



A BLUEPRINT FOR SUSTAINABLE POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT MITIGATION: SYNTHESIZING SOCIOECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This blueprint explores elaborate strategies and approaches to address poverty, enhance national budgets, and foster rural development. It emphasizes the importance of agricultural and rural economic development, drought mitigation, and utilizing deserts for revenue. The study examines intricate methods of revenue generation, including toll roads and municipal income, and explores interconnected sectors like customs, mining, and gas-petroleum, highlighting the need for an agricultural revolution. Additionally, it delves into the complexities of seed enterprises, covering production, marketing, and essential considerations. The conclusion dissects the intricate aspects of establishing a seed enterprise, including skills, organizational structure, crop selection, scale, market specialization, funding, and risk management.

Keywords: poverty reduction, budget enrichment, rural economy, desert conversion, municipal revenue, toll road, Kabul River and Afghanistan economy

PROLOGUE

Poverty and unemployment have long been significant challenges in Afghanistan, hindering the country's overall development and well-

being of its people.¹⁴⁹ In order to address these pressing issues, a comprehensive strategy is required to tackle the root causes and create sustainable solutions.¹⁵⁰ This strategy focuses on various key areas, including reducing poverty levels, enriching the national budget, developing the rural and agricultural economy, combating drought, converting deserts into income sources, enhancing municipality revenue, improving toll road systems, revitalizing the Kabul River, reforming customs, and harnessing the potential of Afghanistan's rich mineral resources.¹⁵¹ To decrease the poverty level, one of the crucial steps is to foster growth in both the private and governmental sectors.¹⁵² The strategy emphasizes the importance of healthy competition to stimulate the economy. Additionally, the establishment of data collection centers in all provinces will help survey and identify natural resources and impoverished families, allowing for targeted interventions.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁹ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, 'Role of Self-Help Groups in Socio-Economic Development of Women in India' (2023) 1 50.

¹⁵⁰ 'Role of Self-Help Groups through Micro-Finance for Poverty Alleviation' <https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=_XhWcpEAAAAJ&cstart=20&pagesize=80&citation_for_view=_XhWcpEAAAAJ:oEW5MyxtvQ4C> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁵¹ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, 'Impact of War on the Environment: A Critical Study of Afghanistan' (2023) 1 52.

¹⁵² 'Role of Self-Help Groups in Socio-Economic Development of Women in Yaranahalli Panchayat, Mysore' <https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=_XhWcpEAAAAJ&cstart=20&pagesize=80&citation_for_view=_XhWcpEAAAAJ:8VbLR7ExW8oC> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁵³ Hashimy, 'Role of Self-Help Groups in Socio-Economic Development of Women in India' (n 3).



The distribution of monthly expenditure booklets in the form of coupons to government employees, including army and security forces staff, aims to provide financial support to those in need. State coupon stores in Kabul and provincial capitals will offer items at reduced rates, directly impacting the market and preventing hoarding of essential goods.¹⁵⁴ To ensure transparency and prevent fraud, strict control measures will be implemented, and any criminal activities will be met with appropriate punishment. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the development of the rural economy.¹⁵⁵ The strategy suggests forming agronomy cooperatives in each district to promote membership among landowners and farmers.¹⁵⁶ This cooperative model enables the rental of machinery, provision of seeds and fertilizers, and facilitates access to loans for landowners.

Building small dams for irrigation purposes, reopening silos for wheat storage, and establishing animal husbandry farms will further contribute to the agricultural revolution.¹⁵⁷ Efforts to combat drought include encouraging farmers and landowners to construct minor water storage facilities and improving irrigation canals. The strategy also recognizes the potential of Afghanistan's deserts and suggests dividing them into sections for agriculture, gardening, and animal husbandry.¹⁵⁸ By providing necessary infrastructure, machinery centers, and effective supervision, these deserts can be transformed into income-generating sources, boosting the nation's economy.

Municipality revenue plays a crucial role in the national budget, and the strategy proposes measures to increase this income. The establishment of municipal offices in district bazaars will enable better control of prices,

garbage removal, and town development programs. Work permits will be issued to shopkeepers, contributing to revenue collection. Furthermore, the strategy highlights the importance of proper waste management, city cleanliness, and the development of essential facilities like vehicle parking and sports squares.

Toll roads have proven to be a significant source of revenue in many countries, and the strategy emphasizes the need to enhance toll road systems in Afghanistan. Construction of toll gates in cities, proper ticketing mechanisms, and transparent management of toll road income will contribute to a more consistent national budget.¹⁵⁹

The Kabul River, a valuable asset passing through the capital city, holds the potential for generating income. The strategy proposes cleaning the river, preventing contamination, ensuring a steady flow of clean water, and building small dams for water storage. Tourist activities, such as passenger ships and boats, can be introduced, along with the establishment of coffee shops and mini-restaurants along the riverbanks. Strict government supervision and control will be enforced to prevent theft or embezzlement of revenue generated from the Kabul River.¹⁶⁰

Customs revenue is another significant source of income for Afghanistan. The strategy highlights the importance of modernizing customs operations, ensuring transparency, and eliminating corruption.¹⁶¹ Recruitment processes will prioritize honesty, patriotism, experience, education, and devotion to the country.

¹⁵⁴ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, 'Impact of WTO Agreement Accession on Trade and a Few Intellectual Property Rights in Afghanistan' (2021).

¹⁵⁵ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, *Protecting Geographical Indications in Afghanistan* (2022).

¹⁵⁶ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, 'China's Belt-Road Initiative and Investment Strategies: A Two Pillar Approach to Afghanistan' (2023) 12 *International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR)* 449.

¹⁵⁷ Hashimy, 'Impact of War on the Environment' (n 5).

¹⁵⁸ *ibid*.

¹⁵⁹ 'A Tale of Two Tax Systems: A Comparative Analysis of General Anti-Avoidance Rules Provisions in India and Australia' <https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=_XhWcpEAAAAJ&ccstart=20&pagesize=80&citation_for_view=_XhWcpEAAAAJ:aXQ7jtEqGowC> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁶⁰ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, 'The Agonising Narrative of Environmental Dilapidation in the Tussle of Armed Conflict; From the Lens of International Humanitarian Laws' (2023) 17 *Journal of Global Ecology and Environment* 45.

¹⁶¹ 'Nurturing Leadership and Capacity Building for Success: Empowering Growth'

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=_XhWcpEAAAAJ&citation_for_view=_XhWcpEAAAAJ:vCSeWdjOjw8C> accessed 2 June 2023.



