



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

Pursuant to the Law of Georgia (December 7, 2017) on 'Introducing amendments into the Georgian Law on the Structure, Authority and Rules of Operation of the Government of Georgia', the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture have been merged, forming the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

The current document is a report on implemented activities in 2017 in the field of agriculture by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Strategic vision for the development of agricultural sector of Georgia, based on the principles of sustainable development, is focused on encouraging proper environment for reliable growth of high quality agricultural production, on enhancing competitiveness, providing food security and safety and overcoming poverty in rural areas.

Georgia's Agricultural Sector Development
Strategy for 2015-2020

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

FUNCTION AND GOALS IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

The main functions of the Ministry are to develop and implement the integrated state policy for the development of agriculture in Georgia.

Goals of the Ministry are:

- Implementing agricultural reforms in consideration of the country's traditions and international experience;
- Supporting development of agricultural cooperation;
- Supporting the processing of primary agricultural produce and food production;
- Supporting the growth of income and food safety in agricultural sector according principles of sustainable development of agriculture;
- Supporting efficient utilization of export potential and strengthening positions on international markets;
- Collecting and analyzing information on the conditions and tendencies at internal and external markets;
- Supporting and organizing scientific and consulting services, capacity building and training of agricultural entrepreneurs;
- Registration and organization of pesticides, agrochemicals, testing new animal and/or plant breeds within the scope of its competence;
- Supporting the renewal of and accessibility to agricultural equipment and technologies;
- Forecasting the need for pesticides and agrochemicals and supporting their use.

INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY



LEPL NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY

Food safety is the priority encompassing the entire chain of state control. To protect the consumers' rights, the Agency takes control over the local and imported food.

The Agency is mainly focused on the protection of human life and health, animal health and well-being, and plant safety.



LEPL SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH CENTER OF AGRICULTURE

The purpose of the Center's activities is to support maximum use of the potential of agricultural sector, growth of harvest, analysis and resolution of existing problems at scientific level, introduction of modern and innovative technologies and methods, provision of risk assessment in the fields of food safety, veterinary and plant protection through the use of and based on the best practices and scientific experience. www.scra.gov.ge



LEPL NATIONAL WINE AGENCY

The main goals of the Agency's activities are promotion of Georgian wine, support the improvement of the quality of the products of viticulture-wine making industry and growth of export potential of Georgian wines. www.georgianwine.gov.ge



AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The goal of the Agency is supporting the creation and development of business-oriented farmers' associations. The Agency ensures granting, suspending and terminating agricultural cooperative status, carries out monitoring and implements the states programs. www.acda.gov.ge



LEPL LABORATORY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia carries out diagnosing animal and plant diseases and examines food products countrywide. The network of labs of the Ministry is equipped with the modern devices. Quality management system corresponding to the international standard ISO 17025 and the requirement of ISO 9001:2015 is used by the Laboratory. www.lma.gov.ge



GEORGIAN AMELIORATION LTD

During the last decades, due to disinvestment of the amelioration sector, the usual process of land cultivation had been destroyed and considerable part of agricultural land became inappropriate for harvesting. Since the end of 2012, the state budget has been funding this sector with considerable sum and rehabilitation of amelioration infrastructure has been actively ongoing throughout the country. www.ag.ge



NNLE AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS' MANAGEMENT AGENCY

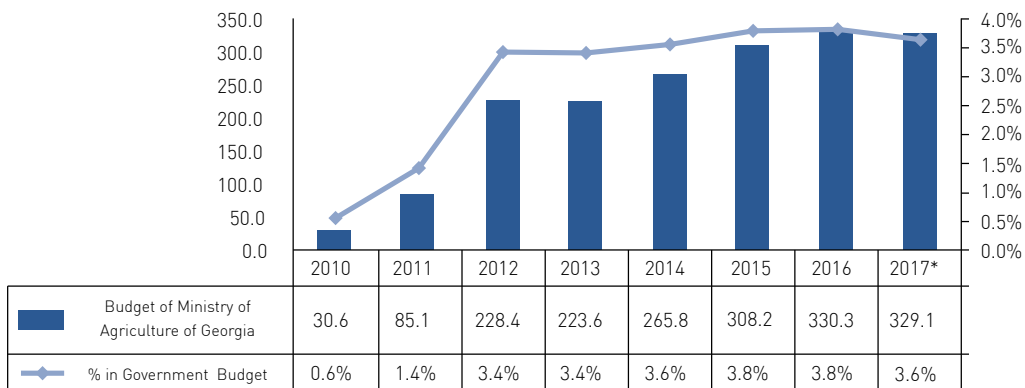
To support the development of agricultural sector, the Agency carries out the following projects:

- Preferential Agro-credit Project;
- Tea Plantations' Rehabilitation Project;
- Agricultural Production Support Program;
- Project for Co-funding Agricultural Products Processing and Preserving Enterprises;
- Agricultural Insurance Project; Project "Plant the Future"; www.apma.ge



AGRICULTURE IN FIGURES

Budget Allocation Dynamics of the Ministry of Agriculture (million GEL)



Source: Ministry of Finance of Georgia, Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia

* Data for 2017 is given based on the budget disbursed by the Ministry of Agriculture and total budget expenses planned in 2017

GENERAL INDICATORS

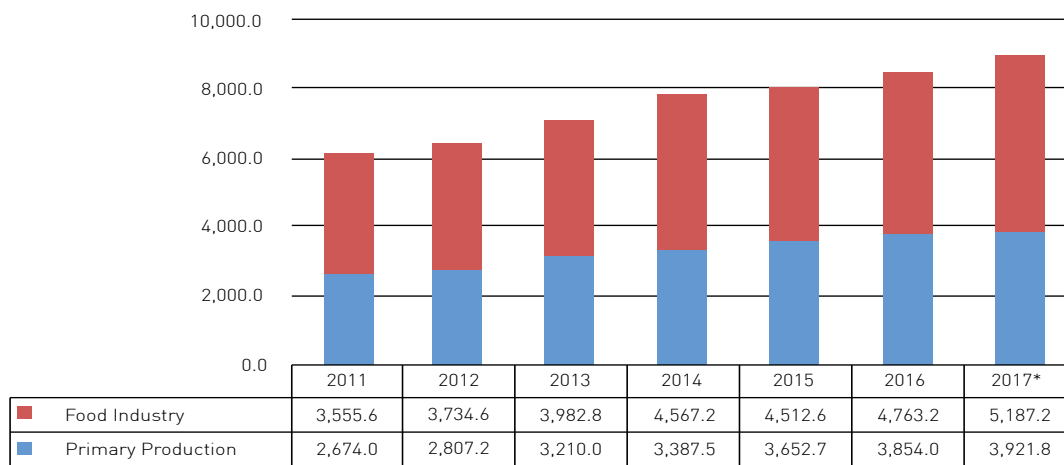
According to the preliminary data of 2017 the total value of agricultural output amounted to GEL 3.9 billion, which exceeds the equivalent figure of the previous year by 1.8%. In the same period, GEL 5.2 billion worth products were created as a result of the processing of agricultural products, which exceeds the equivalent figure of 2016 by 8.9%. Total output of agrobusiness exceeds the equivalent figure of 2016 by 5.7%. In 2017, primary production increased by 39.7% compared to 2012, while the growth in processing sector amounted 38.9%.

Indicator of agricultural services, as part of total economic output, amounted to GEL 224.8 million in 2017, which exceeds the same figures of 2016 and 2012 by 5.3% and 104.6%, respectively.

