting the impact of below-average rainfall due to prevailing La Niña conditions. However, the spring wet season, which started in March 2021 (after data collection) brought above-average precipitation to the north, north-eastern, and central parts of the country. This precipitation reduced water stress and facilitated both irrigated and rainfed farming (particularly winter wheat) (FEWS NET, 2021). However, in the southern, western, and central highland regions, as well as in parts of the north, spring precipitation was below average and cumulative precipitation deficits persisted (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Seasonal rainfall accumulation: Percent of normal, by pentad (five-day) precipitation (October 2020–May 2021 versus the 1981–2010 average)



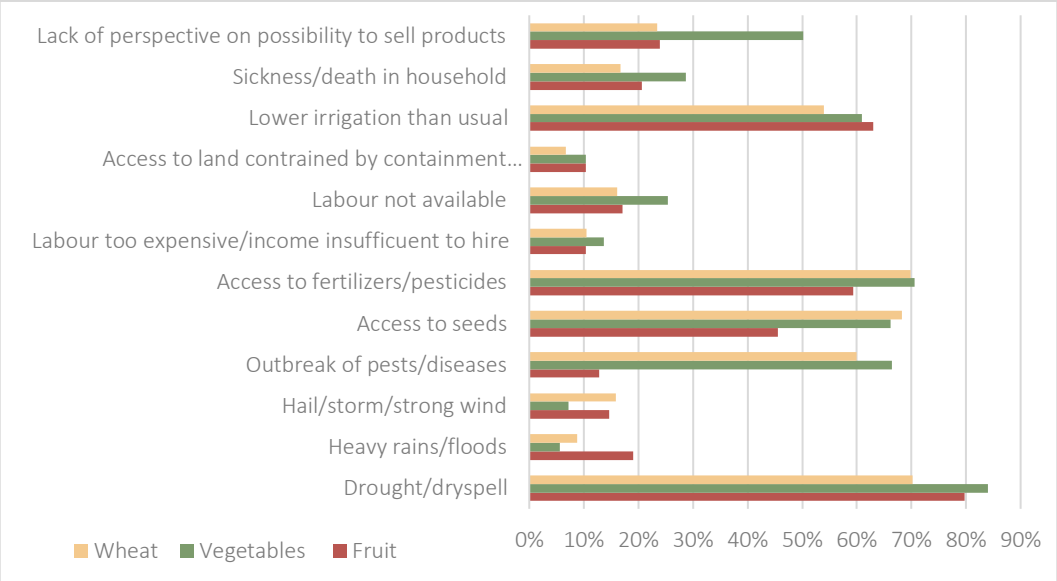
Source: United States Geological Survey, 2021b

Among wheat producers, 70 percent faced drought and difficulty accessing fertilizer or pesticides, while 68 percent reported difficulties accessing seeds, 60 percent reported outbreaks of pests or diseases, and 54 percent cited lower irrigation than usual. Drought was also reported by 80 percent of fruit producers, followed by lower irrigation than usual (63 percent) and difficulty accessing fertilizer/pesticides (59 percent). The majority of vegetable producers faced drought as well (84 percent), while difficulties accessing fertilizers and pesticides (71 percent), and seeds (66 percent) were also prevalent.

There were few differences in the most frequently cited difficulties by main crop farmed: drought and the outbreak of pests and diseases were reported across all crop types (Figure 14). However, difficulties related to access and cost were most frequently cited by fruit and vegetable farmers – probably due to the high demand for labour for those crops. Difficulty accessing seeds was mentioned most frequently by wheat farmers.

Examining the most frequently cited difficulties by province, drought was reported by 99 percent of respondents in Farah, while access to fertilizers or pesticides was reported by 89 percent of respondents in Kunduz. In Faryab, 93 percent of farmers reported issues in accessing seeds while outbreaks of pests or diseases were reported by 88 percent in Farah. Lower irrigation than usual was reported by 86 percent of respondents in Jawzjan.

Figure 14. Main difficulty in production, by crop type (percent of respondents)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

A potential bottleneck in accessing inputs was explored further by triangulating households' responses with key informant interviews of agricultural inputs vendors. While 97 percent of vendors reported being in business over the past month, 73 percent reported that their business had been affected by COVID-19 restrictions put in place by authorities.[9] Lower sales, business restrictions due to COVID-19, higher operating costs and insufficient supplies were the most-cited challenges reported by the interviewed vendors. Therefore, both the household and vendor responses indicated a reduction in the sale of inputs.

When asked about their level of sales over the past month compared to usual at this time of year, 64 percent of vendors reported that sales had moderately decreased. This decrease was greatest for seedlings/saplings (73 percent), followed by fertilizer (69 percent), farming tools (68 percent) and seeds (64 percent). It is worth highlighting that 52 percent of vendors reported making moderate changes in their supply channels in the last month, while 12 percent had made drastic changes.[10] Supply disruptions also appear to have impacted prices: 54 percent of vendors reported that their costs had increased since last year.

Supply chain disruptions appear to be particularly serious in Zabul, Herat and Kabul, with 90 percent, 88 percent and 86 percent of vendors in these provinces, respectively reporting an increase since last year. Across all provinces, 61 percent of interviewed vendors expected more operating difficulties in the coming months and 54 percent expected an increase in prices.

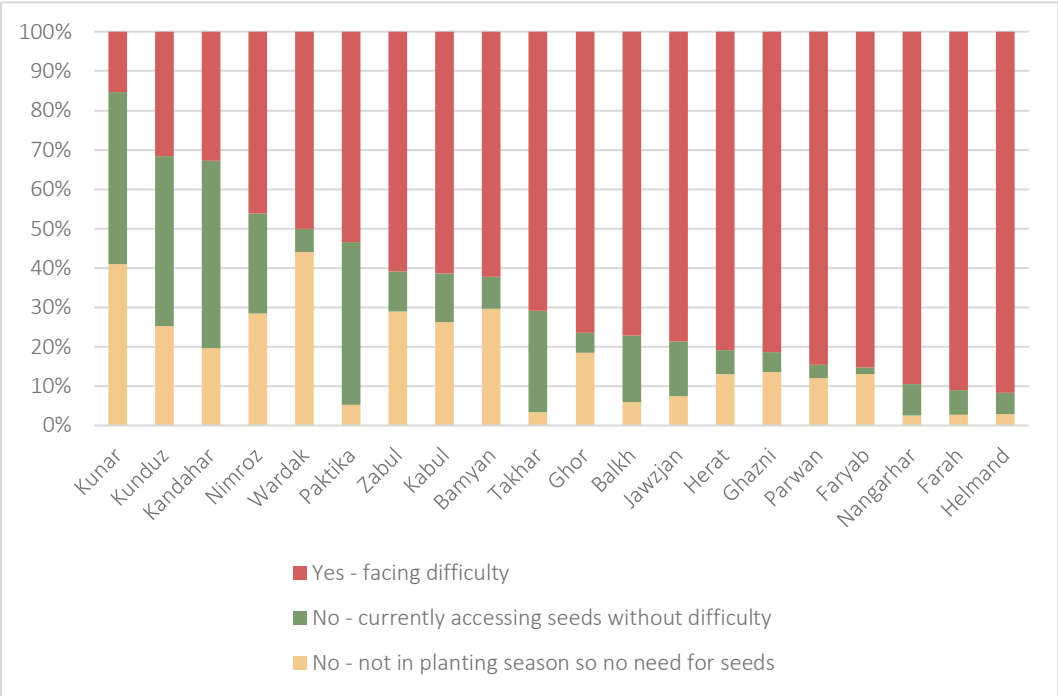
[9] COVID-19 containment measures could have contributed to tensions and disputes: 64 percent of agricultural extension officers mentioned that restrictions in accessing inputs had caused tensions.

[10] In addition, approximately half of input vendors reported challenges in transportation, and finding workers, and one third faced challenges with packaging and storage.

Difficulty accessing seeds

Among households in the "land preparation" and "not in season" stages of the cropping cycle, 71 percent reported facing difficulty accessing seeds. The highest proportion of households facing this difficulty was in Helmand province (Figure 15). Interviews with agriculture extension officers indicate that 78 percent of the farmers faced difficulty accessing seeds.

Figure 15. Percentage of crop-producing households reporting difficulty accessing seeds in the past three months, by province



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

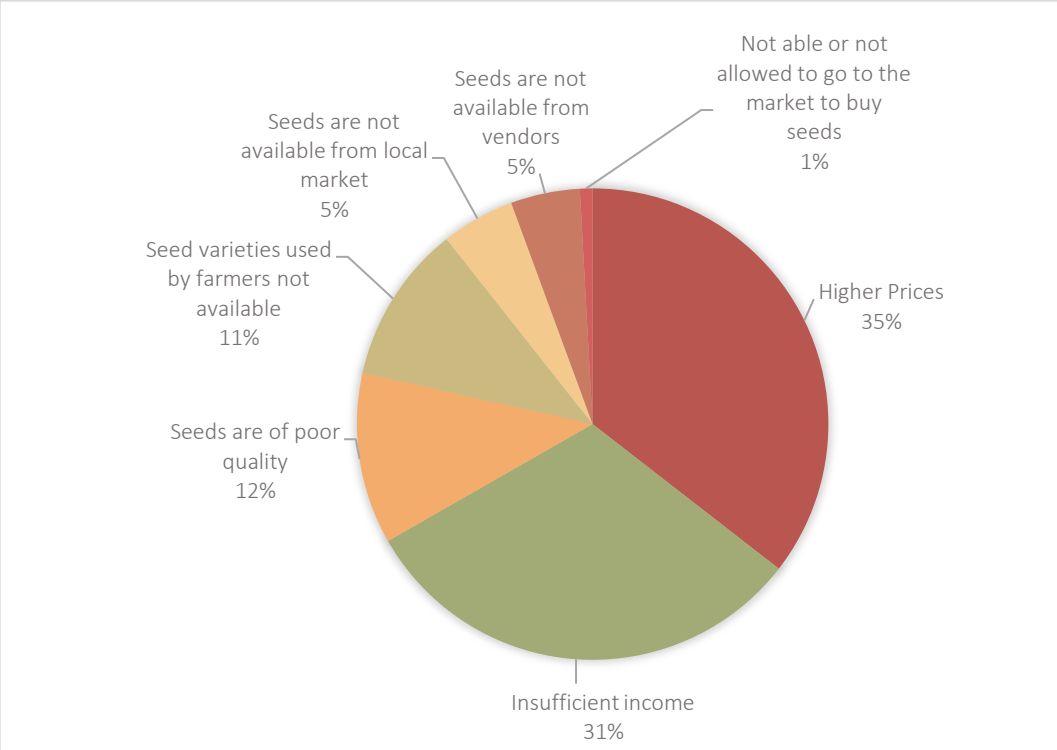
For farmers with difficulty accessing seeds, 36 percent reported that the reason was higher prices while 31 percent cited insufficient income to buy seeds and 12 percent reported poor seed quality (Figure 16). The highest proportion of households citing higher prices was in Nangarhar province (83 percent of households); details of respondents' difficulties accessing seeds by province are provided in Annex 2. In addition, agriculture extension officers reported that 78 percent of households faced difficulties accessing seeds and 71 percent had purchased low-quality seeds, while 48 percent had sowed their seeds late and 48 percent had reduced their planted area.

Interviews with input vendors confirmed the current challenges within supply chains. Most reported a decrease in sales of all the inputs they offer.[11] Almost all of those who

[11] Sixty-one percent of input vendors reported that their clients had been asking much more to buy on credit and 32 percent reported that their clients had asked a bit more. Thirty-six percent reported they had been granting credit for purchases more than usual, followed by 33 percent who were granting it less than usual and 31 percent who were granting credit at the same rate usual.

sell seeds reported selling a slightly lower quantity, and about one half stated that they were not able to satisfy the demand for seeds due to insufficient supply.

Figure 16. Reasons reported by respondents for difficulty accessing seeds



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results

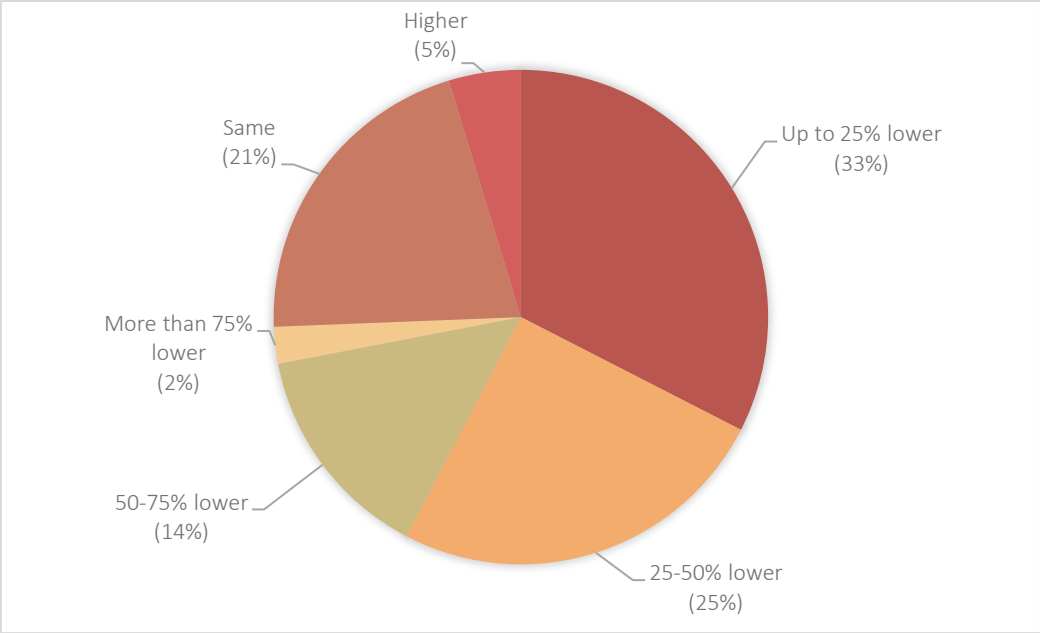
Productivity

The highest proportion of surveyed crop producers (33 percent) reported expecting up to 25 percent lower production, while 25 percent expect 25–50 percent lower production and 14 percent reported that they expect 50–75 percent lower production compared to last year (Figure 17).

An analysis of production expectations by crop type reveals that: 33 percent of wheat producers expect up to 25 percent lower production; 26 percent expect 20–50 percent lower production and 14 percent expect 50–75 percent lower production. Among vegetable producers, 34 percent reported that they expect 25–50 lower production while 31 percent expect production to be up to 25 percent lower (Figure 18).