STRATEGIES TO DECREASE POVERTY

Reducing poverty requires a multifaceted approach. Strategies include promoting economic growth and job creation, investing in education and skill development, establishing social safety nets, ensuring access to basic services, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, enhancing agricultural development, increasing access to financial services, investing in infrastructure development, empowering local communities, and promoting good governance and institutions. These strategies aim to address the various factors that contribute to poverty and create sustainable pathways out of poverty.¹⁶² Implementing a range of strategies is crucial to decrease poverty levels. These include promoting economic growth and job creation to increase income opportunities, investing in education and skills development to enhance employability, and establishing social safety net programs to provide assistance to those in need. Access to basic services such as healthcare, clean water, and housing must be ensured, while empowering women through education and economic opportunities is vital for poverty reduction. Developing sustainable agriculture, improving governance,¹⁶³ addressing social inequalities, and fostering international cooperation is also essential. Tailoring these strategies to specific contexts, continuous evaluation, and collaborative efforts from various stakeholders is necessary for effective and sustainable poverty reduction. Therefore, to decrease the poverty level in Afghanistan and eradicate unemployment,¹⁶⁴ it is important to implement a comprehensive strategy. Here are some steps that can be taken:

- i. Encourage the growth of the private sector alongside the governmental sector. Creating a competitive environment can stimulate economic activity and generate employment opportunities.
- ii. Set up data collection centers in all 34 provinces to collect and survey information about natural resources and poor families. This data can help in identifying the specific needs of different regions and target resources accordingly.
- iii. Provide monthly expenditure booklets or coupons to government employees, including army and security forces staff. This measure can help increase their purchasing power and improve their living conditions.
- iv. Establish state coupon stores in Kabul and provincial capitals where coupon holders can purchase items at discounted rates. This initiative can directly impact the market, prevent hoarding of essential goods, and make them more accessible to the population.
- v. Purchase and Distribution Process: Implement a controlled purchase and distribution process. When the government purchases goods, they should be transferred to cooperative storage facilities in provincial capitals and districts. This ensures sufficient stock and prevents shortages.
- vi. Ensure transparency and accountability in cooperative stores. Strict measures should be in place to prevent stealing and fraud. Offenders should be punished accordingly. The Ministry of Trade and Industry should oversee the process.
- vii. Allocate 50% of the Zakat fund to the cooperative store budget to empower them and prevent deficits. Additionally, establish stabilization funds to support the survival and functioning of cooperative stores. These funds can be raised at the local, regional, district, and capital levels.

¹⁶² 'Role of Self-Help Groups through Micro-Finance for Poverty Alleviation' (n 4).

¹⁶³ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, 'Protecting Geographical Indications in Afghanistan' (10 November 2022) <<https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=4324242>> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁶⁴ 'The Impact of Social Media on Afghanistan's Tourism Industry: A Roadmap for the Future in the Internet Highway' <https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=_XhWcpEAAAAJ&cstart=20&pagesize=80&citation_for_view=_XhWcpEAAAAJ;7ioeYXKzWoC> accessed 2 June 2023.



- viii. Utilize cooperative stores to support vulnerable groups such as orphans, widows, refugees, disabled individuals, and other poor families. Conduct surveys to identify those in need and provide them with coupon booklets.
- ix. Develop specific criteria for determining eligibility to receive coupons. This ensures that the assistance reaches those who genuinely need it.

It is significant that these strategies should be part of a broader and sustained effort to address poverty and unemployment in Afghanistan. They should be accompanied by measures to improve education, healthcare, infrastructure, and create an enabling environment for economic growth. Additionally, collaboration between the government, civil society organizations, and international partners can enhance the effectiveness of these strategies.

ENHANCEMENT OF A NATIONAL BUDGET

Enhancing a national budget involves improving resource allocation, increasing revenue generation, and optimizing expenditure. Strategies include revenue diversification, tax reforms,¹⁶⁵ promoting economic growth and investment, prioritizing expenditures, strengthening public financial management, managing debt effectively, adopting performance-based budgeting, fostering public-private partnerships, optimizing subsidy programs, and implementing continuous monitoring and evaluation.¹⁶⁶ These measures aim to achieve economic and social objectives while ensuring transparency and accountability in budget management.¹⁶⁷ Enrichment of a national budget requires a combination of measures to increase revenue sources, ensure transparency and efficiency in fund allocation, and combat corruption.

¹⁶⁵ 'A Tale of Two Tax Systems: A Comparative Analysis of General Anti-Avoidance Rules Provisions in India and Australia' (n 13).

¹⁶⁶ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy, 'Impact of WTO Agreement Accession on Trade and a Few Intellectual Property Rights in Afghanistan' [2021] Available at SSRN 4291992.

¹⁶⁷ 'Nurturing Leadership and Capacity Building for Success: Empowering Growth' (n 15).

It is imperative to explore and activate all possible revenue sources for the national budget. This can include taxation reforms, such as broadening the tax base, reducing tax evasion, and implementing fair and effective tax policies. Additionally, exploring non-tax revenue streams, such as fees, fines, and royalties, can contribute to the budget enrichment. To enrich the national budget, several steps can be taken to optimize revenue sources and ensure efficient utilization of funds:

Diversify Revenue Sources

Explore and develop various revenue streams to reduce dependency on a single source. This can include increasing tax collection efficiency, broadening the tax base, implementing fair and effective tax policies, and exploring alternative sources such as natural resource royalties, tariffs, and fees.

Improve Tax Administration

Enhance tax collection systems by strengthening tax administration and enforcement mechanisms.¹⁶⁸ This involves investing in modernizing tax infrastructure, implementing effective tax compliance measures, and reducing tax evasion and avoidance.

Combat Corruption

Implement robust anti-corruption measures to prevent misappropriation of funds. This includes enforcing strict legal actions against corrupt practices, promoting transparency and accountability in public financial management, and enhancing oversight mechanisms.

Efficient Public Expenditure Management

Ensure that budget allocations are based on sound fiscal planning and effective prioritization of public spending. This involves conducting regular reviews of expenditure programs, eliminating wasteful spending, and improving

¹⁶⁸ Sayed Qudrat Hashimy and M Suresh Benjamin, 'A Tale of Two Tax Systems: A Comparative Analysis of General Anti-Avoidance Rules Provisions in India and Australia' (2023) 3 53.



the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Encourage private sector participation through well-structured and transparent PPPs. This can attract private investment in infrastructure development and public services, easing the burden on the national budget while promoting economic growth.