Total output of agricultural products (million GEL)							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Growing grain and other crops, not included in other categories	471	415	485	515	497	547	559
Growing cultures required for production of fruits, walnuts, beverages and spices	476	396	598	689	722	713	811
Growing vegetables, horticultural specialties and nursery production	290	276	322	410	403	396	386
Animal husbandry	1,337	1,610	1,666	1,613	1,837	1,984	1,942
Agricultural services	99	110	139	161	194	213	225
Total output of agricultural products	2,674	2,807	3,210	3,387	3,653	3,854	3,922
Total output of food products made by processed agricultural products (million GEL)							
Wheat flour	477	483	475	479	495	482	532
Bread, biscuit and other pastry	1,256	1,264	1,273	1,356	1,426	1,417	1,530
Meat products	125	131	143	168	190	207	211
Dairy products	463	488	496	587	652	621	593
Alcoholic beverages	443	556	685	906	617	765	1,000
Other products of food industry	792	813	910	1,071	1,133	1,271	1,323
Total output of processed agricultural products	3,556	3,735	3,983	4,567	4,513	4,763	5,187
Total production of agribusiness (million GEL)	6,230	6,542	7,193	7,955	8,165	8,617	9,109
Country's total production in base prices (million GEL)	36,431	39,293	40,551	43,927	48,250	51,662	57,672
Total share of agribusiness production in country's total production [%]	17	17	18	18	17	17	16

* Preliminary data. Adjusted data will be published on November 15, 2018 Source: GEOSTAT

Dynamics of Agribusiness Production (million GEL)



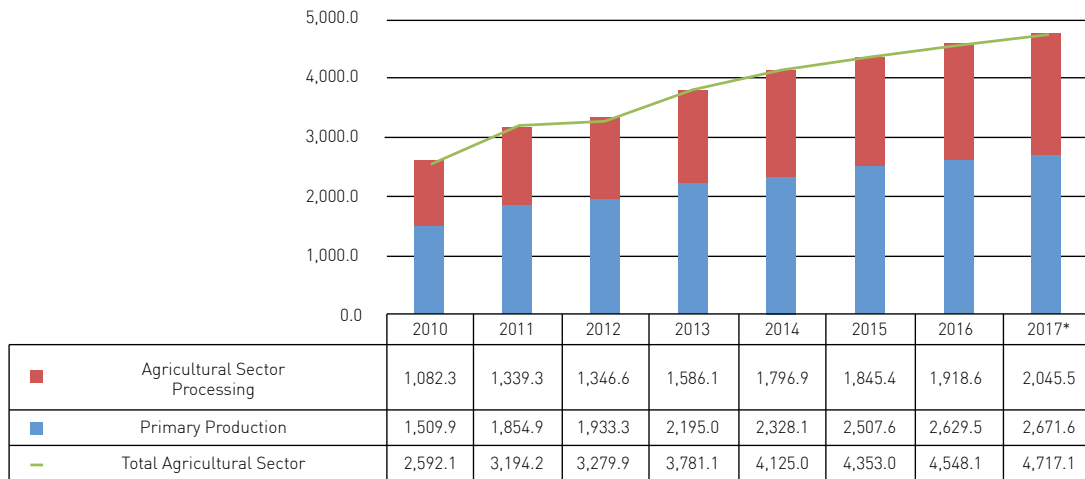
* Preliminary data. Adjusted data will be published on November 15, 2018. Source: GEOSTAT.

According to the preliminary data of 2017, the value added created in agricultural sector exceeds GEL 4.7 billion. The equivalent figure in 2016 was GEL 4.5 billion. In 2017, value added in agricultural sector increased by 3.7% compared 2016 and by 43.8% compared to 2012. The share of agricultural sector in the country's total GDP, according to the preliminary data of 2017, equals 14.5%.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Primary production share in GDP	8.8 %	8.6 %	9.4 %	9.3 %	9.1 %	9.0 %	8.2 %
Including:							
Plant growing	4.1 %	3.3 %	4.2 %	4.4 %	4.1 %	3.9 %	3.7 %
Animal husbandry	4.0 %	4.5 %	4.5 %	4.1 %	4.2 %	4.3 %	3.8 %
Agricultural services	0.3 %	0.3 %	0.4 %	0.4 %	0.5 %	0.5 %	0.4 %
Forestry, fishing	0.4 %	0.4 %	0.4 %	0.4 %	0.4 %	0.3 %	0.3 %
Agricultural output processing share in GDP	6.4 %	6.0 %	6.8 %	7.2 %	6.7 %	6.5 %	6.3 %
Including:							
Grind industry production, feed production	0.4 %	0.4 %	0.3 %	0.3 %	0.3 %	0.3 %	0.3 %
Bread and pastry production	0.3 %	0.3 %	0.4 %	0.5 %	0.6 %	0.5 %	0.4 %
Other food products	1.0 %	1.0 %	1.2 %	1.3 %	1.4 %	1.4 %	1.3 %
Mineral water and non-alcoholic beverages production	0.6 %	0.7 %	0.9 %	1.1 %	1.0 %	1.0 %	1.0 %
Alcoholic beverages production	0.7 %	0.9 %	1.1 %	1.3 %	0.8 %	1.0 %	1.1 %
Tobacco production	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
Produce processing in households	3.1 %	2.7 %	2.8 %	2.6 %	2.6 %	2.4 %	2.1 %
Total share of agricultural sector in GDP	15.2 %	14.6 %	16.2 %	16.4 %	15.8 %	15.5 %	14.5 %

* Preliminary data. Adjusted data will be published on November 15, 2018. Source: GEOSTAT

Total Added Value in Agricultural Sector (current prices, million GEL)



* Preliminary data. Adjusted data will be published on November 15, 2018. Source: GEOSTAT

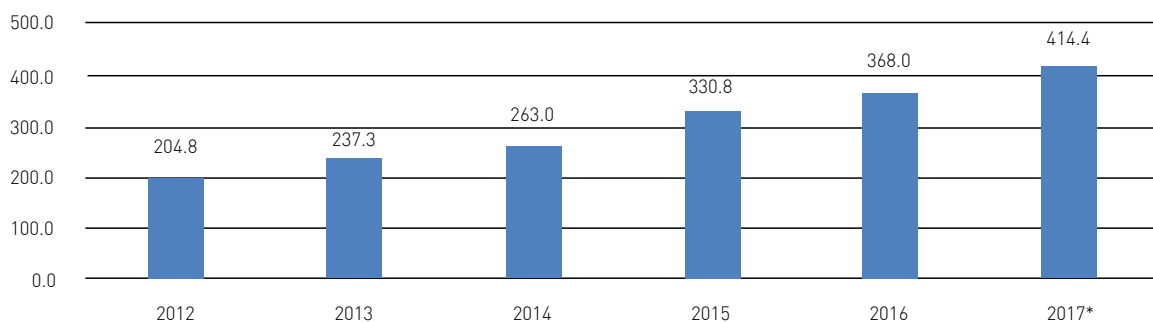
Processing Sector

Interest of business circles to agricultural sector is increasing in Georgia. According to the preliminary data (aggregated data of 4 quarters) declared by enterprises, in 2017 production of food equaled GEL 3.3 billion, which exceeds the same figure of 2016 and 2012, by 7% and 65% respectively.

From the beginning of 2018, 4,659 enterprises are operating in agricultural sector, out of which 1,846 are based in Tbilisi. From existing enterprises, 1,189 produce primary agricultural goods, while the rest are processing agricultural products.

According to the preliminary data (aggregated data of 4 quarters) of 2017, the turnover of business sector in agriculture, forestry and fishing was GEL 414.4 million, which is 12.6% and 102.4% higher compared to 2016 and 2012 respectively.

