Peach Yield up, Poppy Down in Helmand: Farmers

LASHKARGAH - A number of farmers and agriculture department officials say that peach yield has significantly increased and poppy cultivation declined for the first time in southern Helmand province.

Around 95 peach gardens have been established in different parts of Helmand, including one in Nawa district which produces one ton peach per garden.

Owner of the peach garden in Nawa district, Gul Afrin, told Pajhwok Afghan News that for the first time poppy was grown in the same place where a decade ago, poppy cultivation was widespread.

“A lot more than one ton of peach to the market every day and the taste of the fruit peaches is very good compared to the peaches of other counties,” he added.

Another farmer Mian Isah said peach was very beneficial than poppy cultivation.

“Peach production may be profitable and have a good market, we need more time to develop studies and afterwards we may carry it on,” he informed.

Agha Mohammad, another owner of a peach garden, held similar views and said the agriculture department should help farmers increase the fruit yield further.

“Peach cultivation is new in Helmand and we are not familiar with its growth, but still we received good yield from it. If the agriculture department cooperates with us in this regard, the yield would further increase,” he remarked.

Regarding the significant yield of peach this season, provincial agriculture director Zalmai Aalo said Helmand province is on a path to becoming one of the biggest peach-producing provinces.

According to Aalo, about 95 peach gardens and peach orchards have been established on 103 acres of land. (More on P4). (10)

Farmers

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