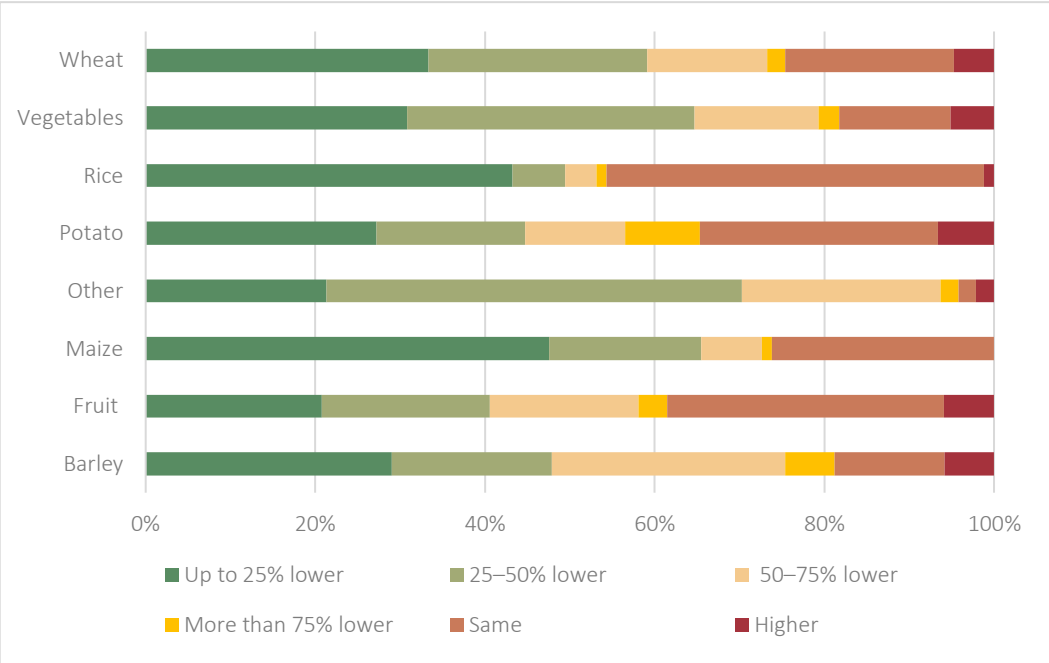
Sixty-five percent of interviewed agricultural extension officers expect a decrease in production compared to last year. By crop, they reported foreseeing a decrease of 74 percent for potato, 67 percent for vegetable and 66 percent for wheat and fruit. Of the total, 42 percent expect a decrease of 10–25 percent and 40 percent expect a 25–50 percent decrease.

Figure 17. Surveyed households' expectations of production compared to last year (percentage)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

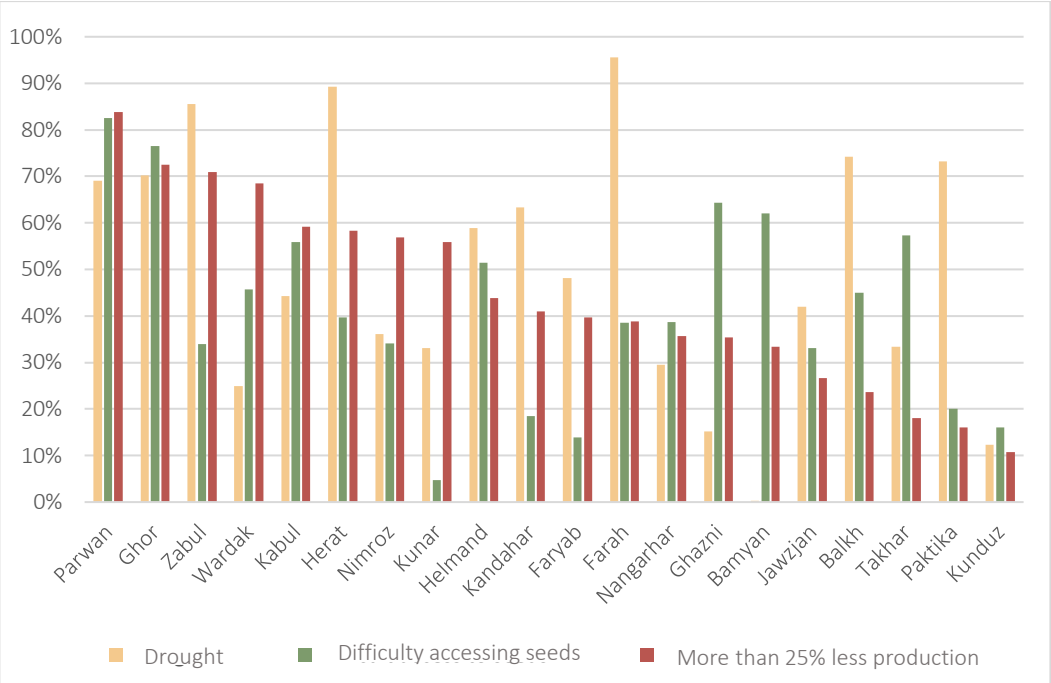
Figure 18. Percentage of crop-producing households reporting changes in production, by crop



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

For interviewed farmers, drought conditions and difficulties in accessing seed appear to be associated with poor harvest expectations (especially in Wardak, Nimroz and Bamyan provinces). Expectations of poor production (a reduction of 25 percent or more compared to the previous year) were higher in the provinces where drought or difficulties accessing seeds were also cited more frequently (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Percentage of households reporting at least 25 percent less production as well as drought and difficulty accessing seeds, by province



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

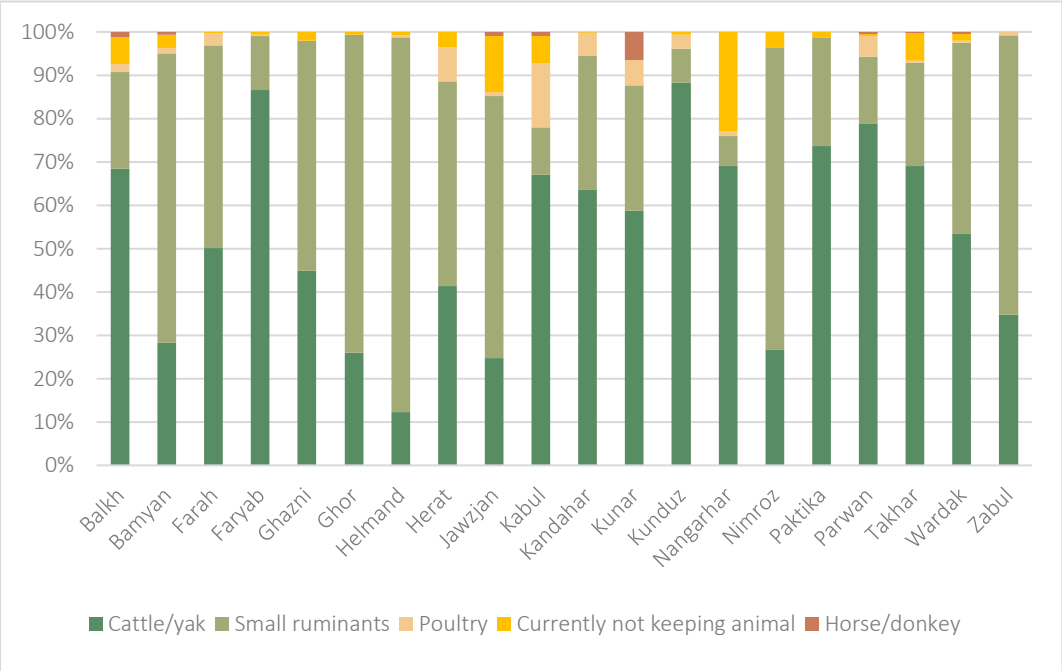
Livestock

Across the 20 provinces surveyed, 53 percent of households reported raising cattle as their main animal for income generation, followed by small ruminants (40 percent) and poultry (3 percent). An additional 3 percent of households were not keeping animals during the survey conducted. The highest proportion of cattle herders (87 percent) was reported from Faryab, in the north-west agro-pastoral zone, while the greatest amount of small ruminants is kept in Helmand (86 percent) and the greatest amount of poultry (15 percent) is raised in in Kabul (Figure 20).

Difficulties in livestock production

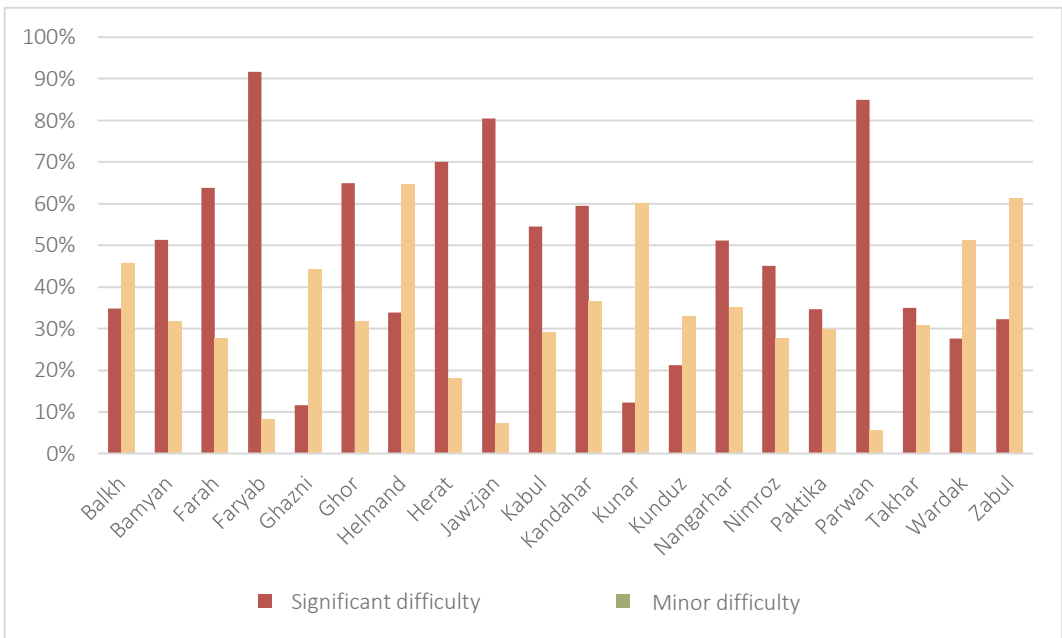
During the three months prior to the survey, 82 percent of surveyed livestock-producing households reported facing difficulties raising their animals (Figure 21). In the province of Kandahar, all respondents reported difficulties. Of those who faced difficulties, the most frequently cited was in accessing water (39 percent), followed by access to feed (31 percent), veterinary services and inputs (22 percent), and pasture (8 percent).

Figure 20. Livestock ownership among surveyed households, by province



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

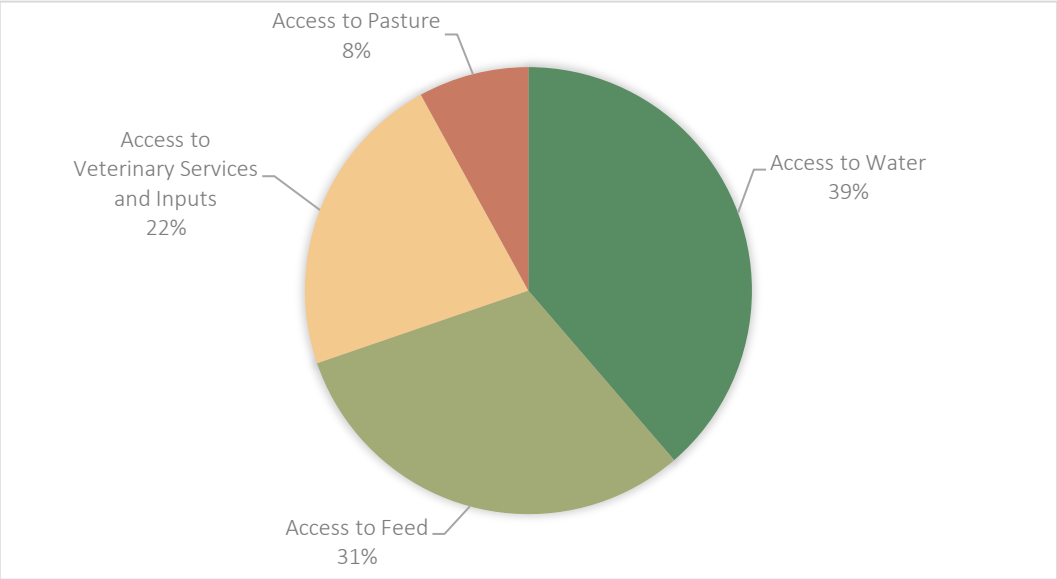
Figure 21. Percentage of surveyed livestock producers reporting difficulties in the three months prior to the survey, by province



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

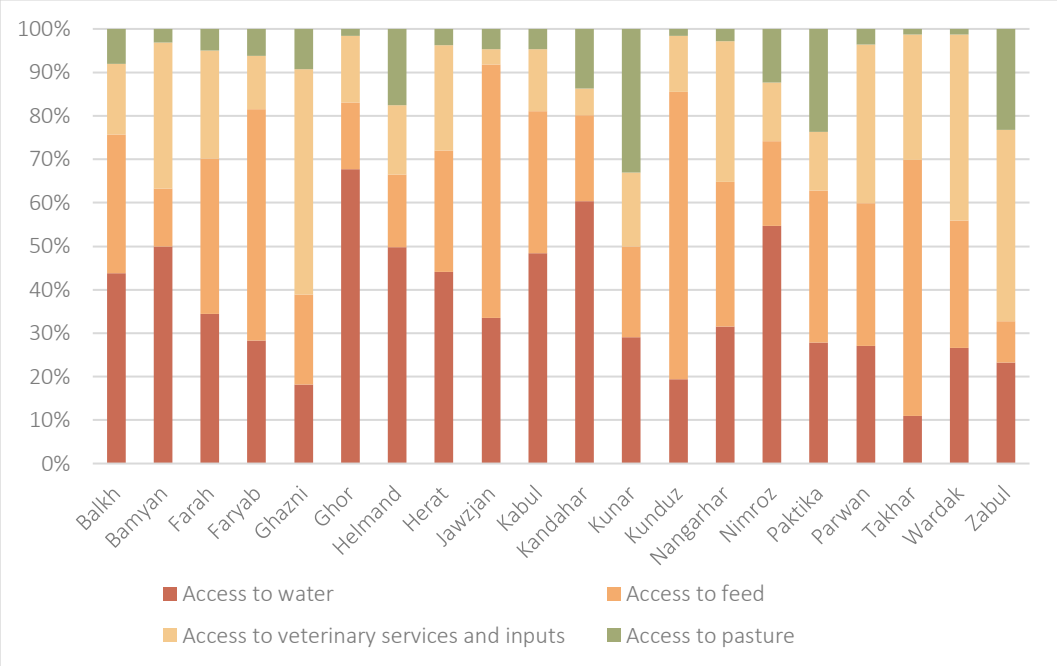
Difficulty accessing water were most cited in Ghor, while access to feed was most reported in Kunduz, access to veterinary services and inputs was reported by 52 percent of respondents in Gazni, and access to pasture was most cited in Kunar (Figure 23). This pattern is consistent with the map in Figure 12, suggesting that drought conditions affected pastures and water points.