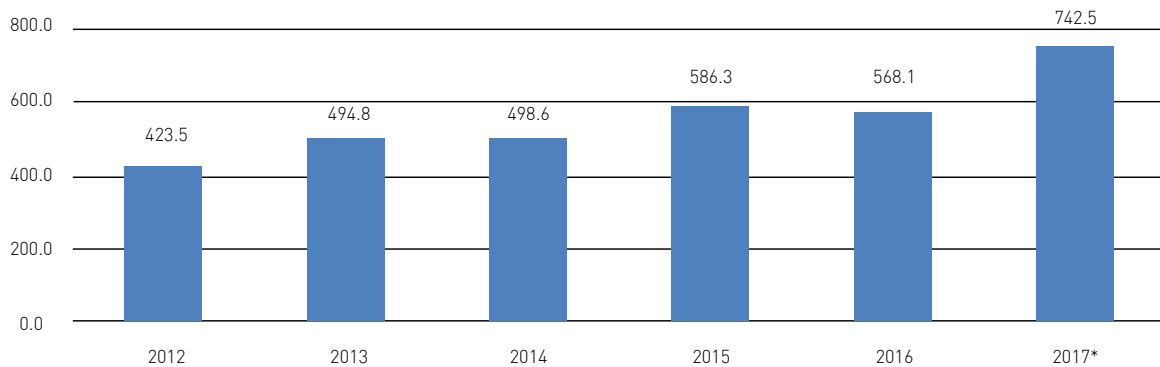
Total turnover of business sector in agriculture, forest industry and fishery (million GEL)



* Preliminary data. Adjusted data will be published on October 1, 2018. Source: GEOSTAT

According to the preliminary data (average data of 4 quarters) of 2017, the average monthly salary of the persons employed by the business in agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors increased significantly and amounted to GEL 742.5, which exceeds the same indicators of 2016 and 2012 by 30.7% and 75.3%, respectively.

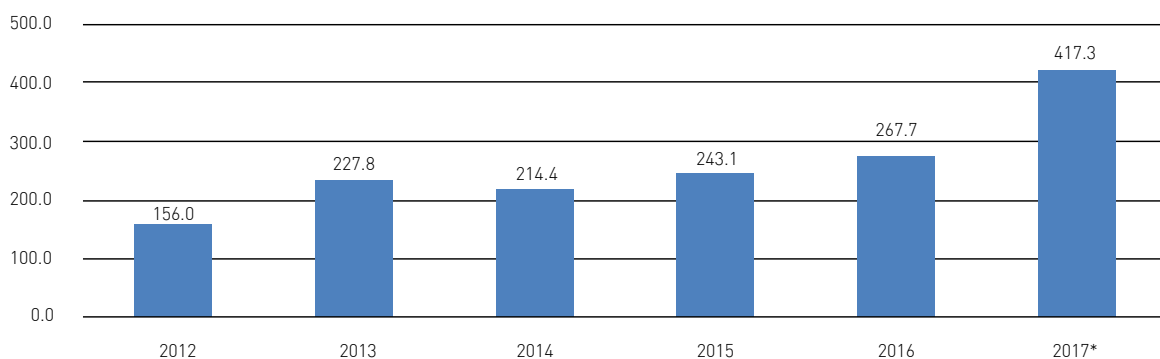
Average monthly remuneration (GEL) of employed persons paid by business sector in agriculture, forest industry and fishery



* Preliminary data. Adjusted data will be published on October 1, 2028. Source: GEOSTAT

Growing interest of business sector towards agriculture, forest industry and fishery is also visible by the rate of purchases of goods and services. Particularly, in 2017, according to the preliminary data (aggregate data of 4 quarters), the above-mentioned figure equaled to GEL 417.3 million, which exceeds equivalent figures of 2016 and 2012 by 55.9% and 167.5% respectively.

Purchases of goods and services in industry by agriculture, forest industry and fishery (million GEL)



* Preliminary data. Adjusted data will be published on October 1, 2018. Source: GEOSTAT

FOREIGN TRADE

According to the data of 2017, USD 777.0 million worth food and agricultural products were exported from Georgia, which exceeds the equivalent figures of 2016 and 2012 by 12.0% and 52.2% respectively. Within the same period, the share of agricultural products in the total exports accounts to 28%. The key exported products were: wine (22%), alcoholic beverages (16%), mineral and fresh waters (12%), hazelnut (11%), cattle (5%), lamb meat (3%), non-alcoholic sparkling beverages (2%) and others.

In 2017, Georgia exported food and agricultural products to 93 countries.

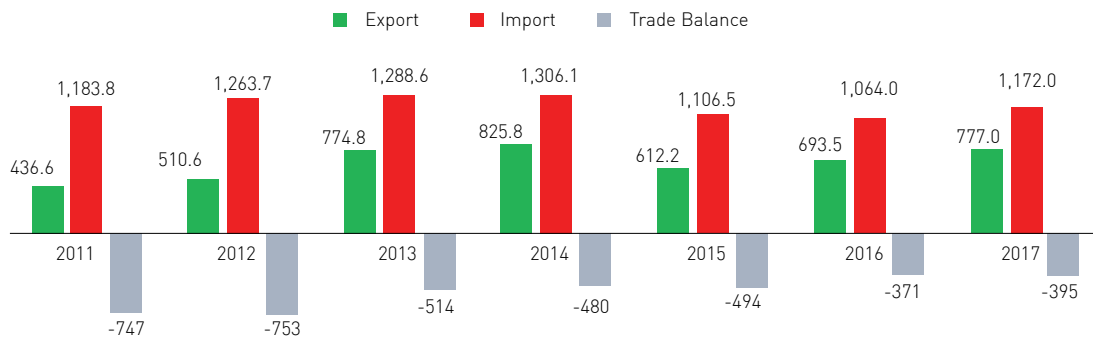
The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA) promotes trade with the EU countries and contributes to diversification of export markets. In 2017, the value of Agri-food products exported in EU countries equaled USD 140 million, which exceeds the same figure of 2012 by 32%.

According to the data of 2017, USD 1.2 billion worth food and agricultural products were imported to Georgia, which is 10% higher compared to the previous year. It's worth mentioning that the share of food and agricultural products from EU countries in total imports have been significantly increasing in recent years. During the reporting period, the share of food and agricultural products in the total import is 14.7%. Key products imported in Georgia are: tobacco (9%), wheat (8%), sugar (6%), poultry meat (5%), chocolate products (5%), food additives (3%), vegetable oils (3%) and others.

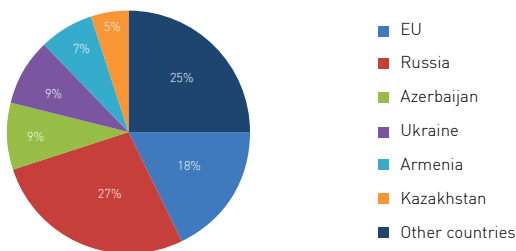
In 2017, Georgia imported food and agricultural products from 102 countries.

Based on the data of foreign trade of agricultural food products, in 2017 the negative trade balance increased by 6.6% compared to 2016; the main reason of which is the decrease in hazelnut export.

