

A GOOD HARVEST

EU SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURE IN GEORGIA

With almost half of Georgians involved in agriculture, any improvements in farming will have a big impact. Last year the EU teamed up with FAO under the new phase of the ENPARD programme to bring modern agriculture techniques to Georgia by supporting the Government's farmer extension services. This harvest the results are in.



WHAT DID WE DO?



SET UP 19 DEMONSTRATION PLOTS around the country to show farmers the benefits of modern farming



TRAINED OVER 600 FARMERS and specialists on new farming techniques



LINKED UP FARMERS WITH MARKETS and retailers for selling of their produce



ESTABLISHED AGRONOMY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME trained and recruited 10 young agronomists



APPROVED GEL 4.2 MILLION IN GRANTS TO FARMERS for Covid-19 relief, irrigation and agricultural machinery

WHAT ARE THE NEW METHODS WE INTRODUCED?

- ✓ **No-till and minimum-till methods** prepare land for planting crops without excessively disturbing the soil. They prevent quick evaporation, and combats erosion
- ✓ **Mulching** covers up soil with straw, harvest leftovers or other materials, and enhances soil capacity, protects from erosion, and keeps moisture in. It also controls weeds, saving work
- ✓ **Drip irrigation** allows water to reach plant roots and is 40% more effective than surface irrigation and 20% more effective than sprinklers. It controls weeds, reduces erosion and saves time as one can do other field tasks while irrigating
- ✓ **Climate-smart agriculture techniques** aim to tackle three main objectives: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change; and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible
- ✓ **Integrated Pest Management** is an approach to crop production and protection that combines different management strategies and practices to grow healthy crops and minimize the use of pesticides
- ✓ **Raised beds** make the application of water in irrigated systems more efficient and protects from floods
- ✓ **New Crops** such as sweetcorn, lettuce or broccoli are easy to grow in Georgia and there is high demand for them

WHAT'S THE IMPACT?



"We followed the recommendations and thus quadrupled our eggplant yields. I have regular demand for my yields"

Dato Kapanadze, farmer from Lagodekhi, Kakheti



"I have 40% higher yields with 30% lower costs, and did not get affected by drought like my neighbours"

Ludmilla Manuilova, farmer from Lagodekhi, Kakheti



"The new crop types like broccoli are very popular and I have high demand for it throughout the year"

Giorgi Abuladze, farmer from Tsalka, Kvemo Kartli



"The costs for my grain yield were 20% lower with much less work"

Giorgi Khosroshvili, farmer from Dedoplistskaro, Kakheti

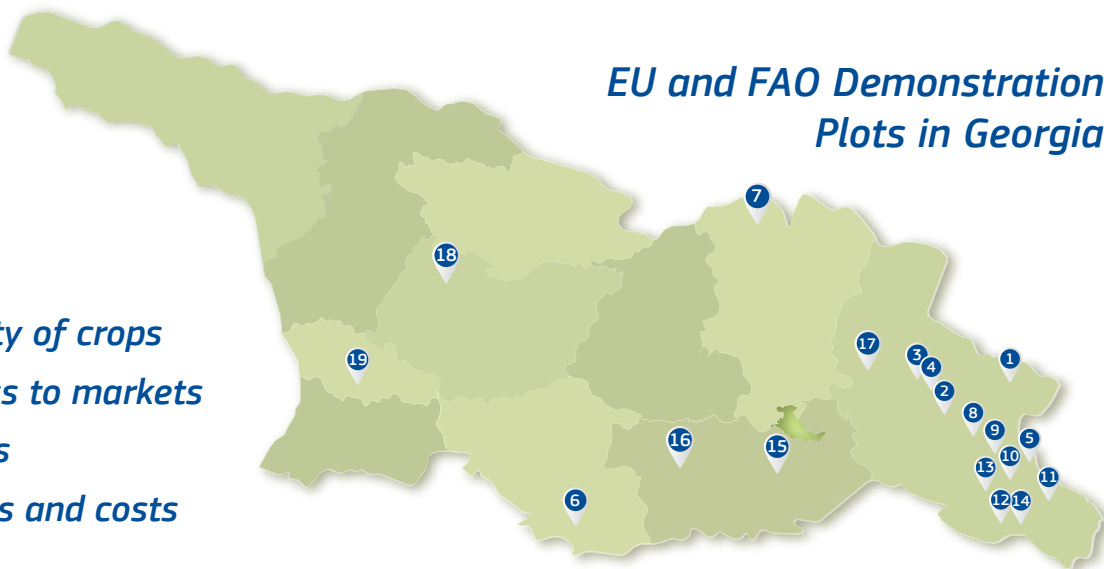
WHAT'S NEXT?

*This is just the first year of this programme, which will run until 2022.
Many more trainings and up to GEL 14.7 million more grants will be allocated.*

BENEFITS OF MODERN FARMING

- ✓ Improved quality of crops
- ✓ Improved access to markets
- ✓ Increased yields
- ✓ Saved resources and costs

EU and FAO Demonstration Plots in Georgia



*This initiative is just one part of the EU's ENPARD programme, which started in 2013 and has a **budget of 179.5 million EUR**. The support entails in particular progressive convergence towards EU policies and legislation, **sharing the best European practices to promote stronger and more competitive agriculture, and enhancing the administrative capacities at central and local level.***

For more information check out www.FAOGRAANTS.GE and www.ENPARD.GE

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#EU4Agriculture
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