Figure 22. Difficulties reported by livestock-producing households in the past three months



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Figure 23. Difficulties faced by livestock-producing households in the past three months, by province

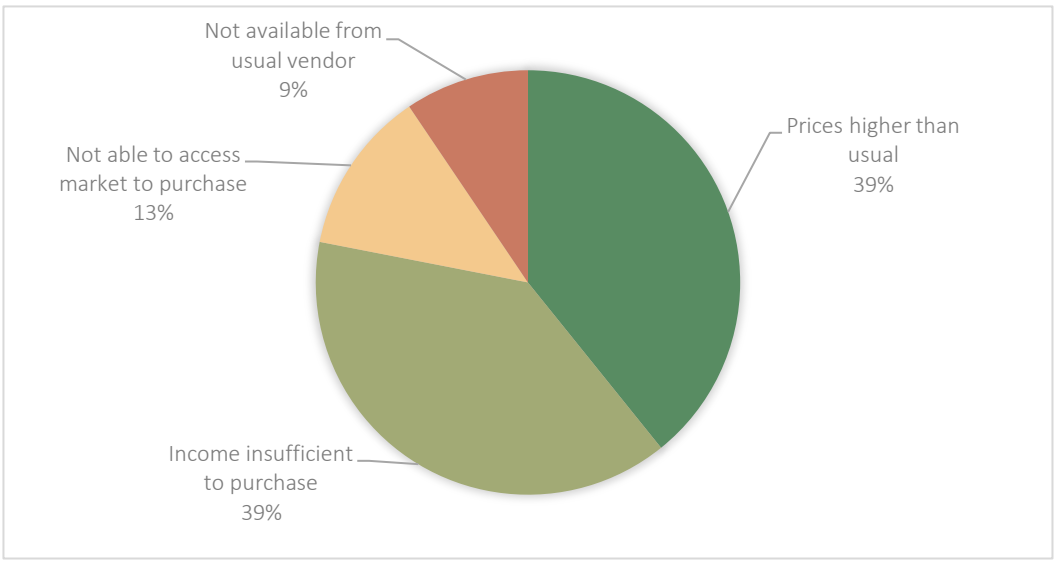


Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Cattle herders faced particular difficulty accessing water and feed (each of these was cited by 36 percent of herders). Among small ruminant herders, 42 percent faced difficulty with access to water and 25 percent faced challenges accessing feed.

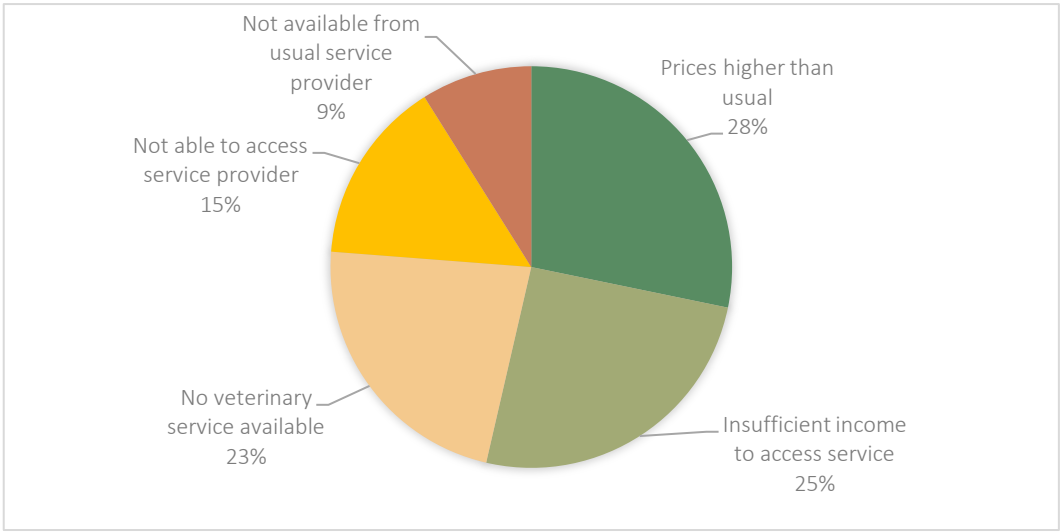
Of those who faced difficulty accessing feed, 39 percent cited higher prices than usual and insufficient income as the main reasons, followed by 12 percent who reported a lack of access to markets (Figure 24). Among those who experienced difficulty accessing veterinary services, 28 percent cited higher prices and 25 percent reported insufficient income (Figure 25).

Figure 24. Reported reasons for difficulty accessing feed (percentage)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Figure 25. Reported reasons for difficulty accessing veterinary services and inputs (percentage)

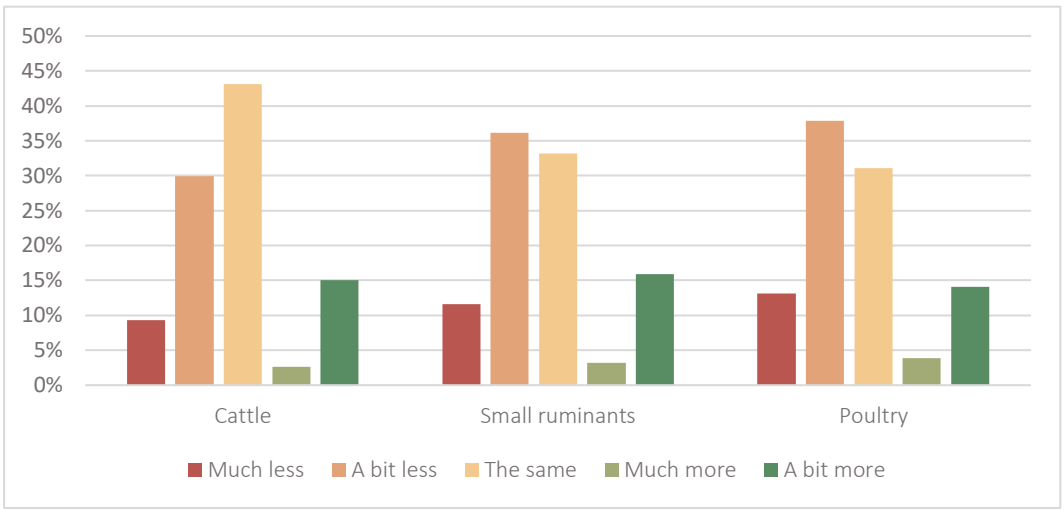


Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Key informant interviews with agricultural extension officers revealed that 84 percent of livestock herders had faced difficulties. These were mostly due to livestock disease, lack of regular veterinary service and a lack of feed.

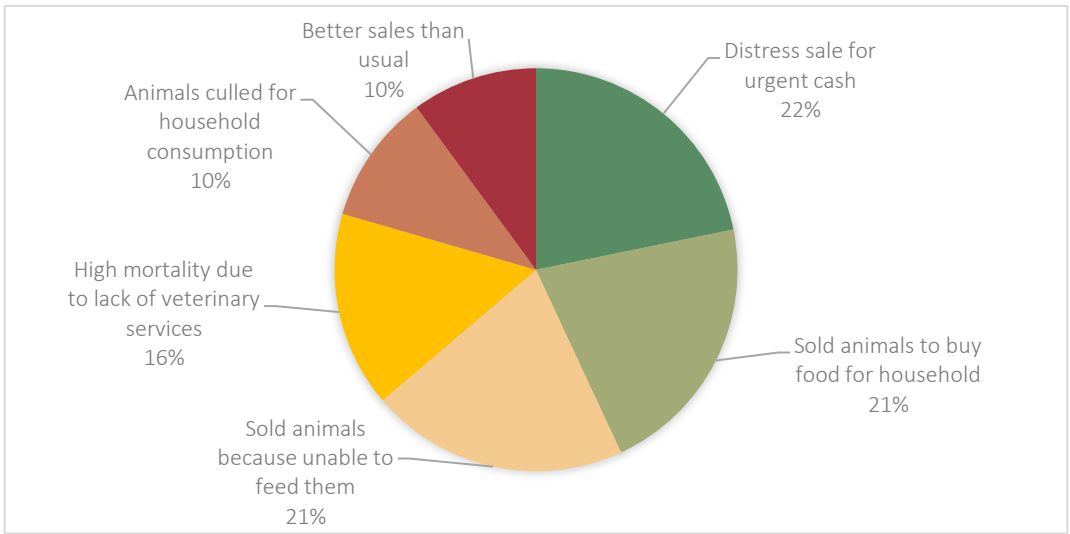
Reductions in the number of animals compared to last year were reported by 39 percent of cattle herders, 48 percent of small ruminant herders and 51 percent of those keeping poultry (Figure 26). The most frequently cited reasons for herd reductions were distress sales for urgent cash needed, followed by animals sold to buy food for households and animals sold because respondents were unable to feed them. While it is typical to sell livestock during the lean season in order to afford essential expenditures, the fact that more livestock were sold compared to the same period last year suggests a particularly difficult lean season – especially in the province of Ghor.

Figure 26. Change in livestock herd numbers compared to the same time last year (percentage)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Figure 27. Reported reasons for changes in herd size (percentage)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

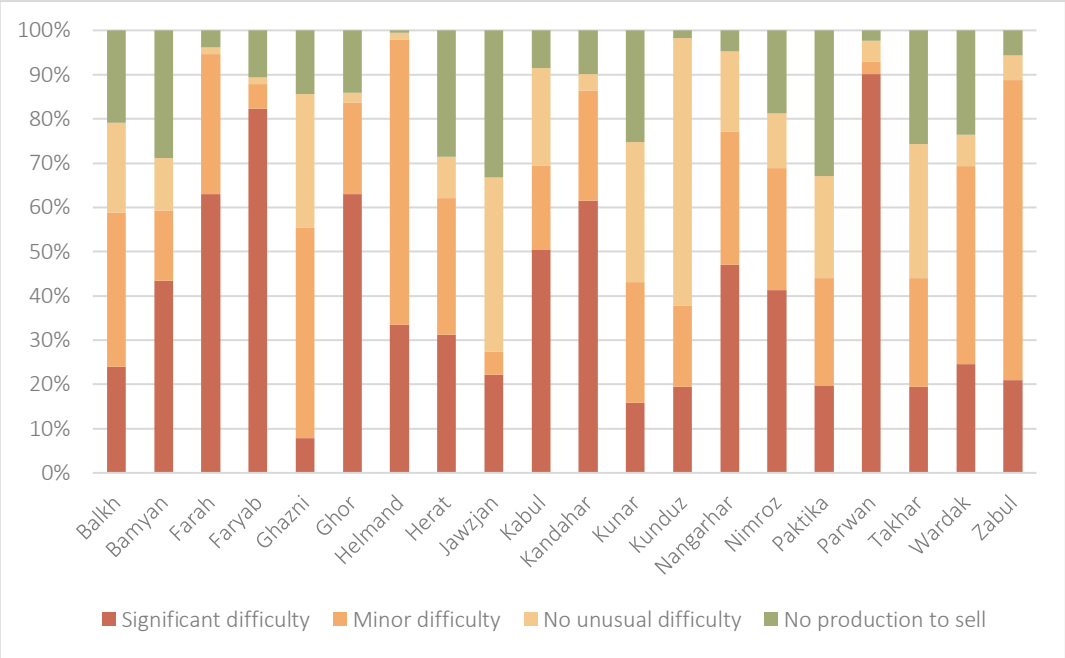
Consistent with findings of the household survey, 90 percent of interviewed extension officers reported that livestock herders had been destocking their animals over the past three months (e.g. culled for household consumption or a lack of feed or water, died because of disease or lack of feed or water, sold more than usual for income). In addition, 78 percent of extension officers expect a decrease in livestock production compared to last year. Of those expecting a decrease, 46 percent reported that they expect a 10–25 percent decrease, while 30 percent expect a decrease of 25–50 percent.

As a result of the expected decrease in livestock production, 47 percent of agricultural extension officers also expect a decrease in milk production of 10–25 percent while 44 percent expect a decrease in leader/wool production of 25–50 percent.

Food supply and markets

Throughout the 20 provinces surveyed, 68 percent of interviewed agricultural producers (both crop and livestock-producing households) faced unusual difficulty selling their production in the three months prior to the survey, particularly in Kandahar and Herat provinces (42 percent and 43 percent, respectively) (Figure 28).

Figure 28. Percentage of households reporting difficultyselling production in the past three months, by province



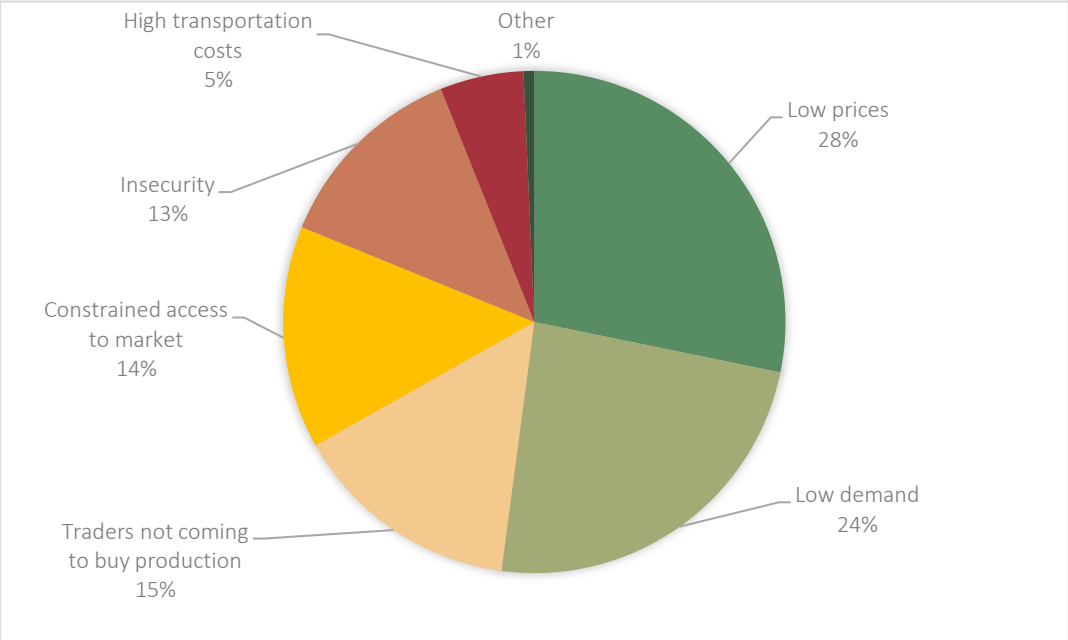
Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results

Of the households who reported facing unusual difficulties during this period, 28 percent identified lower-than-expected prices for their production as the main reason (Figure 29), particularly in Takhar (79 percent). Other reasons reported included lower demand and the fact that the usual traders were no longer coming to purchase their produce. In Nangarhar, 64 percent of respondents reported lower demand.