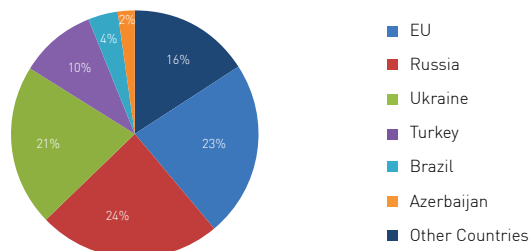
Export/Import of Food Products (million USD)



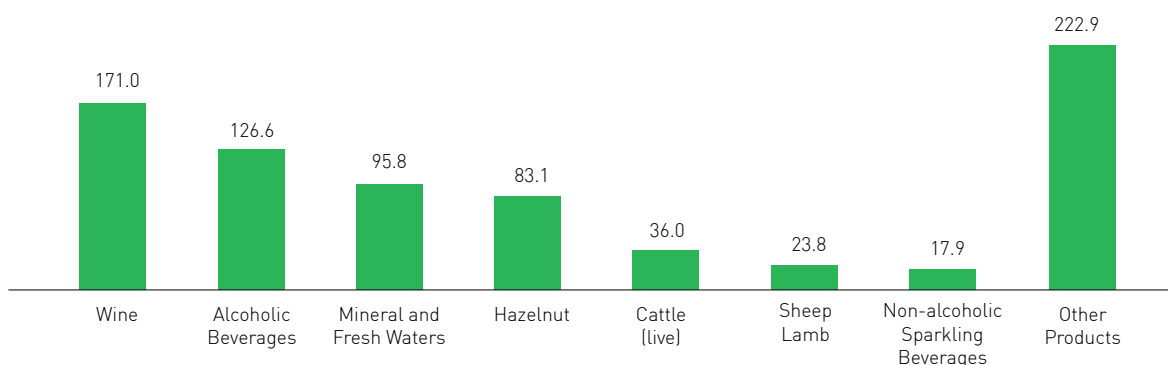
Major Export Markets for Food Products (2017)



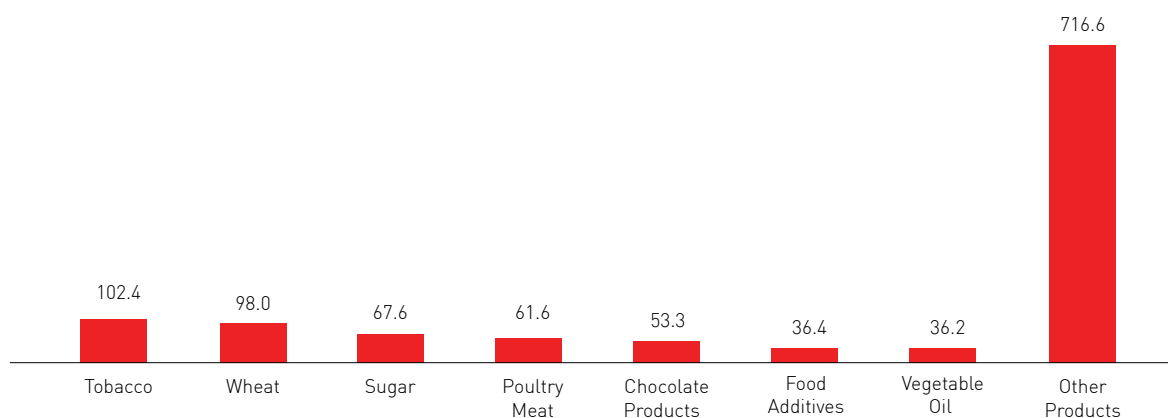
Major Importers of Food Products (2017)



Basic Agricultural Exports in 2017 (million USD)



Basic Agricultural Imports in 2017 (million USD)

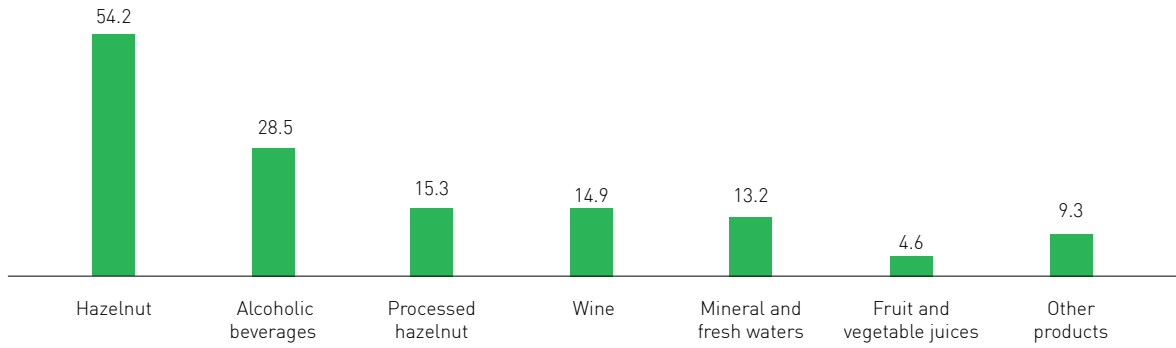


Source: GEOSTAT

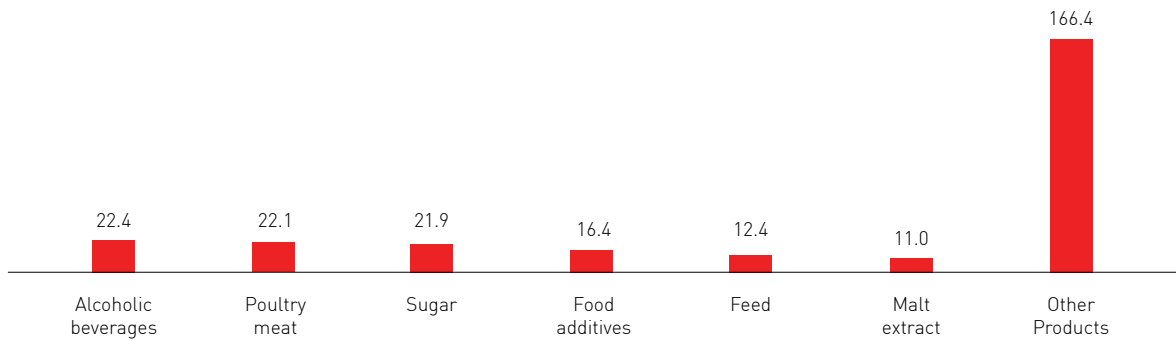
According to the data of 2017, Georgia exported USD 140 million worth food and agricultural products in the EU countries, which is 37% less compared to 2016 equivalent figure and 32% more compared to 2012 indicator. The decrease of exported food and agricultural products in the EU countries in 2017 is due to the decrease of hazelnut export. It's worth mentioning, that despite the hazelnut, the export of other agricultural products in the same period was increased by USD 10.7 million (14%). In 2017, the key exported goods in the EU are: hazelnut in both initial and processed form (50%), alcoholic beverages (20%), wine (11%), mineral waters (9%) and others.

In 2017, Georgia imported USD 272.7 million worth food and agricultural products from the EU countries, which is 23% higher compared to the same figure in the previous year. The share of the import from the EU countries in the total import of food and agricultural products equals 23%. The key imported goods are: alcoholic beverages (8%), poultry meat (8%), sugar (8%), food additives (6%), feed (5%), malt extract (4%), chocolate products (4%) and others.

Food Products Exported into the EU Countries in 2017 (million USD)



Food Products Imported from the EU Countries in 2017 (million USD)



Source: GEOSTAT



AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS' MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The major function of Agricultural Projects' Management Agency is development and management of the projects initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia. The Agency, within the scope of state program – "Produce in Georgia – Business" – implements "United Agroproject", which, through the accessibility to funds, supports long-term and sustainable development of agriculture, ensures entrepreneurial environment safeguarding the growth of quality and quantity of agricultural output produced in Georgia, production of competitive and high-quality produce and increase of export.

Preferential Agrocredit Project

Goal of the project:

The project has been implemented since 2013. It aims to support primary agricultural production, processing, preserving and realization of agricultural products through ensuring physical persons and legal entities with low-cost and accessible funding.