Foreign Aid and Grants

Seek external assistance through international aid and grants, particularly for development projects. This requires effective coordination with donor organizations and ensuring transparent and accountable utilization of foreign aid.

Debt Management

Adopt prudent debt management strategies to ensure sustainable borrowing and minimize debt burdens.¹⁶⁹ This involves assessing the capacity to repay loans, negotiating favorable terms, and diversifying sources of debt financing.

Economic Growth and Investment

Promote policies and initiatives that stimulate economic growth and attract investment. A thriving economy generates higher tax revenues and contributes to the overall enrichment of the national budget.¹⁷⁰

Public Financial Management Reforms

Implement comprehensive public financial management reforms to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability in budgetary processes. This includes strengthening budget formulation, execution, and monitoring systems.

Capacity Building

Invest in building the capacity of government institutions involved in revenue generation and

budget management.¹⁷¹ This includes providing training and resources to tax officials, auditors, and budget planners to enhance their skills and knowledge.¹⁷² Henceforth, enriching the national budget requires a multi-faceted approach, encompassing both revenue generation and effective expenditure management.¹⁷³ It is crucial to establish a conducive environment that encourages economic growth, transparency, and good governance to ensure the optimal utilisation of resources. Enriching the national budget is a complex and ongoing process that requires a comprehensive approach involving multiple stakeholders, including the government, financial institutions, civil society organisations, and the public. Continued efforts in improving transparency, accountability, and governance are essential to ensure the effective and efficient utilisation of budgetary resources for national development.

ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The economy and agriculture sector are closely interconnected and vital for a country's development. The economy involves the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services, while the agriculture sector includes activities related to farming, processing, and distribution of agricultural products.¹⁷⁴ Agriculture contributes to the economy through employment, raw material supply, exports, and rural development. Economic factors influence agriculture, and a well-functioning agriculture sector contributes to economic growth, employment, and food security.¹⁷⁵ The agriculture sector's success depends on the overall economic environment, market conditions, and supportive policies.¹⁷⁶ To develop the rural economy and agriculture

¹⁶⁹ Hashimy, 'China's Belt-Road Initiative and Investment Strategies' (n 10).

¹⁷⁰ Sayed Quadrat Hashimy, 'Impact of COVID-19 on the Trade in Afghanistan' (2021) 6 52.

¹⁷¹ Sayed Quadrat Hashimy and others, 'Nurturing Leadership and Capacity Building for Success: Empowering Growth' (2023) 3 33.

¹⁷² 'Nurturing Leadership and Capacity Building for Success: Empowering Growth' (n 15).

¹⁷³ *ibid.*

¹⁷⁴ www.org/jef, Sayed Quadrat Hashimy and Jackson Magoge, 'Role of WTO in the Promotion of Trade and IPR in Afghanistan' (2022) Volume 7 1.

¹⁷⁵ 'Role of Self-Help Groups through Micro-Finance for Poverty Alleviation' (n 4).

¹⁷⁶ Sayed Quadrat Hashimy and Jackson Simango Magoge, 'Role of WTO in the Promotion of Trade and IPR in Afghanistan' [2021] Dynamic Research Journals (DRJ) Journal of Economics and Finance (DRJ-JEF) Volume 01.

sector in Afghanistan, in each district of the 34 provinces, agronomy cooperatives should be established as mandated by law. All landowners and farmers should obtain membership in these cooperatives.¹⁷⁷ Members should contribute dues or fees to sustain the cooperative. This cooperative structure promotes collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective decision-making among farmers.



Figure 1

Establishment of Agronomy Centers

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry should initiate the creation of agronomy centers that provide machinery, seeds, and fertilizers to farmers. These centers can enable farmers to rent machinery such as tractors, combines, and borrow seed and fertilizer.¹⁷⁸ Additionally, the government can provide machinery to landowners through loans with flexible payment terms. This system ensures that farmers have access to necessary resources during cultivation, reducing difficulties and increasing productivity.

Construction of Small Dams

Small dams should be built for irrigation purposes, agriculture land, forest conservation, tree plantation, and other rural activities. The state should allocate funds or invite proposals for undertaking such projects. Construction

companies, local NGOs, or individuals can be involved in executing these dam projects. Access to water resources through dams enhances agricultural productivity and provides opportunities for rural development.

Implementation of Subsidy Programs

The government can promote subsidy programs by establishing centralized stock storage facilities in district centers. These facilities would store seeds, white and black urea, and other agricultural inputs. During cultivation, landowners would receive these resources at a discounted price through the subsidy program. At the time of harvest, the government can collect payment from the borrowers (farmers) or accept a portion of the harvested crop as payment. This system helps stabilize prices, prevents excessive price fluctuations, and facilitates the normalization of agricultural markets.



Reactivation of Silos

All silos in the country should be reopened and reactivated to store wheat and produce wheat flour. This would reduce reliance on wheat flour imports from countries like Kazakhstan and Pakistan. The national silos can supply wheat flour not only to government institutes and ministries but also to private sectors. The

2Figure II- Silo, Kabul, Afghanistan

availability of domestic wheat flour through national silos encourages local production and supports both government and private sector demands.

¹⁷⁷ Hashimy and Magoge (n 28).

¹⁷⁸ Hashimy, *Protecting Geographical Indications in Afghanistan* (n 9).

Establishment of Livestock Farms

Each district within the provinces should have its own farms for cows, chickens, sheep, goats, and turkeys.¹⁷⁹ This establishment of animal husbandry facilities would not only help in reducing meat prices but also create reasonable competition with imported meat supplied by the private sector. It encourages self-sufficiency in meat production and promotes the local economy.

Water Conservation Efforts

Authorities should focus on preventing the wastage of rainwater and snowmelt, as water is a crucial resource for agriculture, plants, and forests. Implementing measures such as water harvesting, irrigation efficiency techniques, and awareness campaigns can help conserve water resources and ensure their optimal utilisation in rural areas.¹⁸⁰ By employing these strategies, there can be significant progress in developing the rural economy and strengthening the agriculture sector, leading to increased productivity, income generation, and overall socio-economic development.

