Afghanistan's efforts to increase the country's foodgrain production will be assisted by a credit of $13 million from the INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA), an affiliate of the WORLD BANK. The project will make more funds available to the Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan (AgBank) for loans to farmers for on-farm investments and to the Afghan Fertilizer Company (AFC) to build fertilizer warehouses throughout the country.

At full development in 1985, the project will bring major benefits. The country's average annual agricultural production, mostly foodgrains, will increase by 233,000 tons valued at $23 million. Afghanistan will be able to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat and to increase exports of commodities like cotton. About 43,000 farmers and their families (a total of 276,000 people) will benefit from higher incomes. About 26,000 man-years of additional employment will be generated.

Among those present at the signing of the credit documents on April 25, 1975, were, seated from left to right: His Excellency Abdullah Malikyar, Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States; and Mr. Munir P. Benjenk, Vice President, Europe, Middle East and North Africa Region, IDA.

Photo: G. Franchini for IDA.