Given the difficulties faced by agricultural households, the survey also revealed that 30 percent of agricultural producers resorted to destroying a large part of their production since they were unable to sell it in a timely fashion or to preserve it to sell in the future (Figure 30).[12]

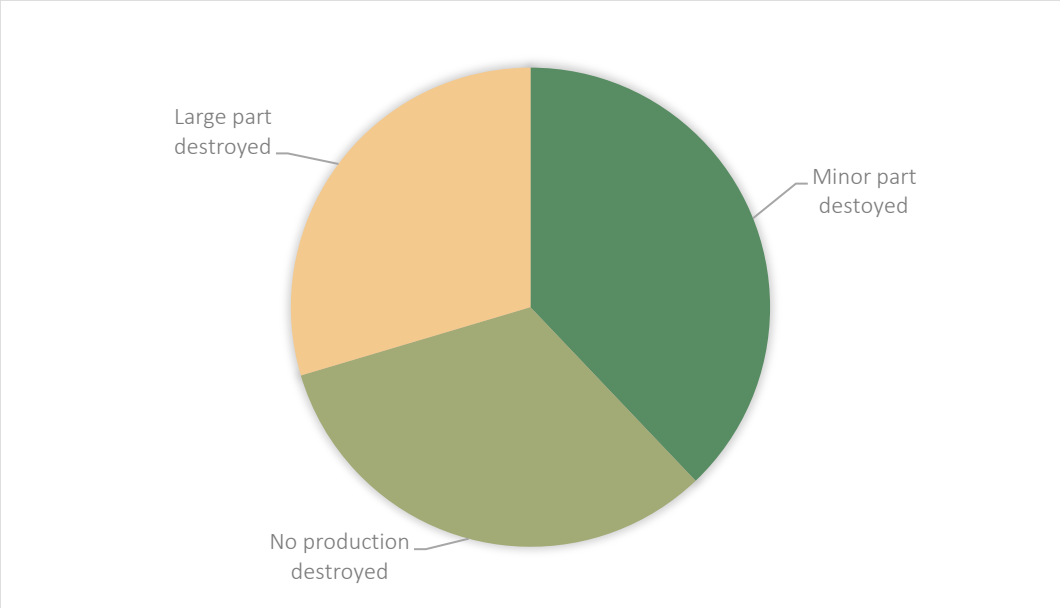
[12] Because of the cropping cycle, most respondents referred to production in September and October 2020.

Figure 29. Reported reasons for difficulty selling production



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

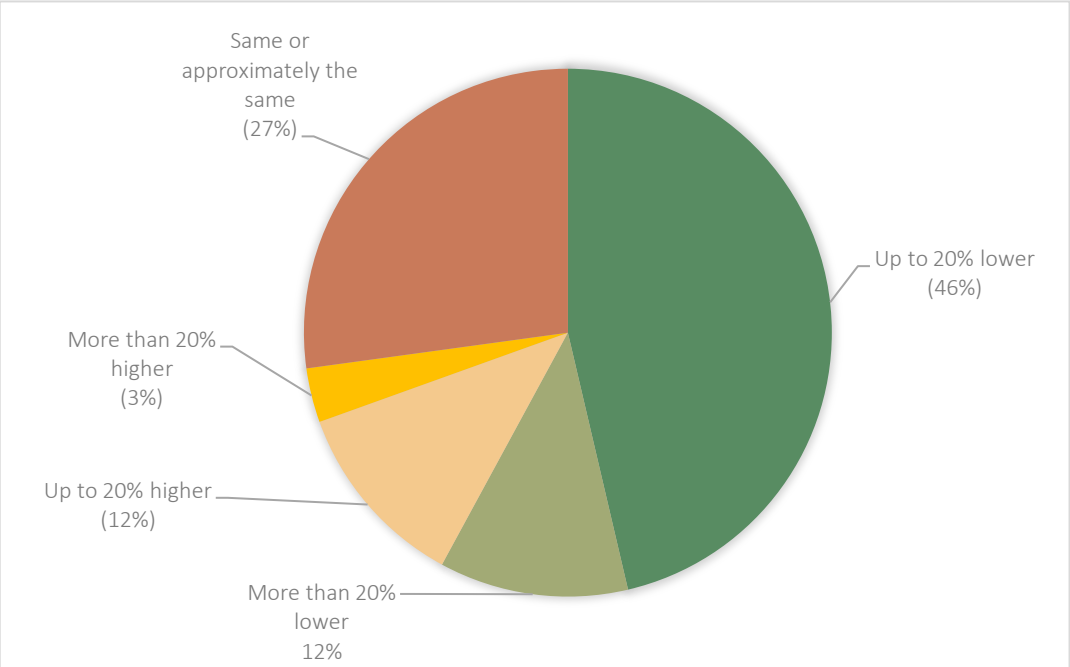
Figure 30. Percentage of household production destroyed in previous cropping cycle



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

With 68 percent of agricultural households reporting difficulty marketing their production, it is unsurprising that 46 percent of agricultural producers reported selling their production at lower prices compared to the same period last year. The highest percentage of households reporting lower prices (83 percent) was in Parwan.

Figure 31. Reported prices differences in the past year



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

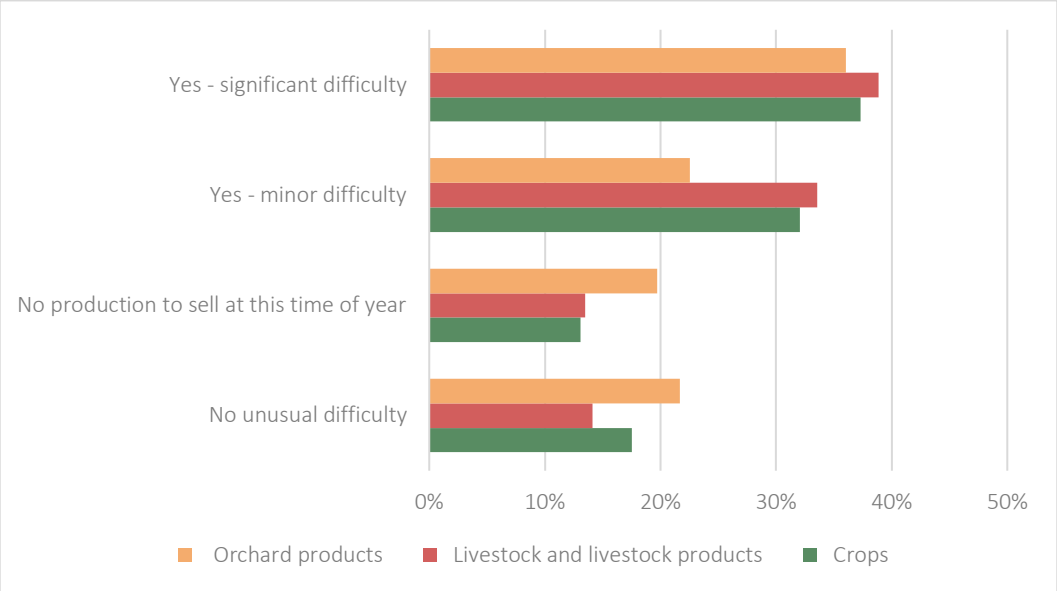
These findings are in line with key informant interview responses from agriculture extension officers, 26 percent of whom reported that farm-gate prices for main crops were lower than usual in the three months prior to the survey. In addition, 86 percent confirmed difficulty marketing their products while 57 percent reported that farmers had found alternative means of selling their produce.

Lower prices, lower demand, traders not coming to buy production, constrained access to markets and insecurity were the most cited challenges reported by agricultural households. Lower prices were the most reported issue (79 percent) in Takhar while lower demand was most cited in Nangarhar (64 percent). In Balkh and Jawzjan, the most-reported issue was traders not coming to buy production (43 percent), while constrained access to markets was most cited in Parwan (47 percent) and insecurity was most reported in Zabul (64 percent). Among extension officers, 40 percent reported a bit less food available in their areas (from community cereal banks, traders and markets) than usual.

It is difficult to determine cause-effect relationships between government restrictions related to COVID-19 and marketing difficulties faced by producers. However, interviews with agricultural extension officers suggest that these restrictions contributed to tension and disputes. Sixty-seven percent of them mentioned that tensions and disputes were caused by restrictions on selling products at the farm gate, 57 percent mentioned tensions caused by restrictions to agricultural markets and 44 percent attributed tensions to livestock market restrictions.

Finally, the data indicate that respondents whose main source of income was the sale of livestock and livestock products faced more difficulties in marketing their production than crop farmers (Figure 32).

Figure 32. Level of difficulty faced, by type of production (percentage of respondents)

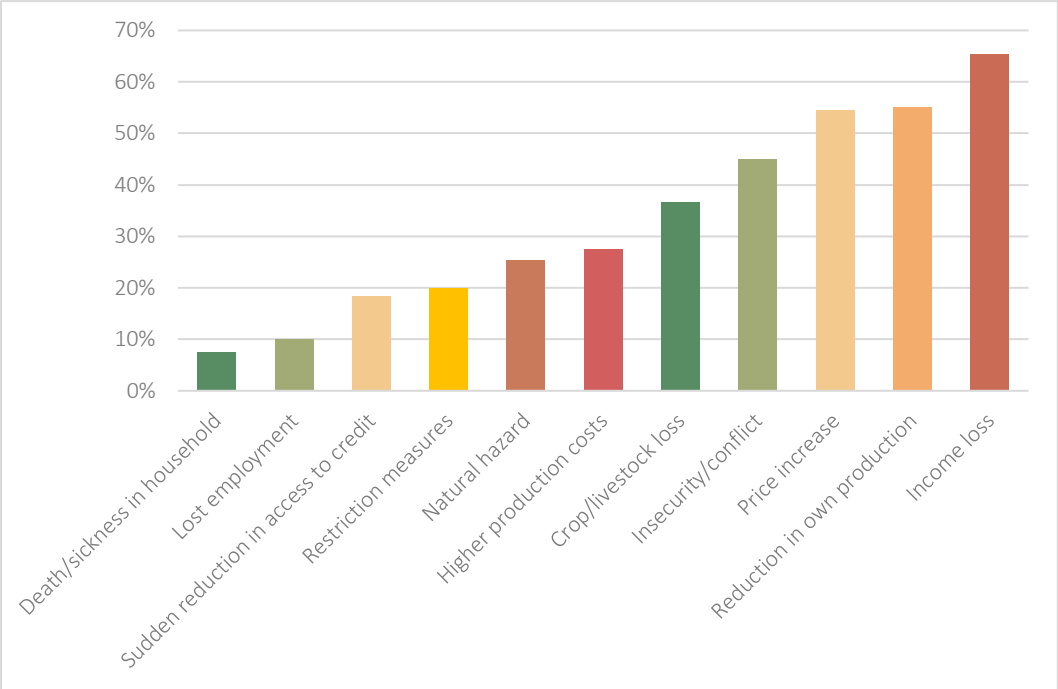


Source: FAO, FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Livelihoods, incomes and coping strategies

Of all agricultural households interviewed, 46 percent reported having experienced shocks. The most prevalent shocks reported were the loss of income, decreased production and an increase in prices (Figure 33).

Figure 33. Types of shocks reported by households in the past three months (percentage of respondents that reported experiencing shocks)



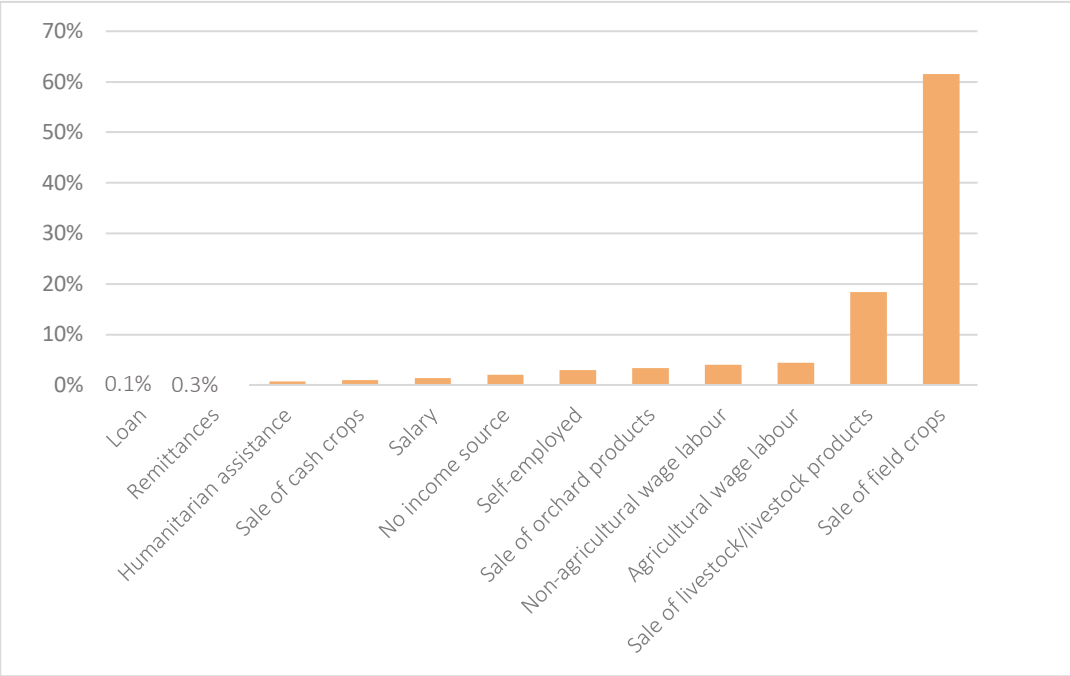
Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

The main sources of income among surveyed households during the three months preceding the survey were the sale of field crops, livestock products and livestock. Respondent households also reported engaging in agricultural wage labour and non-agricultural activities, albeit less frequently (Figure 34).