BATTLING DROUGHT

Battling drought requires efficient water management, diversification of water sources, sustainable agriculture practices, early warning systems, public awareness, government support, and international cooperation.¹⁸¹ These measures help conserve water, reduce vulnerability, promote responsible usage, and enhance resilience in drought-prone regions. Every farmer or landowner should build small water reservoirs.¹⁸² The bottom of the reservoirs should be lined with plastic or concrete, and the top should be covered with wood or cardboard to prevent water wastage. This will enable the utilization of water during severe drought conditions. It is advisable to use cement or

concrete for irrigation canals. This measure will prevent water wastage and ensure that water efficiently reaches the cultivated lands.



Figure III

How can we transform deserts into lucrative sources of income until Afghanistan's agricultural economy becomes self-sufficient? Transforming deserts into lucrative sources of income requires innovative strategies such as desert agriculture, renewable energy, tourism, research and development, mining, infrastructure development, water management, microfinance, and international cooperation. These approaches can enable cultivation, harness solar energy, attract tourists, promote sustainable practices, extract minerals, improve infrastructure, manage water resources, support local entrepreneurship, and leverage global investments. Afghanistan possesses valuable resources such as deserts, mineral-rich mountains, and water. By effectively utilizing these resources, the Afghan economy can progress towards self-sufficiency. To harness the potential of the deserts, the study propose the following suggestions:

- A technical and engineering team or commission should conduct a comprehensive survey of all deserts in the 34 provinces. After the survey, each desert should be divided into three parts: a) *Agriculture*,
- b) *Gardening, and*
- c) *Animal husbandry.*

In each desert, deep wells with large water storage or dams should be constructed to facilitate irrigation. Land reform should be

¹⁷⁹ Hashimy and Magoge (n 30).

¹⁸⁰ Hashimy, 'Impact of War on the Environment' (n 5).

¹⁸¹ Hashimy, 'The Agonising Narrative of Environmental Dilapidation in the Tussle of Armed Conflict; From the Lens of International Humanitarian Laws' (n 14).

¹⁸² Hashimy, 'Impact of War on the Environment' (n 5).

implemented in each desert, whereby half of the land is sold to farmers and small landowners, while the remaining half is used for various farming activities under government control. This policy aims to transform dry deserts into significant income sources nationwide.

Each dessert should have its own machinery and central processing facility. The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry should oversee and supervise all desert operations, ensuring skilled and expert employees are recruited for optimal results.¹⁸³ Once the desert agricultural products are harvested, relevant authorities should market them to reduce prices, benefitting consumers and alleviating financial burdens on the population. As meat and meat products are essential for survival but are often unaffordable for many due to high prices, the government should establish butcher shops in every region and market, offering affordable prices. This initiative would contribute to a healthier and safer society. If the government is unable to manage desert cooperative farms, they can be leased to the private sector. By applying these measures, the desert regions of Afghanistan can be transformed into thriving economic hubs, driving the nation towards self-sufficiency in agriculture and providing valuable income sources.

ENHANCING MUNICIPALITY REVENUE

To enhance municipality revenue, consider implementing property tax reforms, providing local business support, promoting tourism, optimizing service delivery, exploring public-private partnerships, diversifying revenue sources, utilizing data-driven decision making, seeking grants and aid, engaging the community, and conducting continuous monitoring and evaluation.¹⁸⁴ These strategies can help generate additional revenue, attract businesses and tourists, improve service

efficiency, foster partnerships, and ensure sustainable financial management.

In Afghanistan, 50% of the national budget is allocated to municipality incomes. To increase this revenue, the study proposes the following measures: The municipality should function as an independent body under the supervision and control of the presidency or prime ministry. All municipalities in the country should operate under the guidance of a central municipality and have their own legal framework. This would enable collaboration and cooperation with other government organisations for the development of relevant cities. Each district's bazaar should have a municipal office serving as a liaison. The office's responsibilities would include:

- a. Market price control
- b. Garbage removal
- c. Ensuring cleanliness in the city or town
- d. Collection of cleaning fees
- e. Implementation of town development programs
- f. Tree plantation for environmental purification
- g. The district municipal office should issue one-year work permits to shopkeepers for a fee of AFN 500. The collected fees should be delivered to the tax or revenue office.



Figure IV

Every shopkeeper should place a garbage bin in front of their store. The municipal office would be responsible for maintaining a garbage

¹⁸³ Hashimy, 'Impact of WTO Agreement Accession on Trade and a Few Intellectual Property Rights in Afghanistan' (n 20).

¹⁸⁴ Hashimy and others (n 25).

dump outside the bazaar and ensuring that garbage trucks transport the waste to the designated location. This would help keep the local bazaar clean and free from diseases, providing a healthy environment for residents.

- Each shopkeeper should obtain a cleanliness (Safae) booklet.
- The local municipality authority should develop plans for construction, parking areas, mosques, drinking water storage facilities, and sports squares. They can request funds from the central government to support these initiatives.

Therefore, the municipality can enhance its revenue stream, improve the cleanliness and overall development of cities and towns, and provide better services to the residents.

TOLL ROADS

Toll roads generate revenue by charging users a fee for road usage, allowing for financing of construction and maintenance.¹⁸⁵ They promote the user-pays principle, generate revenue for future projects, manage congestion, offer alternative routes, and employ electronic toll collection. Public-private partnerships, social equity considerations, environmental impact mitigation, and transparent governance are important for toll road implementation. Balancing revenue generation with user needs and sustainable development is crucial for toll road success.

Toll roads play a significant role in generating national revenue and ensuring a stable national budget.¹⁸⁶ To enhance toll road revenue, the study proposes the following measures:

- a) Each city should construct 2-3-4 toll gates where all vehicles are required to pay upon entry and exit. Payment receipts must be provided, and vehicles without receipts will not be allowed to proceed.

- b) The toll road authority will issue three types of tickets: one for trolley-trucks, another for passenger transport buses, and a third for small vehicles.
- c) The road fees should be set at a reasonable level that allows drivers to afford them.
- d) The Ministry of Welfare should establish a toll road directorate, ensuring recruitment is based on transparency, honesty, and knowledge.



This directorate will be responsible for controlling and supervising all toll gates, and the collected funds will be transferred to the branch of the Afghanistan central bank.¹⁸⁷ Toll road workers should receive higher salaries to discourage embezzlement and corruption. Those found guilty of corruption or criminal activities must be appropriately punished.

KABUL RIVER

The Kabul River, which runs through the middle of Kabul City, is currently in a poor and polluted state. In more developed countries, rivers in the heart of cities are given special attention and provide multiple sources of income.¹⁸⁸ To harness the potential of the Kabul River as a significant revenue stream for the government, the study propose the following measures:

- a) The Kabul River should be cleaned thoroughly from its starting point (company area) to its endpoint.