Within the frame of the project, farmers and enterprises working on primary agricultural production, processing and preserving and/or realization of agricultural goods are granted the opportunity to get agrocredits and agroleasing for fixed and turnover assets from financial institutions. Credits/ leasings are provided by commercial banks and financial institutions (10 banks and 2 leasing organizations) participating in the project, while the Agency ensures co-funding of interest/leasing fee on loans/leasing. It should be mentioned, that to get banking / leasing system interested in agricultural sector is one of the most considerable achievements of the project, which supports development of agriculture.

Taking into consideration the amount and purpose of the loans, the "Preferential Agrocredit Project" is divided into the following components:

■ Agrocredit for Fixed Assets

Fixed interest rate

20,000 (GEL) - 150,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 16 %
150,001 (GEL) - 600,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 15 %
600,001 (GEL) - 1,500,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 14 %

Floating interest rate

20,000 (GEL) - 150,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 8%
150,001 (GEL) - 600,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 7%
600,001 (GEL) - 1,500,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 6%

The Agency co-finances the interest rate on the loans in an amount of 11%, up to 66 months. The Agency co-finances the interest rate on the loans of 10%, up to 24 months for the grape processing enterprises whose current preferential agrocredit within the above-mentioned sub-component equals GEL 1,500,001 – GEL 5,000,000.

■ Agrocredit for Turnover Assets for Specialized and Seasonal Projects

Fixed interest rate

20,000 (GEL) - 150,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 16%
150,001 (GEL) - 600,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 15%
600,001 (GEL) - 1,500,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 14%
1,500,001 (GEL) - 5,000,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 13%
5,000,001 (GEL) - 15,000,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 12%

■ Floating interest rate

20,000 (GEL) - 150,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 8%
150,001 (GEL) - 600,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 7%
600,001 (GEL) - 1,500,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 6%
1,500,001 (GEL) - 5,000,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 5%
5,000,001 (GEL) - 15,000,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 4%

The Agency co-finances the interest on the loans in an amount of 8 %, from 12 to 36 months, depending on the purpose of the loan.

■ Agrocredit within the scope of the project “Produce in Georgia”

1,500,000 (GEL) – 3,000,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 6%
3,000,001 (GEL) - 5,000,000 (GEL)	not exceeding the refinancing rate stated by the National Bank plus 5%

The Agency co-finances the interest on the loans in an amount of 10%.

■ Preferential Agroleasing

20,000 (GEL) - 1,500,000 (GEL)	not exceeding 21%
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The Agency co-finances the interest on the loans in an amount of 12% .

As from the start of Preferential Agrocredit Project (March, 2013) through to 2017 in Georgia were issued:

For turnover assets:

11,596 loans in amount of GEL 469,209,444

78 loans in an amount of USD 26,525,048

For fixed assets:

16,087 loans in an amount of GEL 575,170,132

2,221 loans in an amount of USD 220,441,279

In 2013-2017, 29,982 loans and leasings are issued in all, the total amount of GEL 1.034.464 and USD 246,966,327.

In 2017, 2,409 loans and leasings were issued, including 2,373 loans/leasings in an amount of GEL 286,022,724 and 36 loans/leasings in an amount of USD 4,528,984. In 2017, 87 loans were issued with the total amount of 78,501,519 Lari for the purpose of grape processing enterprises funding.

Throughout Georgia, most of the loans were issued in the following fields: animal husbandry (more than 10,000), sheep husbandry (up to 3,500), and plant growing (up to 2,100).

Loans/leasings issued in 2017 by regions

Region	Number of Loans	GEL		USD	
		Contract Price	Number of Loans	Contract Price	Number of Loans
Adjara	19	1,350,000			
Guria	33	2,496,483	3	53,000	
Tbilisi	20	12,017,321	1	44,990	
Imereti	137	9,875,985	2	52,000	
Kakheti	1,203	176,020,304	12	2,765,977	
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	53	5,615,865	1	20,000	
Racha-Lechkhumi- Qvemo Svaneti	12	1,490,000	1	5,239	
Samegrelo- Zemo Svaneti	228	15,602,543	5	833,040	
Samtskhe-Javakheti	150	6,998,377	2	218,861	
Qvemo Qartli	131	25,527,421	1	96,534	
Shida Qartli	387	29,028,423	8	439,343	
Total	2,373	286,022,724	36	4,528,984	

Project “Plant the Future”

Goal of the Project:

Within the frame of the project, with the support of the state co-financing, the farmers are able to plant the perennial crops and create nurseries. The project started in March, 2015, with the aim to efficiently use Georgia’s agricultural lands through planting perennial crops. As a result of project implementation, imported products will be replaced by Georgian output, export will increase, processing enterprises will be provided with local raw materials and economic and social conditions of rural population will be improved.

The project “Plant the Future” consists of two components: the component of perennial crops (orchards) and the component of nurseries.



Within the component of perennial crops (orchards) are funded:

- **70% of seedlings' cost (maximum amount of co-financing on each plant is established)**
- **50% of the cost for drip irrigation system (maximum amount of co-financing for 1 ha of land for the installation of drip irrigation system is GEL 2,500)**

Beneficiaries can participate in state project "Plant the Future" several times; however, the total amount got by each of beneficiaries must not exceed GEL 100,000 and the total area of cultivated orchards must not be more than 20 ha.

Within the component of perennial crops (orchards), cultivation of fruit-trees on minimum 1 ha of land will be funded.

Amount of co-financing must not exceed GEL 10,000 for 1 ha of land. For blueberries, the maximum amount of funding for 1 ha of land equals GEL 15,000.

Within the component of perennial crops, 70% of the cost of the seedlings to be acquired is funded for the first, and remaining sum is used for the drip irrigation system.

Within the component of nurseries is funded:

- **50% of the cost for the nurseries, but no more than GEL 150 000.**

As from the start of the project through to 2017, 691 projects (613 beneficiaries) were approved throughout Georgia within the perennial crops (orchards) component and 2 projects within the nurseries'. Amount of funding ensured by the Agency accounted to GEL 22,337,861. Area of the land on which the orchards/nurseries were planted or to be planted equaled 4,298 ha.

In 2017, 307 projects were approved within the perennial crops component. Amount of funding by the Agency in total was GEL 10,148,508. Area of the land on which the orchards were planted or to be planted equaled 1,783 ha. Within the scope of the project, most funds were issued for the following crops: walnuts, apples, blueberries, raspberries, almonds and plums.

Data of 2017 by regions

Component/Region	Number of Applications	Number of Beneficiaries	Area, Ha	Agency's Co-Funding
Adjara	1	1	3	51,000
Guria	8	8	42	476,924
Imereti	15	14	63	324,238
Kakheti	101	97	770	3,643,282
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	8	7	28	152,022
Racha-Lechkhumi-Qvemo Svaneti	2	2	5	23,748
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	18	17	63	708,179
Samtskhe-Javakheti	3	3	12	64,478
Qvemo Qartli	51	46	299	1,406,570
Shida Qartli	100	91	497	3,298,068
Total	307	286	1,783	10,148,508

Data of 2017 According by Crops:

Component/Crop	Number of Applications	Number of Beneficiaries	Area, Ha	Agency's Co-Funding
Peach	9	9	9	32,155

Cherry	16	16	28	183,174
Pomegranate	3	3	16	85,831
Apricot	5	5	9	20,944
Apple	49	48	205	1,761,612
Hazelnut	13	12	83	221,591
Walnut	123	114	811	3,926,713
Quince	4	4	23	93,840
Blueberry	17	17	67	983,863
Blackberry	26	26	64	479,043
Pear	9	8	11	60,633
Almond	29	25	203	744,863
Raspberry	31	29	83	751,021
Wild plum	4	4	2	4,498
Plum	39	38	106	476,738
Cornel	1	1	0	175
Persimmon	9	9	63	321,815
Total	307	286	1,783	10,148,508

Agricultural Insurance Program

The goal of the project:

The goal of the Agricultural Insurance Project is to support development of insurance market in agricultural sector, encourage agricultural activities, ensure maintenance of incomes of those persons working in the sector and diminish their risks.

