As part of USDA's effort to support the Afghanistan military campaign, Operation Enduring Freedom, the Natural Resources Conservation Service–National Soil Survey Laboratory (NRCS-NSSL), working in partnership with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) developed an agreement to sample soils; teach local nationals about soil and water conservation, soil sampling, and techniques for describing a soil; and also promote capacity building of the agricultural sector in Afghanistan. This article will relate the experience from the point of view of the senior author, Bruce Dubee, as an agricultural advisor and the experience of sampling soils in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan? Why during a war? The answer is complicated, just like everything else in Afghanistan.

Most Americans don’t realize it, but winning the war on terrorism in Afghanistan is much more than fighting with guns and bombs. Security operations may dominate the news from Afghanistan, but I believe the fighting includes another very different war, a battle against ignorance and poverty, in a very dangerous region, under conditions that most of us would consider shocking. Winning