In Ghazni province, 91 percent of households reported the sale of field crops as their main source of income. In Helmand, the most-reported income source was the sale of livestock and livestock products (40 percent), while in Kandahar, agriculture wage labour was the most-reported income source (19 percent). In Kunar non-agricultural wage labour was the most prevalent income source (32 percent) and in Kabul, the sale of orchard products was the most reported (details of income sources by province are provided in Annex 5).

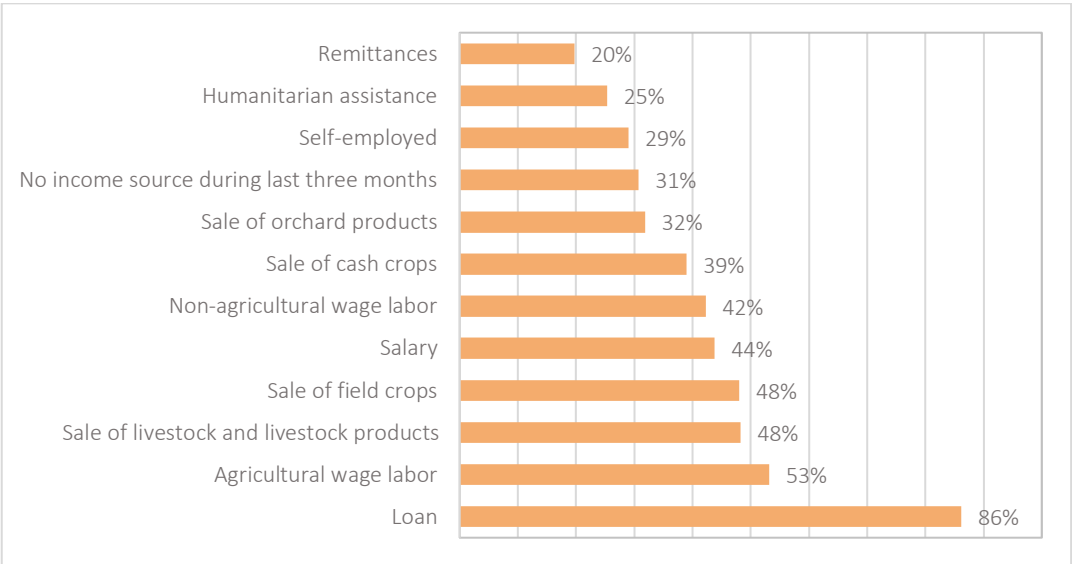
Shocks affected households differently depending on their main source of income. The majority of households living off agricultural labour and loans were affected by shocks, and nearly half of those living off the sale of crops, livestock and livestock products were impacted (Figure 35).

Figure 34. Main sources of household income in the past three months



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Figure 35. Percentage of households affected by shocks, by main income source



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

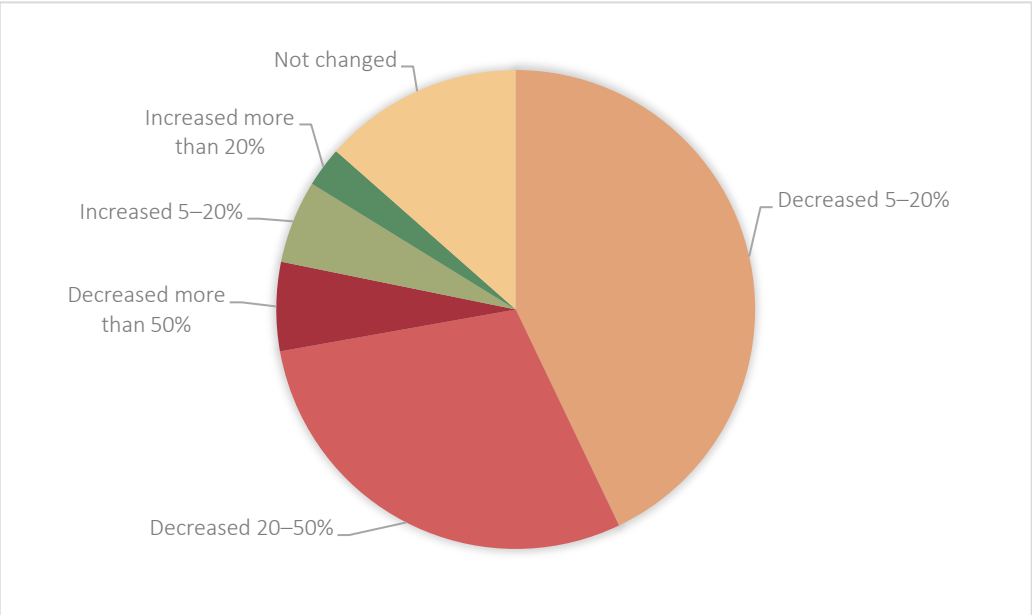
The most frequently cited shocks, including income losses and soaring prices, were cited uniformly across livelihood categories. A decrease in production (the second most frequently mentioned shock) was cited the most often by households whose main source of income is the sale of agricultural and livestock products, but also by 53 percent of agricultural labourers, who evidently also farm.

Some shocks were cited more frequently by households with specific income profiles. This is the case for loss of employment, which was cited by 17 percent of agricultural wage labourers, 34 percent of those whose main income was from humanitarian

assistance and 21 percent of those who had not received income in the three months. Crops and livestock losses were more frequently mentioned by beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance (41 percent) and those who had received no income (40 percent).

Importantly, COVID-19-related restrictions were particularly experienced as a shock for households whose main income was the sale of livestock and livestock products (29 percent – higher than the average across the sample). These households also cited insecurity and conflict as a shock more frequently than others (51 percent). Overall, 78 percent of agricultural households reported that their income had decreased in the last three months compared to same period last year (Figure 36).

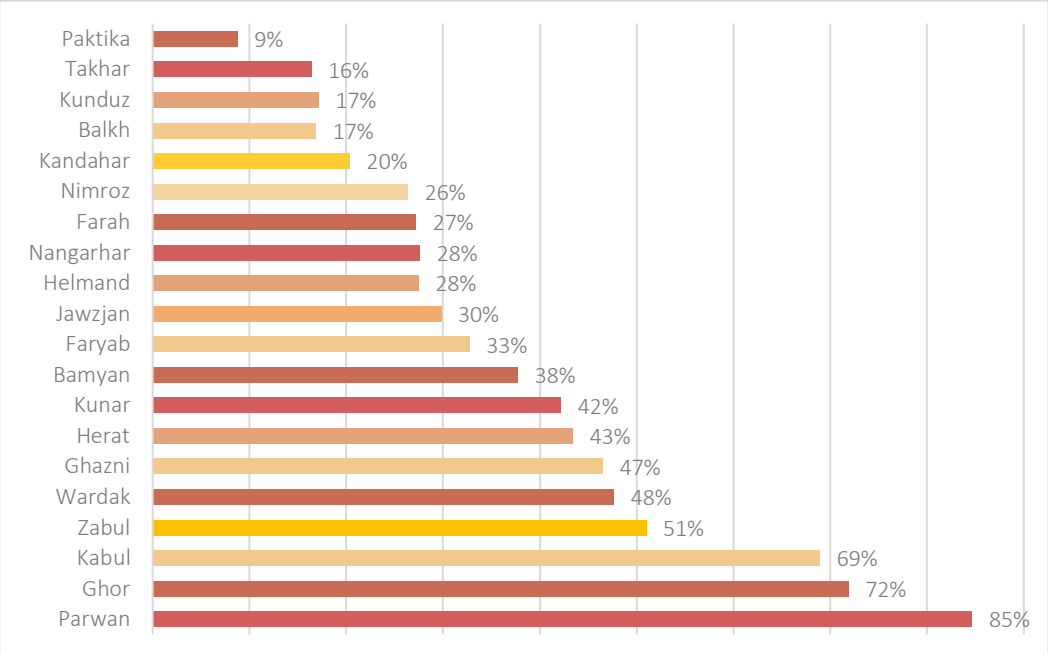
Figure 36. Changes in household income in the past three months compared to the same period last year (percentage of respondents)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

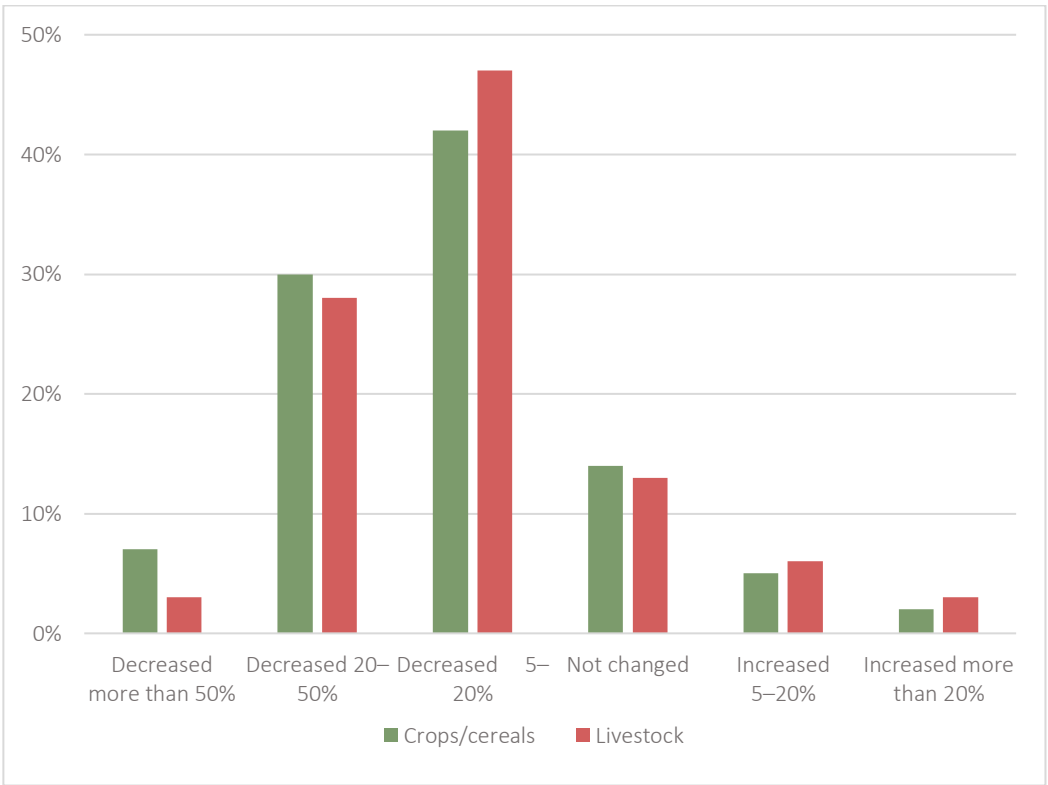
By geographic area, the highest shares of respondents citing income decreases of 20 percent or more were in the provinces of Parwan (85 percent), Ghor (72 percent) and Kabul (69 percent) (Figure 37).

Figure 37. Percentage of households reporting drastic or significant decreases in income, by province



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Figure 38. Changes in income for households cultivating crops/cereals and livestock

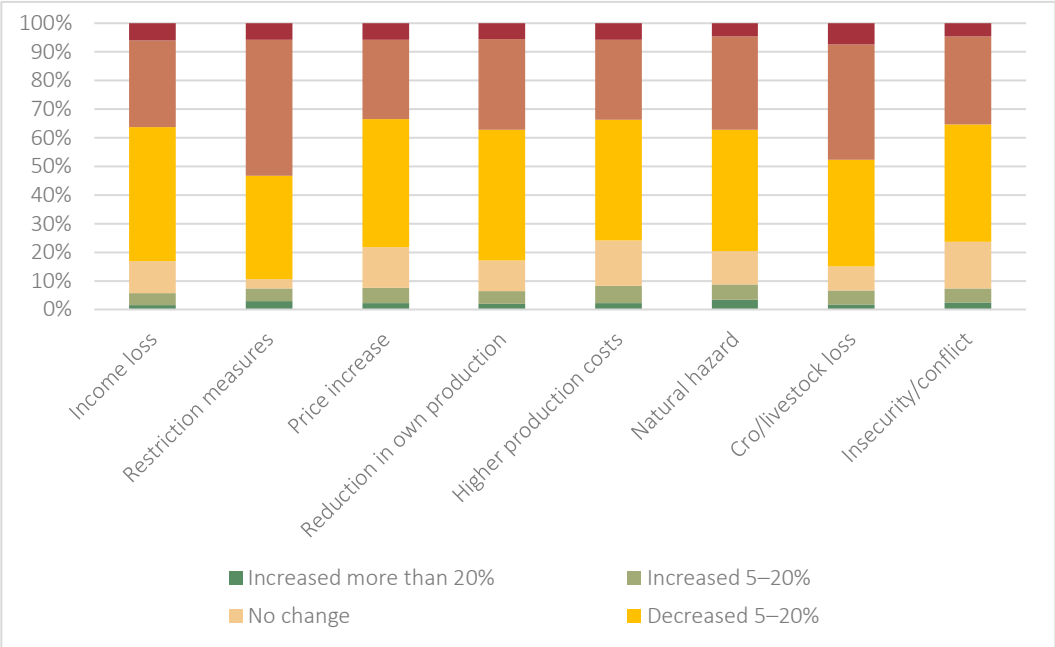


Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Decreased income could be attributable to sudden shocks and chronic problems. In this sample, income decreases do not seem to be associated with area planted or specific production difficulties. However, the Pearson's chi-squared test showed a positive

association between changes in income and having faced a shock ($p<0.05$). The shocks most associated with drastic or significant income decreases were restriction measures, crop and livestock losses, natural hazards and conflict or insecurity (Figure 39). It is worth noting that while restrictions and insecurity were not among respondents' most frequently cited shocks, they were associated with critical income losses.