Within the scope of Agroinsurance Project, farmers are granted opportunity to insure risks against hail, excess sediments, storm and autumn frost.

Within the frame of the project, it is possible to insure maximum 5 ha of land, apart from the cereals. In case of cereals, insurance of maximum 30 ha of land is available. In case of agricultural cooperatives, maximum insured sum is GEL 50, 000 and area of the land to be insured is not limited.



The farmer, who acquires insurance policy within the framework of the project, will be funded with:

- **50 % of its value in case of vine insurance**
- **70% of its value in case of insurance of all other crops**

Within the frame of Aggroinsurance program, in 2014-2017, 68,879 insurance policies were issued countrywide, 59,857 ha of land was insured with the insurance limit of GEL 465,587,547 and the Agency's subsidies accounted to GEL 29,384,426. In 2014-2017, insurance companies paid GEL 29,927,626 for damage compensation.

In 2017, 21,394 insurance policies were issued countrywide; various crops worth GEL 138,744,917 were insured; 20,718 ha of land was insured in all; total amount of Agency's subsidies accounted to GEL 7,411,096; according to the current data, GEL 9,515,357 was paid for damage compensation incurred in 2017.

Data of 2017 by Regions:

Region	Number of Policies	Insurance Limit	Insurance Premium	Share of Agency's Premium	Area, Ha
Adjara	3,455	11,475,176	1,075,126	751,757	1,673
Guria	596	1,169,082	81,135	56,794	333
Tbilisi	2	1,450	123	62	1
Imereti	1,487	1,887,531	140,656	88,741	771
Kakheti	10,062	80,846,120	6,984,288	4,172,420	11,490
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	67	158,706	11,915	7,504	47
Racha-Lechkhumi-Qvemo Svaneti	132	353,627	29,434	15,269	74
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	1,922	6,802,381	424,367	297,044	1,535
Samtkhe-Javakheti	1,242	13,221,623	1,096,909	767,777	1,761
Qvemo Qartli	564	3,421,464	250,304	168,677	1,385
Shida Qartli	1,865	19,407,757	1,555,238	1,085,051	1,649
Total	21,394	138,744,917	11,649,496	7,411,096	20,718

Project for Co-Financing Agricultural Products Processing and Storage Enterprises

The goal of the project:

The project ensures funding to set up enterprises working on processing and preserving agricultural products.

For participation in the Co-Financing Project, the budget of beneficiary's project must be no less than GEL 250,000.

Within the scope of the project, the beneficiary may receive the grant in an amount of 40% of the total project value (but not exceeding GEL 600,000). The beneficiary is able to take preferential agrocredit, amount of which should be equal to 50% (but not exceeding GEL 1,500,000). Beneficiary's share in the company's equity should be no less than 10% in the form of cash contribution.

In the municipalities where economic activities are weak, maximum amount of the grant accounts to 60% (but not exceeding GEL 600,000).

Within the component of preserving enterprises, in 2014-2017, "agreement on co-funding beneficiary" was signed with 40 beneficiaries of the project countrywide, the total investment of which accounted to USD 24,217,789 and GEL 4,257,803. Amount of state co-funding was USD 8,798,143 and GEL 600,000.

In 2014-2017, within the component of processing enterprises, the agreement was signed with 6 beneficiaries of the project with the total investment amount of USD 1,759,058 and GEL 4,130,879, out of which USD 689,468 and GEL 1,710,308 was the state co-funding.

In 2017, within the component of processing enterprises, the agreement was signed with 9 beneficiaries with the total amount of USD 4,352,032 and GEL 4,257,803, out of which USD 1,585,474 and GEL 600,000 was the state co-funding.

From August, 2017, the acceptance of applications in the component of processing enterprises has been put on hold.

In 2017, within the component of preserving enterprises, 3 projects were approved with the total investment amount of GEL 4,130,870, out of which GEL 1,710,308 was the state co-funding. From March, 2018, the acceptance of applications in the component of preserving enterprises has been put on hold.

Data of 2017 by Regions:

Component/Region	GEL			USD		
	Number of Applications	Project Value	Co-Funding	Number of Applications	Project Value	Co-Funding
Processing	1	4,257,803	600,000	8	4,352,032	1,585,474
Kakheti	1	4,257,803	600,000	2	1,116,100	402,240
Mtskheta-Mtianeti				2	819,930	407,132
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti				3	1,718,038	526,102
Samtskhe-Javaxeti				1	697,964	250,000
Preserving	3	4,130,870	1,710,308			
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	1	1,557,876	600,000			
Qvemo Qartli	1	1,020,616	510,308			
Shida Qartli	1	1,552,378	600,000			
Total	4	8,388,673	2,310,308	8	4,352,032	1,585,474

"Georgian Tea" – Program for Rehabilitation of Georgian Tea Plantations

The goal of the project:

The goal of the project is rehabilitation of state and privately-owned tea plantations, efficient use of tea potential, creation of modern tea processing production, and support the growth of local production of tea (including organic tea).

Within the scope of the project, legal entities (except for agricultural cooperatives) which have the land parcels into private ownership, will receive 60% of the amount necessary for rehabilitation of tea plantations. If the land parcel is leased, amount of co-funding will increase up to 70%.

Agricultural cooperatives will receive 80% of the sum necessary for rehabilitation of tea plantations in case of private ownership of land and 90% in case of leased land.

After the plantation rehabilitation, agricultural cooperatives will be granted with machinery necessary for the tea primary processing

In 2016-2017, within the frame of the project, 28 applications were approved to 24 beneficiaries. The total area of plantations was 633 ha. Total amount of rehabilitation was GEL 1,589,451, out of which GEL 1,121,815 was Agency's co-funding.

In 2017, 19 applications were approved countrywide. The total area of the land covered by these projects is 385 ha. Total amount of the projects equals GEL 971,371, out of which GEL 677,913 is Agency's co-funding.





Program of Agro-Production Promotion

The goal of the program:

Agricultural Production Support Program aims at supporting improvement of the quality of primary products and growth of harvest; stimulate the growth and modernization of acting processing and warehousing agro-enterprises, introduction of international standards and modern technologies.

The program is implemented within the framework of the "Agriculture Modernization, Market Access and Resilience" (AMMAR) Project.

Program components:

The program includes the components for co-funding individual farmers, as well as, processing and preserving enterprises and agricultural cooperatives.

- Primary production component- funding individual farmers and agricultural cooperatives;
- Processing and preserving enterprises' component- funding operational processing and preserving enterprises;

Within the scope of primary production and processing and preserving enterprises' components, the following agricultural crops will be funded: persimmon, apple, peach, vegetables, bay-tree, honey, berry crops, honey crops, walnut, flower crops.

The project will provide grants in the following amount and for the following purposes:

40% co-funding, 60% beneficiary share		
Primary production	USD 15,000 for farmers	USD 150,000 for agricultural cooperatives
Processing and preserving industry	USD 100,000 for processing and preserving enterprises	

In 2016-2017, within the component of primary production 115 applications were approved, GEL 1,661,063 was allocated for 114 beneficiaries. Within the processing and preserving enterprises' component, 5 applications were approved with the co-funding amount of GEL 995,597.