¹⁸⁵ 'A Tale of Two Tax Systems: A Comparative Analysis of General Anti-Avoidance Rules Provisions in India and Australia' (n 13).

¹⁸⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁸⁷ Hashimy, 'China's Belt-Road Initiative and Investment Strategies' (n 10); 'The Impact of Social Media on Afghanistan's Tourism Industry: A Roadmap for the Future in the Internet Highway' (n 18).

¹⁸⁸ Hashimy, 'The Agonising Narrative of Environmental Dilapidation in the Tussle of Armed Conflict; From the Lens of International Humanitarian Laws' (n 14).

- b) Measures should be taken to prevent the discharge of residential wastewater into the river, which can contaminate its waters.
- c) Clean water should be continuously supplied to the river to maintain its cleanliness.
- d) Construction of a small dam at the starting point would allow for water storage and management by a specialized technical team.
- e) A system should be implemented to ensure the flow of water in the river is regulated through water pressure, minimizing water loss due to evaporation.
- f) Tourists could be attracted to the river by providing passenger ships or boats for sightseeing purposes, and ticket sales would contribute to generating income. The collected funds should be deposited into a designated bank account for the Kabul River.
- g) Coffee shops and small restaurants could be opened in key areas along the river and leased to private sector businesses.
- h) The activities along the Kabul River should be strictly supervised and controlled by the government to prevent any theft or fraudulent activities.



It is vital to emphasise that the revenue generated from the Kabul River belongs to the entire nation, and any attempts of embezzlement or theft will be met with appropriate punishment.

CUSTOMS

Customs revenue refers to the income generated through customs duties, taxes, and fees on imported or exported goods. Key aspects to consider include tariffs and duties, trade policies, efficient customs procedures, risk management, trade facilitation, customs modernization, cooperation and information sharing, revenue leakage prevention, and monitoring and evaluation.¹⁸⁹ Customs revenue is crucial for funding government budgets and supporting public services and infrastructure development. Effective customs policies and enforcement measures maximize revenue while facilitating international trade and ensuring compliance with customs regulations.¹⁹⁰ Customs play a crucial role in generating revenue for Afghanistan, and in order to enhance the country's income, the following measures should be undertaken:

- i. Implementing modernised technology and providing specialised computer training to all customs staff to ensure transparency and efficiency in their operations.
- ii. The customs authorities need to establish facilitation measures for traders and merchants while eradicating corruption from the systems.
- iii. Strictly adhering to transparency standards and taking appropriate actions to remove any corrupt staff members.
- iv. Preventing excessive taxation, as high taxes can lead to merchants seeking alternative income sources or withdrawing their capital from the country, which significantly impacts the country's revenue.
- v. Ensuring that the recruitment process for customs personnel is based on qualities such as honesty, patriotism, experience, education, and dedication to the country's interests.

¹⁸⁹ Hashimy, 'Impact of WTO Agreement Accession on Trade and a Few Intellectual Property Rights in Afghanistan' (n 20).

¹⁹⁰ Hashimy and Benjamin (n 22).

- vi. Establishing a special inspection team or commission, comprising representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Council of Ministers, and inspection organ, to oversee customs operations.
- vii. The customs department should provide regular reports on collected income to the Ministry of Finance every four months, with copies also sent to the Council of Ministers.



MINES

Mines contribute to the economy through employment, export revenue, infrastructure development, government revenue, technological advancements, local economic development, environmental and social considerations, diversification, and sustainable development. By balancing benefits and challenges, implementing regulations, and promoting responsible practices, mining can have a positive impact on the economy. Afghanistan possesses a wealth of mines, with various types scattered across different regions. The country is abundant in valuable and economically significant mines. Unfortunately, due to the corruption and puppetry of past governments influenced by foreign powers, the extraction of these mines has been neglected. The lack of a genuine commitment to serving the interests of the citizens has resulted in treason, corruption, and discrimination, which have been the primary causes of poverty. Regrettably, over the past 20 years, Afghanistan's mines have been under the control of criminal syndicates, and unlawful extraction has taken place. This treacherous activity involved the complicity of successive

governments, perpetuating administrative corruption and further exacerbating the issue.



Figure V: Source Aljazeera

Afghanistan is known to have significant mineral resources, including copper, gold, oil, natural gas, uranium, bauxite, coal, iron ore, rare earths, lithium, chromium, lead, zinc, gemstones, talc, sulphur, travertine, gypsum, and marble. However, it's important to note that the figures and values provided in your statement are based on a hypothetical scenario where security challenges are overcome and the resources are effectively developed. Regarding copper, Afghanistan's Ministry of Mines and Petroleum estimated the country's copper resource to be nearly 30 million tonnes in a 2019 report. Additionally, the report suggested the presence of another 28.5 million tonnes of undiscovered copper in porphyry deposits. If these figures are accurate, Afghanistan's total copper reserves would be close to 60 million tonnes. The value of this resource could be worth hundreds of billions of dollars at current prices, considering the growing demand for copper.

The Mes Aynak copper project, which is the largest in Afghanistan, was leased to a consortium consisting of Metallurgical Corp of China (MCC) and Jiangxi Copper in 2008. While the project has not been fully developed yet, MCC estimates that it holds 11.08 million tonnes of copper. Based on current London Metal Exchange prices, this would be worth over \$100 billion. Regarding iron ore, Afghanistan is said to possess over 2.2 billion tonnes of steelmaking

raw material. At current market prices, this iron ore resource would be valued at over \$350 billion. It's worth mentioning that the actual development and monetization of these resources heavily depend on various factors, including security conditions, infrastructure development, investment, and geopolitical stability. The quoted values represent the potential worth of these resources if they can be effectively extracted and utilized in the Afghan economy.¹⁹¹

GAS AND PETROLEUM

Afghanistan possesses significant oil and gas reserves in its northwestern regions. If these reserves are extracted consistently and in a scientifically sound manner, the country has the potential to achieve self-sufficiency in energy production and even become an exporter. Such an approach would not only ensure a stable energy supply for the nation but also contribute to a substantial increase in revenue for the country.¹⁹²