Figure 39. Percentage of respondent households reporting changes in income in the past three months, by shock

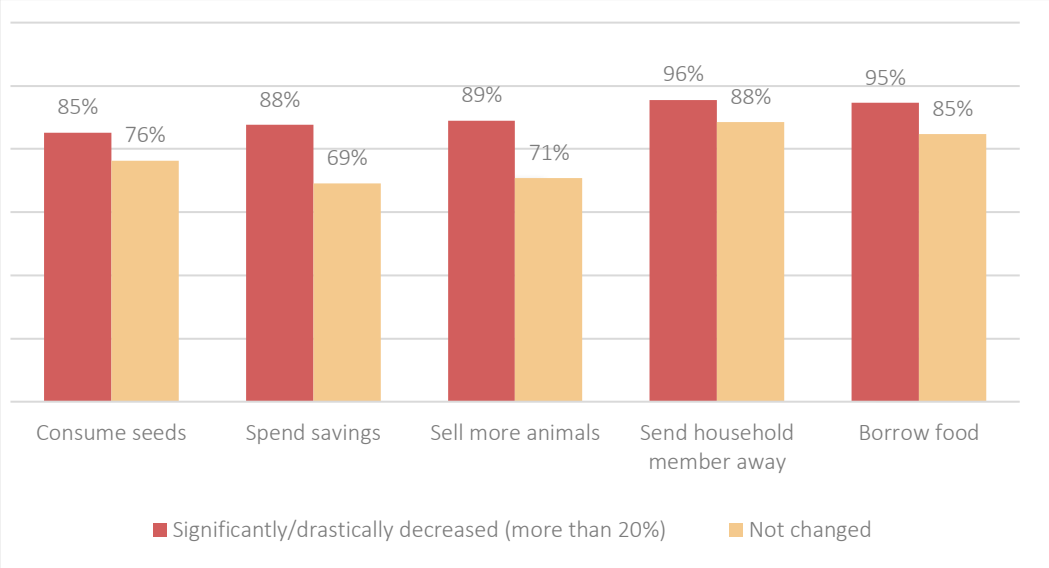


Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

A high proportion of respondent households had adopted coping strategies in the 30 days preceding the survey: 91 percent of respondents had to borrow food, 93 percent sent a family member away, 84 percent sold more animals than usual, 85 percent spent savings and 84 percent consumed seeds.

Coping strategies were adopted less frequently by households whose income did not change in the three months prior to the survey than those with drastically or significantly decreased income (Figure 40).

Figure 40. Coping strategies of respondents with and without changed income (percentage)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

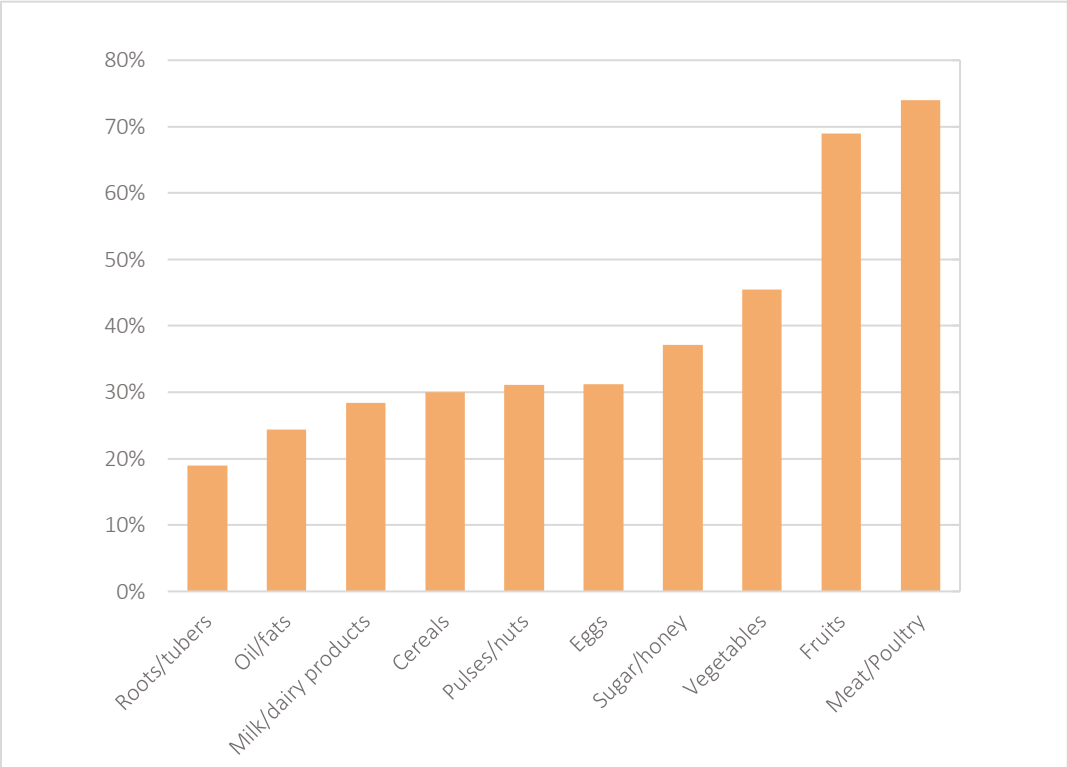
Food security

Most sampled households reduced food consumption during the three months preceding the survey, compared with the same period last year. As expected, the consumption of meat, pulses, vegetables, fish, milk and dairy products was reduced earlier than other food groups. Across the 20 provinces surveyed, 74 percent of households reported having consumed a smaller amount of meat than in the same period during other years (Figure 41). In addition, 69 percent of households reported consuming fewer fruits and 46 percent reported eating fewer vegetables.

Only a minority of households did not reduce consumption in all food groups; these households are concentrated in the Kunduz and Paktika provinces. At the same time, the consumption of staples like cereals (wheat) and tubers (potatoes) was much greater than other foods. It is assumed that only households with limited food stocks and considerable difficulty accessing food would decrease consumption in these categories.

Decreased consumption of these foods does not correspond with widely accepted food security indicators and should not be considered a proxy for any of them. Nevertheless, the frequency of decreased consumption was greater among households that had adopted consumption-related coping strategies (Figure 41).

Figure 41. Percentage of households consuming less food over the past three months, by type of food



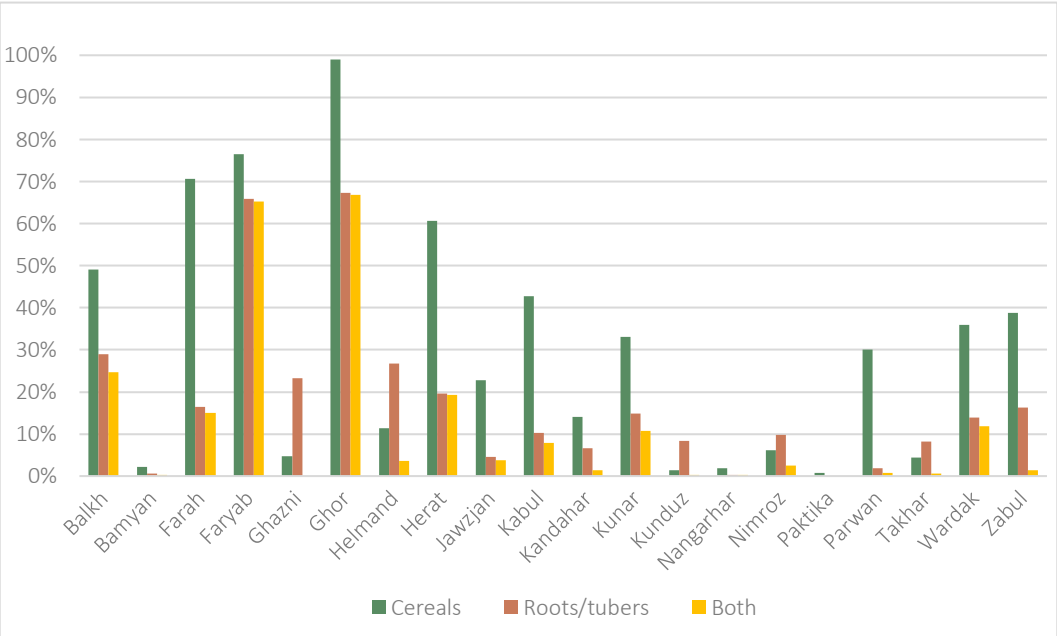
Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Across the sample, 12 percent of households reduced their consumption of both cereals and tubers. Although this figure is not a proxy for food insecurity, the distribution of these households provides an indication of food insecurity.

Figure 42. Reduced household consumption of roots/tubers and cereals in the past three months, by coping strategy employed

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Figure 43.Percentage of surveyed households with reduced cereal and root/tuber consumption in the past three months, by province

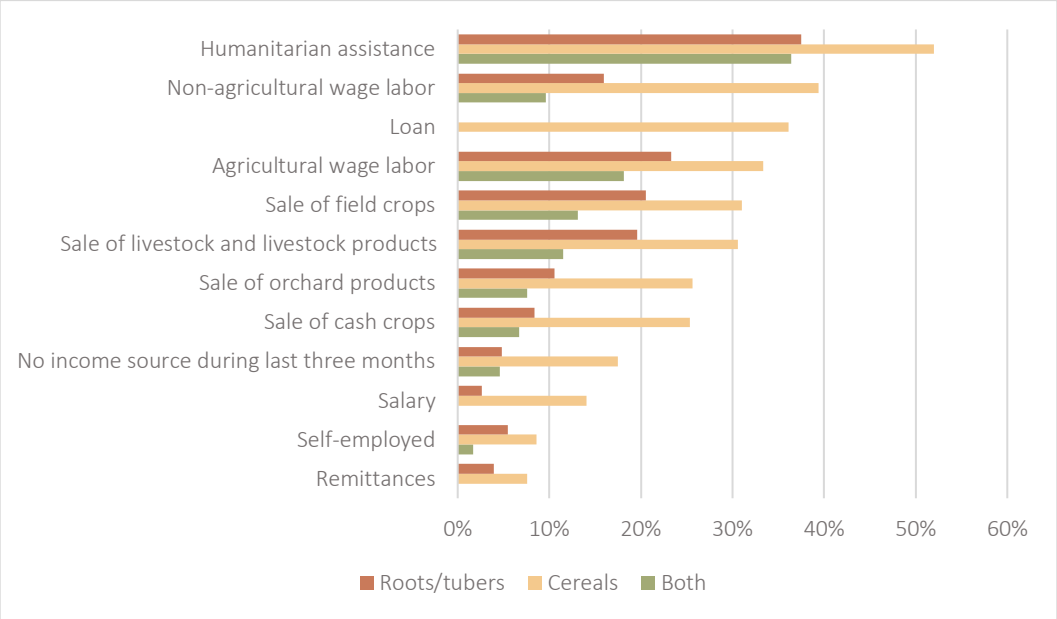


Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

The breakdown of these results by province is consistent with the analysis of production difficulties and income losses. Ghor, Faryab, Farah and Herat provinces reported the highest frequency of households with reduced consumption (Figure 43).

The same analysis by main income source (excluding categories with less than 50 observations) yielded similar results to those reported in the previous sections (Figure 44).

Figure 44. Percentage of surveyed households with reduced cereal and root/tuber consumption in the past three months, by main income source



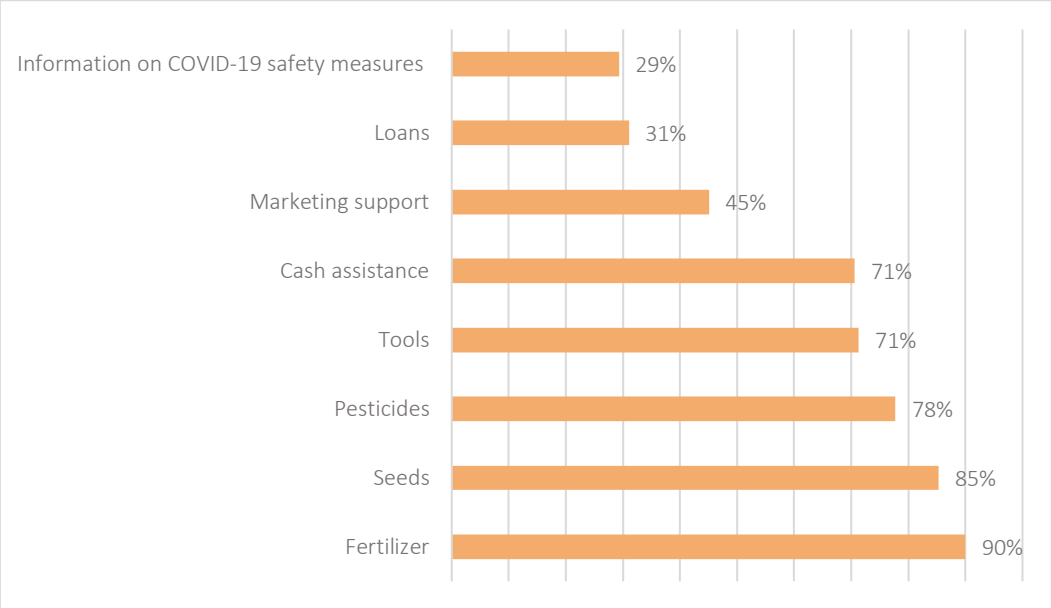
Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Self-employed households or those with a salary did not show the reduced consumption that other groups did. Households living on wage labour (whether or not in agriculture) showed a high frequency of reduced cereal consumption, as did those whose income was mainly from humanitarian assistance. While reduced consumption was similar among farmers and livestock herders, those cultivating orchard products and cash crops appeared not to reduce their consumption of staple foods as much as others.

Most affected population groups and needs

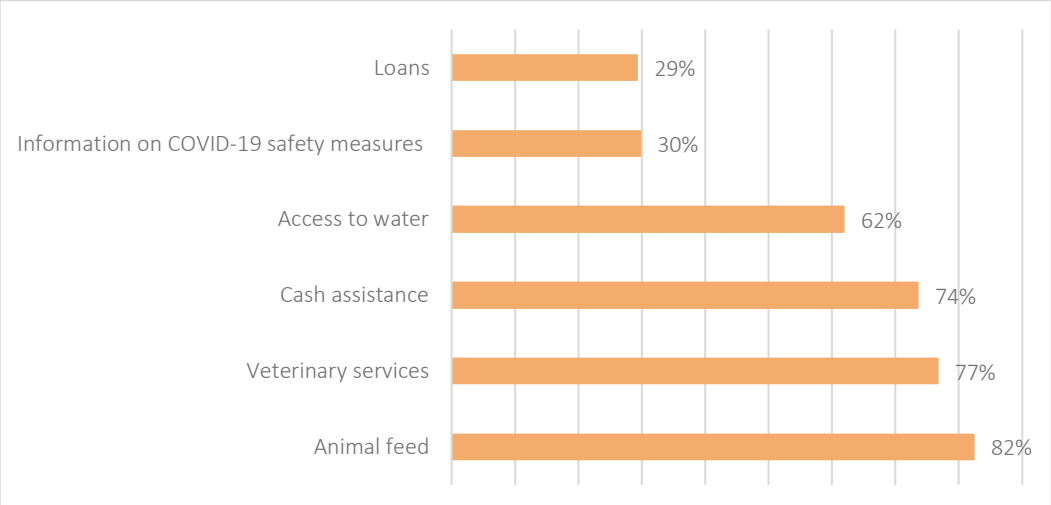
Almost all surveyed households reported a need for some form of assistance with their crop and livestock production (Figure 45). Most reported being in need of fertilizer and seed over the coming three months in order to support their agricultural production. In addition, most households reported being need of animal feed and veterinary services for animal raising.