In 2017, within the component of primary production, 113 applications were approved with the co-funding amount of GEL 1,622,633; within the component of processing and preserving enterprises 5 applications were approved with the co-funding amount of GEL 995,597.

New and Expanded Enterprises

In 2013-2017, 166 new enterprises were created and 845 enterprises were expanded throughout Georgia.

Total investments in new enterprises accounted to USD 144,651,961, out of which:

Own share of beneficiaries- USD 77,641,116

Preferential agrocredit- USD 60,355,729

Grants- USD 6,655,117



Introduction of Standards



One of the most important activities implemented within the “United Agroproject” is the introduction of international quality standard, which is implemented with the support of USAID’s Restoring Efficiency to Agriculture Production (USAID/REAP) project. Such support is especially important for the enterprises focused on the export.

All enterprises, which are the beneficiaries of Processing and Preserving Enterprises Co-Funding Project, are responsible to introduce ISO-22000 or HACCP international standard.

Agricultural Projects’ Management Agency funds 80% of the amount necessary for standard’s introduction, out of which 30% is covered by the state and 50%- by donor organization. Beneficiary is responsible to pay only 20%.

Ministry of Agriculture provides assistance to the beneficiaries of “Plant the Future” and “Georgian Tea” programs to introduce GLOBAL GAP – the primary production standard. In case of GLOBAL GAP introduction, 50% of the necessary amount will be funded by the beneficiary and 50%- by donor organization (USAID/REAP).

In 2017, 8 new agreements on introduction of ISO 22000 standard were signed.

In 2017, 9 enterprises got ISO 22000 certificate and 2 enterprises got HACCP certificates.

Projects Implemented during 2018

- With the support of the state, access to agricultural machinery is improving

As a result of the amendments introduced in the preferential agro-credit program, two new sub-components were added to the property, plant and equipment component of the named program: the preferential agro-credit for agricultural machinery and preferential leasing for agricultural machinery.

The sub-component of the preferential agro-credit for agricultural machinery refers to loans to be used to acquire appropriate fixed assets (machinery/equipment). The sub-component of the preferential leasing refers to the financial leasing of appropriate fixed assets (machinery/equipment).

Within the framework of the subcomponents, credit amount is determined in the range of 7001-1 500 000 GEL. APMA co-financing of annual interest rate of 11% shall be provided for the loan maturity period up to 66 months. In case of leasing, the purposeful co-financing shall be 12% of annual investments made by lessor.

In 2017, APMA has started working on 3 projects that will be implemented in 2018.

- **With the financial support of the Danish government (DANIDA), a new program "Young Entrepreneur" will be implemented, with a budget of \$ 4,110,000.**

The support program for young entrepreneurs in rural areas - "Young Entrepreneur" - is intended for young people with Georgian citizenship who want to start/develop business activity. The aim of the program is to promote youth engagement in entrepreneurship, through providing financial and technical support.

Within the framework of the program, registered young entrepreneurs (men aged 18-35 and women aged 18-40) or agricultural cooperatives established by them may obtain financing. The program will be addressed only to business startups.

APMA will provide financing of up to 40% of the project cost, but not more than 60,000 GEL; The remaining 60% financing shall be provided by beneficiary and may be obtained from various sources, including preferential agrocredit.

The program envisages funding of both agriculture and non-agricultural business. The share of non-agricultural business activity shall not exceed 20% of the total financing portfolio.

Within the framework of the program, any agricultural sector may be funded except for those that are covered by various agricultural grant projects.

Applications and accompanying documentation will be delivered to APMA electronically via www.apma.ge and www.danida.apma.ge.

Following the approval of presented business plan, potential beneficiary will have access to assistance provided by consulting company, designated within the program, to ensure successful implementation of all project-related activities, including: collecting documents required for co-financing agreement; elaborating time-bound action plan: recording project spending; sorting of documents; implementing of accounting systems; trainings to enhance management skills

- **With the support of the state, establishing of a large greenhouse cluster is planned in Imereti region**

The project is aimed at stimulating the maximum utilization of the traditional export sector in west Georgia - greenhouse farming (greens and vegetables). Expected outcomes are as follows: the increase in export revenues, access to new markets and diversification of export markets; creation of the modeling of modernization and knowledge sharing of the greenhouse sector as well as the prerequisites for establishing the Imereti Logistics Center; any natural person or legal entity registered in Georgia will be able to participate in the project. The participants in the project should ensure that the greenhouse area is not less than 0.1 hectares and more than 5 hectares. It should be noted that in the course of implementation of the project, the state provides access to the public utilities (electricity, water, gas) in the targeted area. An exporting company will be presented as an independent entity in the Imereti region, providing all the necessary infrastructural capacities for the packaging, sorting and storage. It is planned to invest 100 million GEL in the project, resulting creation of export-focused, modern greenhouse cluster with access to a cargo terminal in Kopitnari international airport.

- **Berry crops development project implementation is planned in 2018. The project includes: Upper Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi, Kvemo Svaneti, Guria and partly Samegrelo-Upper Svaneti regions. The project is aimed at promotion of berry crops cultivation, utilizing unused agricultural land in west Georgia and providing more profitable alternative for local farmers.**

Within the framework of the project, blueberry, raspberry and blackberry gardens will be established. The first stage of the project is scheduled to start in 2018. In total, 850 hectares of new berry gardens are planned to be established. 7 million GEL will be allocated to provide co-financing in the first stage of the project





The effect of Co-financing (provided by APMA) on taxes collected

In 2013-2017, 166 new enterprises (including 29 new enterprise under the project - Co-financing of Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises) have been established and 845 existing enterprises have been financed within the frameworks of following projects - Preferential Agrocredit, Produce in Georgia (agricultural part) and Co-financing of Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises. The APMA co-financing for new enterprises amounted to 60 million GEL, including 15 million GEL in the form of grants. 74 mln GEL have been given away to existing enterprises to improve production capacities (the sum includes co-financing the interest rate of all loan taken by the enterprises under Preferential Agrocredit project).

Taxes paid by the new enterprises financed and enacted amounted to 168 million. GEL (2013-2017 period), and by expanded enterprises - 200 million GEL.

Diagram N1

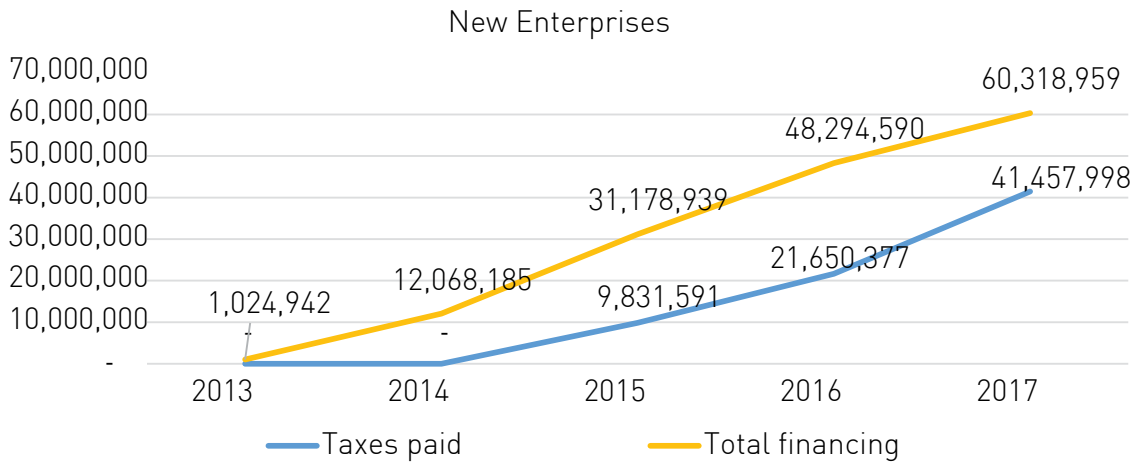


Diagram N1 above outlines the accumulated amount of APMA financing (subsidizing loan interest rates) given to the new enterprises, as well as grant co-financing given away under the project of Co-financing of Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises. The accumulated taxes paid by beneficiaries from the date of relevant project enactment also presented in the above diagram.