Figure VI

According to the data provided, Afghanistan had proven natural gas reserves of 1.75 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) as of 2017, ranking 62nd in the world.¹⁹³ This accounts for approximately 0.025%

of the world's total natural gas reserves.¹⁹⁴ The country's gas reserves are estimated to be equivalent to 299.8 times its annual consumption, suggesting that Afghanistan has around 300 years of gas left at current consumption levels (excluding unproven reserves). In terms of gas consumption, Afghanistan consumed 5,838 million cubic feet (MMcf) of natural gas in 2017, ranking 104th globally. This accounts for about 0.004% of the world's total gas consumption, which was approximately 132,290,211 MMcf. On a per capita basis, Afghanistan's gas consumption was approximately 161 cubic feet per person annually, or 0 cubic feet per capita per day, based on the country's population of around 36,296,113 people in 2017. Regarding gas production, Afghanistan produced 6,674.54 million cubic feet (MMcf) of natural gas per year as of 2015, ranking 79th in the world.¹⁹⁵

AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

The agricultural revolution marked a transition from a nomadic lifestyle to settled farming communities.¹⁹⁶ It increased food production, led to agricultural surpluses, and allowed for specialization. Innovations in farming techniques and technology improved productivity. Settlements grew, social and economic changes occurred, and there were environmental impacts. This revolution had a global impact, facilitating population growth, urbanization, and economic development. It transformed human civilization and set the stage for future agricultural advancements.

The agricultural revolution in Afghanistan refers to the period of transformation in agricultural practices and techniques within the country. After decades of conflict and instability, efforts have been made to improve agricultural productivity and promote sustainable farming

¹⁹¹ Reuters, 'Factbox: What Are Afghanistan's Untapped Minerals and Resources?' *Reuters* (19 August 2021) <<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/what-are-afghanistans-untapped-minerals-resources-2021-08-19/>> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁹² 'COUNTRY STUDIES from Energy and Security: The Geopolitics of Energy in the Asia-Pacific on JSTOR' <<https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep05911.7>> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁹³ Ali Haq, 'Oil and Gas Available in Afghanistan' (*GeoExpro*, 3 May 2009) <<https://geoexpro.com/oil-and-gas-available-in-afghanistan/>> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁹⁴ 'Ghazanfar Group - Oil & Gas' <<https://www.ghazanfargroup.com/oil-and-gas.php?lang=en>> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁹⁵ 'Afghanistan Natural Gas Reserves, Production and Consumption Statistics - Worldometer' <<https://www.worldometers.info/gas/afghanistan-natural-gas/>> accessed 2 June 2023.

¹⁹⁶ 'Agricultural Revolution - an Overview | ScienceDirect Topics' <<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/agricultural-revolution>> accessed 2 June 2023.



methods. This includes the introduction of modern farming technologies, irrigation systems, and the diversification of crops. The agricultural revolution in Afghanistan aims to increase food production, enhance rural livelihoods, and contribute to economic development in the country.

Promoting quality seeds and fertilisers in Afghanistan's agricultural sector leads to improved productivity, higher incomes for farmers, and poverty reduction. By investing in these resources and their widespread adoption, the country can achieve a transformative agricultural revolution, generating surplus production, increasing economic growth, and creating employment opportunities for a better future.

Selecting the crop and varieties to produce

Choosing the appropriate crops and varieties to cultivate is crucial for the success of the enterprise. It is important to consider the preferences of the farmers and their willingness to purchase high-quality seeds and cultivate their farms accordingly. It should be noted that not all crops are suitable for a profitable seed business. Therefore, the enterprise should carefully select the crops or combination of crops that will yield the greatest economic advantage. Whenever feasible and relevant, prioritize the crops that have the highest economic value.

Producing seed in the field

The enterprise needs to have a way to create the seed it wants to sell. This can be achieved by either cultivating the seed on its own farm or by forming contracts with other farmers to grow the seed on their farms. The seed produced by the enterprise must adhere to acceptable standards of quality regarding its physical and genetic purity, germination rate, and overall health. The enterprise should take proper care and closely monitor the various stages of seed production, including sowing, field growth, harvesting and threshing, as well as seed cleaning and storage. Seed production follows

standard agricultural practices necessary for cultivating a successful crop. However, in addition to these practices, there are specific activities required for growing a crop specifically intended for seed production. These activities include sowing foundation seed, removing off-types from the field through rogueing, conducting independent official inspections of the field, cleaning and packaging the seed, collecting samples and conducting quality tests, as well as promoting the seed to other farmers.

Cleaning, Treating and Packaging the Seed

Ensure the purity of seed by thoroughly removing any undesirable elements such as seeds from other crops, weed seeds, chaff, stones, broken or damaged grains, and similar materials. Additionally, consider applying suitable chemical treatments to protect the seed from pests and diseases, according to specific requirements. Once the seed is cleaned and treated, package it in a suitable and appealing material that will maintain its quality until it is sown.

To maintain the identity of a specific batch of seed and encourage its utilization by farmers, label the packaging with relevant information. This may include details such as the seed variety, lot number, production date, recommended sowing practices, and any other pertinent information that helps identify and promote the use of the seed to potential customers.

Storing the Seed

To preserve seed quality and viability, store them in a cool, dry, and dark environment, below the seed's critical moisture level. Avoid extreme temperatures, high humidity, and direct light exposure. Use opaque containers, free from pests and rodents. Employ suitable packaging materials and seal them tightly. Monitor for deterioration signs and conduct germination tests. Rotate seed stocks to use older seeds first. Proper storage practices maintain seed integrity until sowing.

Testing the Seed for quality status

It is essential to evaluate the quality of seeds to guarantee that the product offer is free from diseases, maintains its true characteristics, and has the ability to germinate and thrive when planted in the field.

Marketing seed to Farmers

To achieve success in business, it is crucial to effectively market and sell all the seed produce while minimising the accumulation of unsold stock between seasons. The key to selling seed lies in meeting the existing demand for it. It is important to showcase the superior qualities of seed and persuade agricultural agencies and fellow farmers to make purchases.

Motivation and Resilience

Seed production carries inherent risks such as adverse weather conditions, pest and disease outbreaks, and price fluctuations. Not every season will be profitable, so it's essential to maintain strong motivation during challenging times. Be prepared for yield and profit fluctuations and stay hopeful for better days ahead.

Adaptability and Learning

The seed business is constantly evolving, with technological advancements and changing market conditions. Stay open to new ideas and be willing to learn about recent developments, such as new varieties or production techniques. Attend useful meetings, workshops, seminars, and trade shows to stay updated and connected with industry trends.