Figure 45. Main types of assistance needed to support crop production (percentage of households)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Figure 46. Main types of assistance needed to support livestock production (percentage of households)



Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Conclusion

The results of this second round of data collection (February 2021) in Afghanistan are consistent with the structural and humanitarian challenges observed previously. However, it is surprising that production, marketing and livelihood constraints related to COVID-19 restrictions were less frequently cited than other difficulties – especially those related to the precipitation patterns and insecurity. The pandemic may have exacerbated some of these existing problems, which in turn negatively impacted agricultural households' ability to produce and market their agricultural produce. For example, 38 percent of respondents farmed a smaller area than the previous year.

The analysis is consistent with warnings issued about the negative effects of below-average rainfall due to prevailing La Niña conditions (FEWS NET, 2021). Most farmers expected their production to be lower this year than last year, and nearly all households faced difficulties with crop production (these difficulties were particularly pronounced for wheat farmers and respondents in the provinces of Zabul, Helmand and Faryab). The most frequently reported difficulties were the drought that is currently affecting the country, followed by difficulty accessing fertilizer and pesticides, and a lack of access to seeds. It is noteworthy that even amid the pandemic, land-access restrictions seemed to have played more a minor role than the chronic problems faced by rural farmers.

In addition to dry conditions, the data suggest a potential bottleneck in accessing inputs. This finding was confirmed by key informant interviews with agricultural input vendors. Livestock producers faced similar challenges with access to water, feed and veterinary services this year, especially in areas that receiving below normal precipitation. Marketing was a particular challenge for livestock products, while there were relatively few challenges in the sale of orchard products.

Of all agricultural households interviewed, 46 percent reported having experienced shocks. Their impacts varied depending on respondents' main source of income. The fact that many households living off livestock and livestock products, field crops, agricultural labour and loans were affected by shocks indicates that these livelihood groups are particularly at risk. Restriction measures were experienced as a shock especially for households whose main income was the sale of livestock and livestock products (29 percent – higher than the average across the sample). These households also cited insecurity and conflict as a shock more frequently than others (51 percent).

Almost all surveyed households reported the need for some form of assistance with their crop and livestock production. Most of these households reported being in need of fertilizer and seeds over the coming three months. In addition, most households reported being in need of animal feed and veterinary services for raising animals.

Recommendations

- Given expectations of below-average cereal and livestock production, the focus of response should be on poorest households, smallholders and those living on wage labour. These households could be beneficiaries of in-kind agriculture input assistance ahead of the next planting season, livestock protection inputs, unconditional cash transfers or cash-for-work activities, while adhering to COVID-19 safety guidelines.
- There is a need to improve the availability of high-quality agriculture inputs and extend pest surveillance and address chronic issues hindering farmers' access to inputs, as well as herders' access to veterinary services and animal feed.
- The continuity of supply chains can be secured by supporting market information systems and strengthening post-harvest practices, including conservation, storage, drying, and processing of grains, fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Humanitarian assistance to farmers and herders needs to not only be timely and sensitive to seasonality, but also adequate to address food-insecure households' annual food needs.
- Programming focused on linking humanitarian assistance to development should be enhanced to address structural issues in supply chains and improve access to high-quality inputs for smallholder farmers and herders.
- In defining geographic priorities for these actions, consideration should be given to: difficulties in crop and livestock production, and their expected impacts on production; income loss; coping strategies; and potential food consumption gaps. The provinces most at risk include Faryab, Jawzjan, Balkh and Kunduz in the north; Herat, Farah and Ghor in the west; and Helmand and Kandahar in the south; the province of Kabul; and the surrounding Parwan and Nagharwar provinces.

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Annex 1. Household respondent characteristics

Table 3. Respondent household characteristics

Age of respondents		
Age group	Percent	Frequency
30–39	23	1 634
40–49	23	1 719
18–29	20	1 411
50–59	19	1 374
60–69	11	816
70+	4	296
Total	100	7 250
Occupation of household head		
Farmer	80	5 769
Livestock herder	7	507
Self-employment	6	410
Farmer and livestock herder	5	348
Small business	2	161
Formal employment	1	55
	100	7 250
Residence type		
Permanent resident	96	6 930
IDP	2	182
Returnee	1	100
Kochi (pastoral nomads)	1	38
	100	7 250
Cultivable land owned by respondents		
1-5 Jerib	50	3 601
6-10 Jerib	26	1 901
11-20 Jerib	15	1 079
21 Jerib or more	9	669
	100	7 250

Annex 2. Crop production data

Table 4. Percentage of main winter crops grown by households, by province

Province	Wheat	Fruit	Vegetables	Potato	Maize	Rice	Barley	Other Crops
Balkh	85	7	6	0	0	0	3	0
Bamyan	47	1	0	48	0	0	3	0
Farah	95	2	2	0	0	0	1	0
Faryab	99	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ghazni	79	12	1	8	0	0	1	0
Ghor	98	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Helmand	88	1	5	0	6	0	0	0
Herat	95	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
Jawzjan	97	0	1	1	0	0	2	0
Kabul	43	31	7	18	1	0	0	0
Kandahar	91	3	1	0	4	0	1	1
Kunar	82	0	0	1	4	6	7	0
Kunduz	83	0	3	1	0	12	0	0
Nangarhar	88	0	1	1	1	0	3	6
Nimroz	92	0	3	0	3	1	0	1
Paktika	87	5	7	1	0	0	0	1
Parwan	53	41	0	5	0	0	1	0
Takhar	87	8	1	0	0	4	0	0
Wardak	73	4	13	7	0	0	0	2
Zabul	59	35	2	0	1	0	1	3

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 5. Percentage of area planted by crop-producing households compared to the previous year, by province

Province	Same area	Lesser area	Substantially less area	Larger area	Has not been able to plant this season	Not in season
Balkh	43	28	6	21	2	1
Bamyan	0	0	0	0	0	100
Farah	16	41	21	16	6	0
Faryab	30	40	1	30	0	0
Ghazni	9	19	3	1	1	68
Ghor	18	48	11	9	5	9
Helmand	38	35	19	7	0	2
Herat	42	29	0	25	3	1
Jawzjan	28	32	1	35	0	4
Kabul	42	16	5	10	2	25
Kandahar	3	21	4	41	0	31
Kunar	47	25	21	4	1	3
Kunduz	34	31	5	17	0	13
Nangarhar	67	13	12	4	0	4
Nimroz	45	26	2	3	1	23
Paktika	36	21	3	31	1	8
Parwan	40	41	2	2	0	14
Takhar	44	13	1	34	1	8
Wardak	18	1	0	20	0	61
Zabul	40	9	22	27	0	2

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 6. Percentage of surveyed households that faced unusual crop production, by province

Province	Yes - significant difficulty	Yes - minor difficulty	No unusual difficulty	Not in season
Balkh	31	51	17	1
Bamyan	0	0	0	100
Farah	86	11	3	0
Faryab	86	12	1	0
Ghazni	5	14	14	68
Ghor	78	12	1	9
Helmand	36	62	0	2
Herat	78	14	7	1
Jawzjan	78	4	13	4
Kabul	50	16	9	25
Kandahar	63	6	0	31
Kunar	10	47	40	3
Kunduz	22	21	44	13
Nangarhar	49	37	9	4
Nimroz	37	18	22	23
Paktika	47	28	17	8
Parwan	84	1	1	14
Takhar	32	40	20	8
Wardak	9	27	3	61
Zabul	36	62	0	2

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 7. Main difficulties reported by respondent households (percentage), by province

Difficulty	Balkh	Bamyan	Farah	Faryab	Ghazni	Ghor	Helmand	Herat	Jawzjan	Kabul	Kandahar	Kunar	Kunduz	Nangarhar	Nimroz	Paktika	Parwan	Takhar	Wardak	Zabul
Drought/dry spell	90	0	99	49	82	78	60	97	51	67	92	58	29	34	65	97	82	46	69	87
Access to fertilizers/pesticides	77	0	76	81	48	67	68	76	58	45	61	21	89	69	63	64	73	67	68	62
Access to seeds	78	0	78	93	49	49	40	82	69	33	38	31	88	87	48	68	85	68	71	63
Outbreak of pests/ diseases	50	0	88	75	57	54	65	85	23	17	17	13	65	78	17	53	27	42	23	49
Lower irrigation than usual	70	0	82	21	31	31	55	72	86	70	45	24	3	38	59	20	56	61	47	58
Lack of perspective on possibility to sell products	48	0	23	9	21	25	34	47	3	31	2	14	4	14	11	7	21	3	48	26
Sickness/death in household	17	0	37	7	10	21	21	37	0	19	6	5	2	8	6	5	20	2	49	17
Labour too expensive/ income insufficient to hire	17	0	9	24	9	33	16	3	12	19	11	4	26	4	3	25	9	42	30	34
Storms	12	0	7	27	10	4	3	16	6	9	27	2	0	57	1	1	31	4	45	11
Labour not available	9	0	9	46	9	29	15	1	2	15	2	9	3	2	3	11	17	2	6	10
Heavy rains/floods	9	0	1	27	0	7	1	1	0	11	23	3	1	19	7	0	39	9	40	7
Access to land constrained by containment measures	2	0	14	1	4	22	12	2	1	4	21	2	0	2	4	9	9	2	5	29

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 8. Difficulties reported by respondent households for each major crop
(percentage of households)

Difficulty	Wheat	Fruit	Vegetables	Potato	Maize	Barley	Rice	Other
Drought/dry spell	70	80	84	70	21	60	46	31
Access to fertilizers/pesticides	70	59	71	59	46	46	9	38
Access to seeds	68	46	66	54	37	57	15	75
Outbreak of pests/diseases	60	13	66	17	32	60	9	67
Lower irrigation than usual	54	63	61	59	7	43	12	21
Lack of perspective on possibility to sell products	23	24	50	56	24	22	23	19
Sickness/death in the household	17	21	29	25	13	23	0	10
Labour too expensive/ income insufficient to hire	16	17	25	30	36	12	3	7
Storms	16	15	7	9	11	3	14	24
Labour not available	10	10	14	10	16	4	12	9
Heavy rains/floods	9	19	6	14	9	9	9	11
Access to land constrained by containment measures	7	10	10	8	19	7	0	5

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 9. Percentage of households with difficulty accessing seeds over the past three months, by province

Province	No - not in planting season so no need for seeds	No - currently accessing seeds without difficulty	Yes - facing difficulty
Helmand	3	5	92
Farah	3	6	91
Nangarhar	3	8	90
Faryab	13	2	85
Parwan	12	3	85
Ghazni	14	5	81
Herat	13	6	81
Jawzjan	7	14	79
Balkh	6	17	77
Ghor	18	5	76
Takhar	3	26	71
Bamyan	30	8	62
Kabul	26	12	61
Zabul	29	10	61
Paktika	5	41	53
Wardak	44	6	50
Nimroz	28	25	46
Kandahar	20	48	33
Kunduz	25	43	32
Kunar	41	44	15

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 10. Reported reasons for respodents' difficulty accessing seeds in past three months, by province

Province	Higher prices	Insufficient income to buy seeds	Seeds are of poor quality	Seeds are not available from local market	Seeds are not available from vendors	Not able to go the market to buy seeds
Balkh	25	25	0	43	1	0
Bamyan	12	24	26	7	21	1
Farah	34	33	12	1	4	1
Faryab	59	30	0	0	0	0
Ghazni	20	2	58	2	11	0
Ghor	7	78	3	4	5	2
Helmand	34	41	6	5	4	3
Herat	46	52	1	1	0	0
Jawzjan	27	16	0	52	1	1
Kabul	39	37	5	10	4	2
Kandahar	59	7	14	3	4	0
Kunar	33	33	0	0	0	0
Kunduz	38	22	0	40	0	0
Nangarhar	83	2	2	12	0	0
Nimroz	46	35	2	10	2	0
Paktika	53	0	0	0	7	0
Parwan	41	23	1	32	2	0
Takhar	40	41	2	6	4	1
Wardak	24	11	37	6	19	0
Zabul	37	44	7	0	7	0

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 11. Respondent expectations of production compared to the previous year (percentage), by province

Province	Up to 25% lower	25–50% lower	50–75% lower	More than 75% lower	Same	Higher
Balkh	50	20	3	1	18	8
Bamyan	33	13	11	9	21	13
Farah	44	26	11	3	14	3
Faryab	10	24	13	3	32	18
Ghazni	29	28	6	2	36	1
Ghor	22	5	54	13	6	0
Helmand	40	38	6	0	16	1
Herat	34	30	28	0	8	0
Jawzjan	16	16	11	0	35	22
Kabul	26	21	21	17	10	5
Kandahar	48	34	8	0	10	1
Kunar	28	30	24	2	15	2
Kunduz	32	9	2	0	56	1
Nangarhar	42	23	12	0	21	2
Nimroz	24	39	14	4	16	3
Paktika	66	15	1	0	16	2
Parwan	14	27	54	3	2	0
Takhar	23	16	2	0	44	16
Wardak	24	40	27	2	3	5
Zabul	10	63	7	1	17	2

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 12: Respondent expectations of production compared to the previous year (percentage), by crop type

Province	Up to 25% lower	25–50% lower	50–75% lower	More than 75% lower	Same	Higher
Barley	29	19	28	6	13	6
Fruit	21	20	18	3	33	6
Maize	48	18	7	1	26	0
Other	21	49	23	2	2	2
Potato	27	18	12	9	28	7
Rice	43	6	4	1	44	1
Vegetables	31	34	15	3	13	5
Wheat	33	26	14	2	20	5

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 13: Percentage of respondents with enough seed to plant for this year, by province

