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Afghanistan is Benefiting From International Support

Interview with Mustafa Kazemi, Chief of the National Economy Committee of the Wolesi Jirga -House of People- of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

by Helene Rang

Despite continuous problems in the country, Afghanistan's economy is growing at a rapid pace. This comes after a brief slow down in 2006/2007, when a drought dragged down agricultural growth, which accounts for nearly 4.6 million tons during the current year, compared with 2 million tons in 2001. According to experts of a UN Food Agency, Afghanistan's favourable weather conditions and the development work of aid organisations have result-



Source: National Geographic

one-third of the country's economy. Although the standard of living is among the lowest in the world and the country still faces mounting security problems, the economy is expected to grow by more than 12% in the year 2007/2008. The country's corn output is expected to reach

ed in high corn yields. Besides agriculture as a major driver of growth, construction, trade and other services have been important, reflecting mainly demand from the reconstruction program, international presence (aid and military organisations), as well as private sector

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