Pros

- Complete autonomy in decision-making without the need for consensus.
- All generated income belongs exclusively
- No potential conflicts or misunderstandings with partners.

Cons

- Acquiring necessary skills or expertise may be expensive and time-consuming.
- Shouldering the entire financial burden and risks.
- Sole responsibility for providing equipment, inputs, and resources.

Running a family seed enterprise:

Running a family seed enterprise involves producing, processing, and selling high-quality seeds. Key aspects include seed production, processing, quality control, marketing, customer support, record keeping, networking, legal compliance, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Expertise in seed production, marketing, and business management is crucial. By maintaining quality standards, providing customer support, and embracing sustainable practices, a family seed enterprise can contribute to agricultural productivity and support local farming communities.

Pros

- Benefits can be retained within the family, facilitating easy pooling of family resources.
- Strong trust and loyalty among family members, fostering solidarity during challenging times.
- Family members are highly dedicated to the business's success and willing to make sacrifices.
- Encourages long-term thinking for business growth and success.

Cons

- Potential rivalry among family members that could jeopardize the business.
- Succession planning may be sensitive and prone to disputes.
- Personal relationships might hinder open and honest communication.
- Dominance of a single family member could impede innovation and fresh ideas.
- Resistance to change from older family members may hinder progress.



Joining others in a Group

Joining a group seed enterprise involves collaborating with others to collectively produce, process, and market seeds.¹⁹⁷ Benefits include shared resources and expertise, specialized production, cost reduction, access to larger markets, knowledge sharing, collective decision-making, risk mitigation,¹⁹⁸ and opportunities for research and networking. By joining forces, members can strengthen the seed industry, enhance competitiveness, and contribute to sustainable agricultural development.

Pros:

1. Enhanced problem analysis and planning through diverse perspectives within the group.
2. Collaboration can lead to increased output levels and higher revenue.
3. Improved access to credit at lower costs through group dynamics.

Cons:

- Potential conflicts among group members if disagreements arise.
- Weak leadership within the group may result in business failure.
- Decision-making may be dominated by a few individuals, alienating others.
- Overreliance on external financing may expose the group to external factors.

When deciding on enterprise's structure, consider factors such as personal goals, resources, skills, and the dynamics of potential partners or family members. Additionally, ensure familiarity with the legal requirements and regulations governing different business structures in region to maintain compliance.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁷ 'Role of Self-Help Groups in Socio-Economic Development of Women in Yaraganahalli Panchayat, Mysore' (n 6).

¹⁹⁸ 'Role of Self-Help Groups through Micro-Finance for Poverty Alleviation' (n 4).

¹⁹⁹ Hashimy, 'China's Belt-Road Initiative and Investment Strategies' (n 10).

Choosing the Right Crops and Varieties for Successful Seed Production

Not all types of crops are suitable for a successful seed business. The profitability and demand for the crops cultivate will determine the commercial success of enterprise. Therefore, the selection of crops and varieties should be based on the preferences and needs of the farmers who would purchase seeds. It is crucial to carefully assess these factors through surveys or market research. Seed businesses typically rely on a combination of crops rather than a single crop. Ideally, these crops should be suitable for rotation on the same plot of land. However, since each crop requires specific expertise, resources, and machinery, it is advisable for small businesses to avoid growing too many crops simultaneously. It is more effective to focus on two or a maximum of three crops. The same principle applies to the number of varieties within a crop, as it becomes challenging to maintain varietal identity and purity when cultivating numerous varieties of the same crop. Although crops like wheat and rice play a vital role in farming systems, seed enterprises often struggle to sell seeds of these crops. Farmers can usually produce their own seeds and are hesitant to purchase more expensive seeds from external sources. It would be more advantageous to combine such crops with more profitable alternatives, such as certain vegetables that require specialized seed production techniques.

While handling multiple crops requires additional effort, it offers the advantage of diversifying risks associated with adverse weather conditions, pests and diseases, price fluctuations, and other factors. Another crop can generate additional income later in the year and maximize the utilization of labor and other resources throughout the year.

Making Informed Decisions on Size and Growth

The extent of business should be primarily determined by the size of the market aim to cater to and expectations for its growth in the



future. The resources acquire, such as staff, machinery, processing facility, storage, and transportation, should align with the amount or value of seed plan to produce. Having excessive or underutilized capacity will result in losses for business, so it's important to steer clear of such situations.

Unlocking into an Unexplored Market Niche

The success of seed business relies heavily on marketing, which is the most crucial factor. To effectively compete with other suppliers in the industry, it is essential to have a deep understanding of market, its dynamics, and the potential challenges that may arise.

As a small enterprise, it is advisable to explore the option of selling high-quality seed for specific crops and varieties that are attractive to a particular group of prospective seed buyers. This will require conducting a thorough market study to understand farmer behavior and patterns of seed and variety usage, in order to identify opportunities. For instance, farmers in a specific location may be cultivating traditional long-duration varieties of a certain crop, but they might be interested in shorter-duration varieties that allow them to harvest in time for another crop, enabling them to practice double cropping and reap additional benefits. Similarly, some farmers may be seeking disease-tolerant varieties to replace their currently susceptible ones. Such situations offer unique opportunities for small seed enterprises to target specific markets and cater to their needs.

The necessary funding for enterprise will primarily rely on the specific equipment, facilities, and materials required. It is crucial to estimate the costs associated with these items. In order to produce high-quality seeds, additional inputs, specialized equipment, and facilities beyond those used in regular grain production are necessary. It is important to identify the specific items will need and determine their respective costs. Additionally,

should explore avenues for raising funds to acquire them. Some of the items typically required for a small seed enterprise are as follows:

How Obtain the Required Funds?

To secure the necessary funds, it is important to evaluate whether can self-fund the enterprise or if external support, such as agency assistance or credit from a bank, is required. If government opt for a loan, it is crucial to assess whether enterprise's revenue generation will be sufficient to cover loan repayments and associated charges, while still allowing for a reasonable profit to be shared among enterprise members or reinvested in the business.

How would Enterprise be Managed and Controlled?

To ensure the successful operation of a startup business, it is essential to have individuals who possess specialized skills and expertise.²⁰⁰ If are managing the enterprise alone, it may be necessary to enlist the services of others who possess skills and expertise that lack. Alternatively, in a team setting, specific members can be assigned to fulfill these roles.

