



## ENPARD 2014: A Bountiful Harvest

### Agriculture Cooperatives:

706 established, 700 trained  
in business organization,  
50 received first round of grants



### Farmer Support:

100,000 receiving consultation,  
52 information centres created,  
10 demonstration plots developed



### Institution Training:

Policy Unit established at Ministry  
of Agriculture, over 400 staff  
trained, over 20 studies published



### Agricultural Cooperatives:



### Breaking New Ground on Working Together

Just a couple of years ago, the word "cooperative" left a bad taste in the mouths of Georgian farmers, as it reminded them of the highly unpopular collective farming of the Soviet Union, called "kolkhoz." By the end of 2014, however, through the guidance and support of ENPARD, many of these same farmers began tasting the sweet fruit of working in

unison towards a greater goal.

The introductory agricultural meetings and events organized by ENPARD across Georgia drew the interest of over 70,000 people in rural areas who came out learn about the advantages and principles of effective cooperation among small farmers.



## The benefits of Common Goals and Cooperation

After participating in various development sessions, many of which have been outlined in [our previous newsletter](#), over 3,500 Georgian small farmers came together to create 550 new agriculture cooperatives that will contribute resources, time, and efforts towards the common goal of improved production, processing, and marketing procedures. After a year-long selection process, 50 of these cooperatives received grants from ENPARD, and many more will be awarded in 2015 with the number of participants expected to triple. The grants are expected to help increase the return rate of cooperative members by 75 percent and their sales volumes by 20 percent. It is also expected that about 80 percent of these cooperative members will enter new regional, national, or interna-

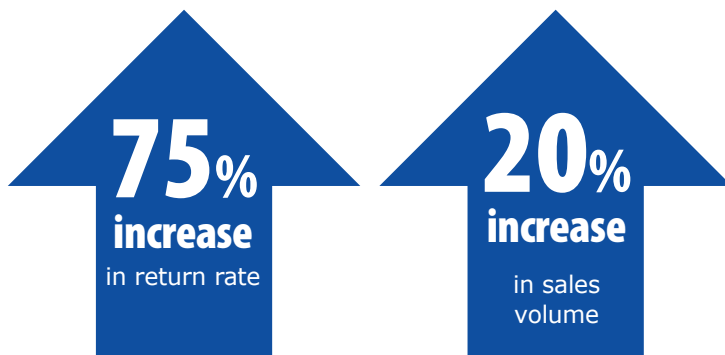


**Almost 500 cooperatives established leading the way to new milestones in Georgian farming**

tional markets, setting new standards and milestones for Georgian farming. The first results of the grant-winning cooperatives, are anticipated in autumn 2015 for some farms (such as those in-

involved in beekeeping, milk production, and cheese making), and in winter 2016 for other farms (such as those involved in wine making, greenhouse farming, and poultry farming).

### Results expected from ENPARD grants:





**Farmer Support:****Building the future by raising awareness and a strong education**

Apart from resources, the next greatest obstacle to the modernization of Georgian agriculture has been the lack of knowledge in matters of modern agriculture and business development.

Much of ENPARD's effort, therefore, has been specifically allocated to the education of farmers' matters that go beyond the practical skills of their trade.

With support from ENPARD, the Georgian Ministry of Agriculture has been able to set up 52 district-level agriculture and communication centres across Georgia, with 300 experts available to help. ENPARD consortia members OXFAM and Mercy Corps as well as UNDP, Care and People in Need also published guides and informational brochures on the benefits of farmers' cooperation in three English and Georgian.

**Training Sessions and Hands-On Application of New Approaches**

Several thousand farmers participating in ENPARD's grant competition received various levels of training from ENPARD consortia members on the basics of Agriculture Marketing and Accounting in order to help them to better manage and promote their farms and products. Currently, 20,000 farmers receive regular consultation at the ENPARD-funded Ajaran Agro-Service Centre, while 1,000 members of the Georgian Farmers' association receive weekly consultation through the ENPARD-funded agriculture information call centre.

Farmers across Georgia have also begun learning how to use modern technologies and implement novel ap-

proaches in their farming through a developing network of demo-plots that ENPARD is funding. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has already set up over 20 such demo-plots across Ajara with projects in blueberry harvesting, dairy production, and hydroponics. OXFAM has selected and contracted 13 farmers for demo projects encompassing irrigation techniques of high yield and highly resilient varieties of crops, among others. People in Need has also begun a grant-application process for the creation of demo-plots and plans to rehabilitate the demo-plots of Kutaisi State University.

**300**

experts are available to farmers at 52 district-wide information centres across Georgia

**Over 20,000**

farmers receive regular consultation on business development at ENPARD-funded centres

**Over 20**

projects demonstrating modern agriculture techniques have been set up across Georgia



### Improving Institutional Efficiency:

## Leading the way with an Agriculture Development Strategy

The support and education of individual farmers and cooperatives form only part of ENPARD's efforts to modernize Georgian agriculture. Another effort consists in improving the efficiency of all institutions involved in agriculture, as noted in the detailed budget breakdown of our [last issue](#).

Through ENPARD funding, experts from the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) helped the Ministry of Agriculture conceptualize, draft and finalize the Agriculture Development Strategy of the country, which has been followed by the Action Plan aimed at its implementation. The FAO also initiated a renewable database of product prices, which will help the Ministry of Agriculture evaluate and analyse the local agricultural market and formulate policy recommendations.

## Research Studies and Staff Training for Improved Organization



ENPARD has also supported UNDP in conducting several research and policy studies for the improvement of agriculture, particularly in the autonomous Republic of Adjara. Apart from being distributed to government organisations along with suggestions on how to improve farming conditions, these studies are used to attract the attention of potential investors to both the agricultural and tourism sectors of Adjara. During the year-long grant competition process, all the ENPARD consortia members (OXFAM, PIN, Mercy Corps and Care) collected various agriculture data through farmer surveys, all of which has been collected by OXFAM into the first survey-based analysis of Georgian agriculture to be published. Over 400 staff members of the Ministry

of Agriculture received training in the new procedures required to implement the new government policies. More specifically, members of the Policy Group of the Ministry of Agriculture took a course in Data Analysis and Statistics aimed at improving their professional skills in obtaining, processing, and analyzing data related to agricultural issues. The wider staff at the Ministry also had the opportunity to participate in training modules on the Prioritization of Value Chains, Analysis of Income Distribution, and Employment Distribution.

All in all, 2014 was a very busy year for the ENPARD team, and the second half of the year has brought forth the bountiful fruits of the efforts began at the beginning of the project. With new cooperatives and policies already created, the foundations of a practical farmers' education established, and great interest in the modernization of Georgian farming generated both amongst farmers and the Georgian press, moving forward in 2015 ENPARD will bring more such results for the farming industry and general economy of Georgia.

# ENPARD

## Training

Over 400 staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture received training in new procedures and government policies.

## Support

With the support of ENPARD the Ministry of Agriculture has been able to finalize the Agriculture Development Strategy of Georgia and to set up the Policy Unit as platform for the discussion of major policy changes.

## Analysis

ENPARD consortia members published the first-ever survey-based analysis of Georgian agriculture