Province	Number	Enough seed to plant
Balkh	100	0
Faryab	100	0
Herat	100	0
Nangarhar	100	0
Nimroz	93	7
Paktika	92	8
Takhar	92	8
Ghor	90	10
Ghazni	89	11
Parwan	89	11
Kabul	84	16
Helmand	83	17
Wardak	83	18
Bamyan	81	19
Kunduz	80	20
Kandahar	71	29
Jawzjan	63	38
Zabul	54	46
Farah	50	50
Kunar	50	50

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Annex 3. Livestock production data

Table 14. Main animals raised for income generation (percentage of households, by province)

Province	Cattle/yak	Small ruminants	Poultry	Currently not keeping animals	Horse/donkey
Balkh	68	22	2	6	1
Bamyan	28	67	1	3	1
Farah	50	47	3	0	0
Faryab	87	13	0	1	0
Ghazni	45	53	0	2	0
Ghor	26	73	0	1	0
Helmand	12	86	1	1	0
Herat	41	47	8	4	0
Jawzjan	25	61	1	13	1
Kabul	67	11	15	6	1
Kandahar	64	31	5	0	0
Kunar	59	29	6	0	7
Kunduz	88	8	3	1	0
Nangarhar	69	7	1	23	0
Nimroz	27	70	0	4	0
Paktika	74	25	0	1	0
Parwan	79	15	5	1	1
Takhar	69	24	1	6	0
Wardak	54	44	1	2	1
Zabul	35	65	1	0	0

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 15. Percentage of households with unusual difficulties raising animals in the past three months, by province

Province	Yes - significant difficulty	Yes - minor difficulty	No unusual difficulty
Balkh	35	46	19
Bamyan	51	32	17
Farah	64	28	8
Faryab	92	8	0
Ghazni	12	44	44
Ghor	65	32	3
Helmand	34	65	1
Herat	70	18	12
Jawzjan	80	7	12
Kabul	55	29	16
Kandahar	60	37	4
Kunar	12	60	28
Kunduz	21	33	46
Nangarhar	51	35	14
Nimroz	45	28	27
Paktika	35	30	35
Parwan	85	6	9
Takhar	35	31	34
Wardak	28	51	21
Zabul	32	61	6

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 16: Main difficulties faced in raising animals in the past three months (percentage of respondents, by province)

Province	Access to water	Access to feed	Access to veterinary services and inputs	Access to pasture
Balkh	44	32	16	8
Bamyan	50	13	34	3
Farah	34	36	25	5
Faryab	28	53	12	6
Ghazni	18	21	52	9
Ghor	68	15	15	2
Helmand	50	17	16	18
Herat	44	28	24	4
Jawzjan	34	58	4	5
Kabul	48	33	14	5
Kandahar	60	20	6	14
Kunar	29	21	17	33
Kunduz	19	66	13	2
Nangarhar	32	33	32	3
Nimroz	55	20	13	12
Paktika	28	35	13	24
Parwan	27	33	36	4
Takhar	11	59	29	1
Wardak	27	29	43	1
Zabul	23	9	44	23

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 17. Reasons for difficulty accessing animal feed over the past three months (percentage of respondents, by province)

Province	Prices higher than usual	Income insufficient to purchase	Not able to access market to purchase	Not available from usual vendor
Balkh	63	90	3	6
Bamyan	13	77	6	13
Farah	69	92	24	24
Faryab	79	39	33	31
Ghazni	59	78	41	10
Ghor	44	83	56	49
Helmand	53	54	58	53
Herat	95	97	1	0
Jawzjan	17	95	0	0
Kabul	33	90	11	14
Kandahar	39	35	60	23
Kunar	38	86	10	0
Kunduz	75	69	4	3
Nangarhar	86	56	19	5
Nimroz	65	58	47	11
Paktika	88	62	35	3
Parwan	70	56	49	35
Takhar	89	46	7	7
Wardak	78	36	22	60
Zabul	27	64	82	9

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 18. Reasons for difficulty accessing veterinary services over the past three months (percentage of respondents, by province)

Province	Prices higher than usual	Income insufficient to access service	No veterinary service available	Not able to access service provider	Not available from usual service provider
Balkh	76	87	9	59	20
Bamyan	32	83	36	36	16
Farah	70	90	84	62	53
Faryab	76	29	55	12	17
Ghazni	64	25	94	22	15
Ghor	67	71	76	60	60
Helmand	63	54	46	39	20
Herat	69	99	21	10	6
Jawzjan	30	100	0	50	50
Kabul	39	42	63	34	10
Kandahar	71	33	67	43	57
Kunar	36	60	18	24	4
Kunduz	85	81	54	42	23
Nangarhar	74	30	77	73	13
Nimroz	89	46	63	23	20
Paktika	88	66	56	38	9
Parwan	84	74	58	38	38
Takhar	94	74	15	9	9
Wardak	87	56	89	42	31
Zabul	19	69	72	73	58

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Annex 4. Value chain data

Table 19. Percentage of respondents facing unusual difficulty selling production in the last three months, by province

Province	Significant difficulty	Minor difficulty	No unusual difficulty	No production to sell
Balkh	24	35	20	21
Bamyan	43	16	12	29
Farah	63	32	2	4
Faryab	82	6	2	11
Ghazni	8	48	30	14
Ghor	63	21	2	14
Helmand	33	64	2	1
Herat	31	31	9	29
Jawzjan	22	5	39	33
Kabul	51	19	22	9
Kandahar	62	25	4	10
Kunar	16	27	32	25
Kunduz	19	19	60	2
Nangarhar	47	30	18	5
Nimroz	41	28	12	19
Paktika	20	24	23	33
Parwan	90	3	5	2
Takhar	19	25	30	26
Wardak	25	45	7	24
Zabul	21	68	6	6

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 20. Unusual difficulties selling production in the past three months (percentage of households, by province)

Province	Higher transport costs	Insecurity	Constrained access to market	Traders not coming to buy production	Low demand	Low prices	Other
Balkh	2	6	1	43	41	6	0
Bamyan	9	0	8	16	14	54	0
Farah	7	15	32	13	8	25	0
Faryab	1	2	41	30	17	9	0
Ghazni	3	30	4	6	28	28	0
Ghor	26	24	20	15	9	5	0
Helmand	5	14	18	15	29	20	0
Herat	1	0	0	6	32	61	0
Jawzjan	3	5	3	43	25	7	15
Kabul	4	11	12	23	16	31	2
Kandahar	8	33	18	15	4	22	0
Kunar	8	5	5	25	47	10	0
Kunduz	9	29	4	17	10	24	7
Nangarhar	3	3	8	2	64	20	1
Nimroz	14	12	7	19	20	22	6
Paktika	10	4	10	19	56	0	0
Parwan	1	1	47	10	4	39	0
Takhar	6	4	3	2	7	79	0
Wardak	5	1	42	11	10	31	0
Zabul	0	64	1	4	4	28	0

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 21. Percentage of respondents forced to give away or destroy part of their production in the last three months due to lack of marketing and storage capacity, by province

Province	Yes - a large part	Yes - a minor part	No
Balkh	16	36	49
Bamyan	43	20	37
Farah	58	37	5
Faryab	78	3	19
Ghazni	6	72	21
Ghor	48	15	37
Helmand	29	58	13
Herat	3	63	34
Jawzjan	1	1	98
Kabul	51	31	18
Kandahar	71	29	1
Kunar	18	28	54
Kunduz	11	1	88
Nangarhar	39	29	32
Nimroz	17	37	47
Paktika	51	13	36
Parwan	95	3	2
Takhar	1	45	54
Wardak	35	47	18
Zabul	23	76	2

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 22. Price fluctuations compared to the same period last year (percentage of respondents, by province)

Province	Up to 20% lower	More than 20% lower	Up to 20% higher	More than 20% higher	Same or approximately the same
Balkh	37	1	11	0	50
Bamyan	46	6	11	5	32
Farah	42	15	8	1	34
Faryab	44	0	15	9	32
Ghazni	64	27	1	0	8
Ghor	48	19	4	1	27
Helmand	45	25	8	6	17
Herat	69	1	2	0	27
Jawzjan	19	7	38	5	32
Kabul	41	34	5	3	17
Kandahar	35	21	33	10	1
Kunar	34	2	30	4	31
Kunduz	19	1	25	3	53
Nangarhar	39	3	7	2	49
Nimroz	30	12	24	3	32
Paktika	3	1	75	15	6
Parwan	83	9	2	2	3
Takhar	48	2	6	2	41
Wardak	64	18	3	3	13
Zabul	62	0	14	2	22

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Annex 5. Income sources and shocks

Table 23. Main sources of income over the past three months (percentage of households, by province)

Province	Sale of field crops	Sale of livestock & livestock products	Agricultural wage labour	Non-agricultural wage labour	Sale of orchard products	Self-employed	No income source
Balkh	74	8	9	2	5	1	0
Bamyan	75	22	1	1	1	0	0
Farah	77	18	2	0	2	0	2
Faryab	71	23	1	2	1	2	0
Ghazni	91	4	0	0	4	0	0
Ghor	79	14	5	1	0	0	0
Helmand	41	40	4	1	1	9	0
Herat	47	39	2	5	0	0	1
Jawzjan	64	14	2	11	3	2	2
Kabul	46	7	5	11	15	3	6
Kandahar	48	12	19	5	1	8	0
Kunar	20	27	9	32	1	7	1
Kunduz	67	27	2	0	0	2	1
Nangarhar	77	17	3	2	0	0	0
Nimroz	28	15	6	24	1	15	7
Paktika	20	19	7	17	1	15	9
Parwan	44	5	8	7	14	2	16
Takhar	69	6	2	1	9	3	6
Wardak	79	9	2	1	7	1	1
Zabul	70	10	11	1	1	3	2

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 24. Income changes in the past three months compared to the same period last year (percentage of households, by province)

Province	Decreased 5–20%	Decreased 20–50%	Decreased more than 50%	Increased 5–20%	Increased more than 20%	Not changed
Balkh	63	16	1	10	1	9
Bamyan	31	22	16	13	4	15
Farah	53	20	7	3	0	17
Faryab	28	33	0	10	1	29
Ghazni	34	43	4	2	2	16
Ghor	26	51	21	1	1	1
Helmand	56	24	3	5	4	8
Herat	53	43	1	1	0	3
Jawzjan	30	14	16	6	1	34
Kabul	19	29	40	5	3	4
Kandahar	39	19	2	19	17	5
Kunar	45	40	1	4	2	7
Kunduz	41	17	0	4	6	32
Nangarhar	68	25	2	2	2	1
Nimroz	41	19	8	7	1	23
Paktika	44	9	0	2	3	43
Parwan	8	73	12	4	2	1
Takhar	38	15	1	10	1	35
Wardak	45	34	14	2	0	6
Zabul	25	50	1	3	2	18

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 25. Shocks reported by respondents in the past three months (percentage, by province)

Province	Income loss	Reduction in own production	Price increase	Death/ sickness in household	Insecurity/ conflict	Crop/ livestock loss	Higher production costs	Natural hazard	Restriction measures	Sudden reduction in access to credit	Loss of work
Balkh	77	67	59	51	52	48	34	45	6	10	3
Bamyan	27	20	16	73	2	43	9	36	4	13	2
Farah	82	80	72	90	66	42	29	16	18	14	10
Faryab	68	53	73	39	68	72	52	12	20	40	14
Ghazni	53	63	30	35	64	29	20	12	24	24	12
Ghor	57	66	26	71	50	64	19	24	31	36	11
Helmand	37	36	36	49	68	51	18	47	46	32	11
Herat	96	78	77	55	49	53	28	9	46	9	13
Jawzjan	84	43	44	30	18	4	10	3	1	2	0
Kabul	50	32	44	62	19	33	17	13	14	17	10
Kandahar	56	65	67	99	29	17	38	44	25	23	22
Kunar	53	28	32	28	26	7	14	7	4	6	4
Kunduz	61	20	57	48	54	5	18	17	6	1	1
Nangarhar	80	64	65	87	7	22	19	12	1	20	7
Nimroz	49	31	60	9	38	18	15	22	6	11	3
Paktika	57	49	81	41	37	14	36	33	5	4	11
Parwan	60	43	45	59	21	43	22	48	26	23	6
Takhar	82	62	69	14	46	29	51	35	3	13	16
Wardak	51	46	39	78	44	40	27	32	7	16	5
Zabul	49	64	65	58	78	40	64	45	21	40	10

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Annex 6. Need for assistance

Table 26. Needs identified by respondents for crop production (percentage, by province)

Province	Seed	Fertilizer	Pesticides	Tools	Marketing support	Cash assistance	Loans	Information on COVID-19 safety measures
Balkh	83	97	89	76	61	61	31	50
Bamyan	98	92	89	80	60	92	67	45
Farah	97	93	89	62	52	84	34	13
Faryab	90	93	86	69	13	78	8	21
Ghazni	94	95	68	84	53	70	41	74
Ghor	98	93	82	71	55	71	47	58
Helmand	39	70	59	67	34	49	22	24
Herat	97	96	86	87	61	96	29	23
Jawzjan	89	98	96	79	43	87	23	9
Kabul	83	95	88	73	63	84	30	54
Kandahar	88	80	65	67	37	34	6	9
Kunar	60	61	25	27	6	50	10	1
Kunduz	98	96	80	66	26	81	32	39
Nangarhar	94	85	70	56	43	88	33	36
Nimroz	77	81	91	68	61	68	38	2
Paktika	97	93	54	61	41	58	2	0
Parwan	94	94	91	79	28	77	64	16
Takhar	86	95	88	69	38	53	45	5
Wardak	94	93	71	60	47	70	35	18
Zabul	67	94	79	84	59	62	22	1

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

Table 27. Needs identified by respondents for livestock herding (percentage, by province)

Province	Animal feed	Veterinary services	Cash assistance	Loans	Information on COVID--19 safety measures
Balkh	98	87	59	29	46
Bamyan	58	86	89	57	34
Farah	95	72	87	34	17
Faryab	99	92	95	5	20
Ghazni	75	96	74	40	74
Ghor	96	78	62	41	56
Helmand	66	30	64	24	24
Herat	91	93	97	27	23
Jawzjan	93	76	84	24	10
Kabul	89	83	79	30	53
Kandahar	71	56	46	7	6
Kunar	45	38	58	10	1
Kunduz	95	85	81	35	43
Nangarhar	79	83	90	18	24
Nimroz	62	80	75	44	5
Paktika	95	72	65	13	0
Parwan	72	88	81	58	14
Takhar	93	84	52	44	28
Wardak	59	71	71	35	10
Zabul	61	76	69	22	2

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results, February 2021

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