It should be noted that merely having individuals with the appropriate skills and technical knowledge does not guarantee smooth operation. It is crucial for every group enterprise to establish and adhere to agreed-upon rules and regulations that are thoroughly understood by all members.²⁰¹ Additionally, penalties for members who fail to fulfill their obligations should be clearly defined. In fact, certain countries may legally require the inclusion of formal by-laws or constitutions as part of the registration process for small private enterprises.

²⁰⁰ 'Nurturing Leadership and Capacity Building for Success: Empowering Growth' (n 15).

²⁰¹ Hashimy and others (n 25).

What risks would Enterprise likely face?

Risk is any factor that may cause problems or loss to seed enterprise. Seed enterprises can encounter various risks that should be considered and assessed before starting the venture. Here are some examples of the risks associated with seed enterprises:

- This type of risk involves potential issues such as equipment breakdown, a decrease in the quality of seeds during storage, or other technical challenges that may affect the production process. These risks can impact productivity and the ability to deliver high-quality seeds.
- Financial risks pertain to the availability of limited funds to purchase necessary equipment and materials, as well as to pay salaries and wages to employees. Insufficient financial resources can hinder the smooth operation of the enterprise and limit its growth potential.
- Marketing risks are related to changes in market dynamics. This includes a fall in market share due to increasing competition or the entry of cheaper alternatives from other countries. These risks can affect sales and revenue generation for the seed enterprise.
- Management risk involves the potential negative effects resulting from the dominance of a few key individuals within a small-scale seed enterprise. Overreliance on a few decision-makers can limit innovation, hinder effective decision-making, and increase vulnerability to poor management practices.

Before launching a seed enterprise, it is crucial to carefully assess these different types of risks and their potential impacts.

PROTECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

Geographical indications (GIs) play a significant role in protecting and promoting products associated with specific geographic

regions in Afghanistan.²⁰² GIs help highlight the unique qualities and characteristics of these products,²⁰³ which can contribute to their market value and ensure their authenticity. By obtaining GI status, Afghan products can differentiate themselves from similar products in domestic and international markets.²⁰⁴ For instance Kandahar is known for its high-quality pomegranates. These pomegranates are sought after for their taste, size, and deep red color. The GI status helps protect and promote Kandahar pomegranates, enabling local producers to benefit from their reputation and market demand.

Balkh of Afghanistan, is famous for its melons.²⁰⁵ Balkh melons are known for their sweet taste, juiciness, and unique aroma.²⁰⁶ The GI recognition helps preserve the reputation of Balkh melons and allows local farmers to command better prices for their produce.

By leveraging geographical indications, Afghanistan can enhance the market value of these products, encourage economic development in specific regions, and protect the traditional knowledge and cultural heritage associated with them.²⁰⁷ Furthermore, GIs can contribute to tourism and promote Afghan products on the global stage, further supporting the country's economy.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

Intellectual property (IP) protection is crucial for Afghanistan's economy and its import-export activities. Strong IP protection encourages innovation and creativity by providing incentives for investment in research,

²⁰² Hashimy, 'Protecting Geographical Indications in Afghanistan' (n 17).

²⁰³ 'Protecting Geographical Indications in Afghanistan' <<https://www.elivapress.com/pl/book/book-5681151614/>> accessed 2 June 2023.

²⁰⁴ 'Protecting Geographical Indications in Afghanistan: Hashimy, Sayed Qudrat: 9789994983902: Amazon.Com: Books' <<https://www.amazon.com/Protecting-Geographical-Indications-Afghanistan-Hashimy/dp/9994983903>> accessed 2 June 2023.

²⁰⁵ Hashimy and Magoge (n 30).

²⁰⁶ 'Protecting Geographical Indications in Afghanistan: Hashimy, Sayed Qudrat: 9789994983902: Amazon.Com: Books' (n 58).

²⁰⁷ Hashimy, 'Protecting Geographical Indications in Afghanistan' (n 17).



development, and innovation.²⁰⁸ This motivates Afghan innovators and creators to introduce new and valuable products and services, thereby driving economic growth. Additionally, effective IP protection creates a favorable business environment that attracts foreign investors.²⁰⁹ When foreign companies see that their IP rights will be safeguarded in Afghanistan, they are more likely to invest in the country, bringing in capital, technology, and expertise. This contributes to job creation,²¹⁰ infrastructure development, and overall economic expansion. IP protection also plays a critical role in international trade by assuring foreign partners that their rights will be respected.²¹¹ Afghan businesses with protected IP can confidently engage in trade agreements and collaborations, promoting the export of Afghan products and services and facilitating access to global markets. Moreover, IP protection enables Afghan businesses to build and protect their brands, trademarks, and geographical indications. This enhances the value of their products and services, making them more competitive both domestically and internationally.²¹² A strong brand reputation attracts customers, fosters loyal consumer bases, and increases export opportunities.²¹³ Lastly, IP protection safeguards Afghanistan's traditional knowledge,²¹⁴ cultural expressions,²¹⁵ and traditional products. Recognizing and protecting traditional cultural expressions and geographical indications promotes local products and crafts while ensuring that the benefits derived from them remain within local

communities.²¹⁶ By valuing and preserving intellectual property, Afghanistan can create an environment that fosters innovation, protects its heritage, and drives economic development.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the Afghanistan Economic Strategy seeks to address poverty and unemployment through a comprehensive set of measures. These actions include promoting private sector growth, establishing data collection centers to identify impoverished families, providing assistance to government employees, setting up transparent cooperative stores, and implementing fair eligibility criteria for assistance. Additionally, the strategy focuses on enhancing the national budget by activating revenue sources, allocating funds based on merit, and combating corruption. It also emphasizes the development of the rural economy and agriculture through agronomy cooperatives, irrigation infrastructure, subsidy programs, and revitalizing wheat storage and animal husbandry. Furthermore, the strategy tackles drought by encouraging water conservation and efficient irrigation systems. It aims to transform deserts into income sources through land reform, deep wells, and agricultural production, while municipal revenue generation involves empowering the municipality and implementing infrastructure projects. Lastly, toll roads are established with transparency measures and better remuneration for workers to deter corruption. These initiatives collectively aim to alleviate poverty, stimulate economic growth, and improve the livelihoods of the Afghan population.

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²¹⁰ Hashimy, 'The Doctrine of Copyright Exhaustion In Software Under Indian Copyright Act' (n 62).

²¹¹ Org/Jef, Hashimy and Magoge (n 28).

²¹² Hashimy, 'Impact of WTO Agreement Accession on Trade and a Few Intellectual Property Rights in Afghanistan' (n 8).

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