As shown above, the co-financing of the agency has been reflected in taxes paid in the budget since 2015 and amounted to 41 million. Every 1 GEL invested by APMA in business startups, have resulted more than 0.69 GEL increase in tax collections.

It should be taken into consideration that a large number of the new enterprises have been financed but have not yet started production activity at the planned level. Accordingly, this circumstance will be directly proportionate to the taxes paid by such entities. In fact, after the reaching full-scale operational level, the amount of taxes paid by these enterprises may increase several times. Positive trend of tax payments is also evident in the N1 diagram.

Diagram N2

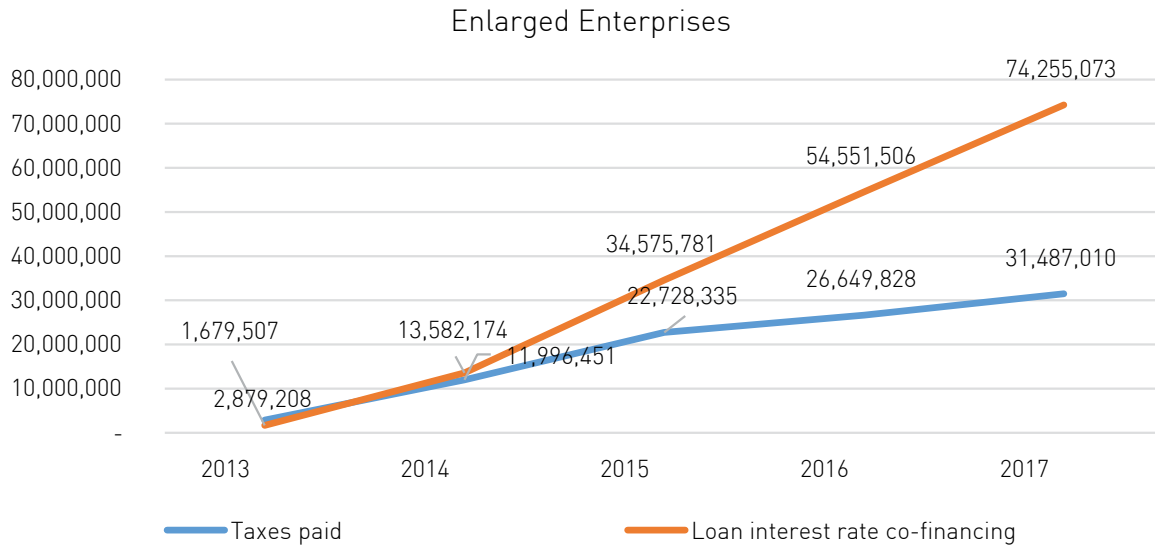


Diagram N2 above outlines the accumulated amount of APMA interest rate co-financing by years (financing of existing enterprises, to improve production capacities), as well as accumulated taxes additionally paid by the beneficiaries from the date of the relevant project enactment (27 March, 2013)

In 2013-2017, these enterprises have paid over GEL 31 million as taxes in the budget, which means that every 1 GEL invested by APMA to develop existing enterprises, have resulted 0.42 GEL increase in tax collections.

It should be taken into consideration that some beneficiaries have been financed but have not yet finished the process of renovation and not reached planned production levels. Accordingly, the amount of taxes paid by these enterprises may increase significantly, as soon as business projects will be fully implemented.

A substantial part of the interest rate co-financing has already been made within the framework of Preferential Agrocredit Project. Based on payment schedules drawn up by Loan issuer institutions, there is a tendency of a reduction in co-financing, proceeding from decreasing share of accrued interest rates in loan repayments.

As far as newly established enterprises under the Processing and Storage Enterprises Co-financing Project concerned, due to the project conditions, additional grant co-financing is not planned for the existing enterprises, which will lead to increasing share of paid taxes in the "paid taxes / co-financing" proportion.

It is noteworthy that there are companies that have already co-financed within both projects but have not yet fully implemented their business plans (the process of PPE renovation have not finished yet). Since business projects are fully implemented and companies at normal operational level, additional relevant increase of tax collections is high likely

The following assumptions are used in the process of data assessment:

1. The total sum paid for the co-financing of the abovementioned enterprises by the Agency is distributed by years, in the proportion of the expenditure incurred for co-financing within the project;
2. Co-financing of loans issued in foreign currency (in USD) is converted to GEL at the exchange rate – 1 USD/ 2.5 GEL;
3. The co-financing of 6.7 million USD have been approved for the 29 enterprises established within the framework of the Processing and Storage Enterprises Co-financing Project. The amounts were converted to GEL in according the exchange rate at the date of issue of the tranche;
4. When calculating additional taxes paid by new enterprises (under the relevant project), the data for 2015-2017 was compared with 2014. The fact that the majority of enterprises in 2013-2014 were not fully functional their paid taxes were not significantly different from the data from previous years.

In case of enlarged enterprises, annual tax data have been compared with relevant data from 2012.



NATIONAL WINE AGENCY

The purpose of LEPL National Wine Agency is to support development of viticulture-winemaking sector in Georgia.

In 2017, the Agency carried out the following activities:

- Marketing and popularization
- Research of Georgian vine and wine culture
- Promotion of organized harvest conduction
- Control of wine production quality
- Implementation of vineyards' cadaster program and other activities related to the sector development

2017 year is distinguished by significant successes and achievements in the direction of development of the industry of vine-growing and wine-making.

- ◆ The world scientific society has recognized that the most ancient trace of wine-making is discovered on the territory of Georgia. The research of the discovered archaeological materials confirms that on the territory of Georgia a wine was made 8000 years ago.

- ◆ In France, in the city of Bordeaux, the exhibition “Georgia - Cradle of Wine” continued for almost four months in the world center of wine civilization (Cité des Civilisations Du Vin). In the entrance of the exhibition Georgian Qvevri was placed as a permanent exposition.
- ◆ With the purpose of popularization of Georgian wine and raising of awareness in various countries of the world Georgian wine was presented on more than 200 events - exhibitions, wine tastings, presentations, workshops and meetings.
- ◆ In 2017 the record-breaking export of wine has been recorded for the last more than 30 years. In total 76.7 million bottles of wine have been exported to 53 countries of the world.
- ◆ Successful harvest (“Rtveli”) - the increased volume of export of wine and positive indices in the industry allowed removing of subsidies on grapevine in 2017 in Kakheti region. Price on grapevine has been established according to its quality and origin, without government intervention.
- ◆ Amendments have been introduced in the law of Georgia in effect, that is important for development of the vine-growing and wine-making industry in Georgia.

Marketing and Popularization

One of the main directions of the National Wine Agency is to support popularization and awareness raising of Georgian wine. For this reason, Marketing Strategic Plan is elaborated. The mentioned plan is coordinated with the Marketing Council, in which representatives of private, public and non-governmental departments of the industry are associated. The main measures for popularization of Georgian wine and awareness raising comprise the following components:

- ◆ Popularization of Georgian wine on local and international markets
- ◆ Branding of Georgian wine and dissemination of messages on strategic markets
- ◆ Promotion of unique methods and traditions of producing of wine in Qvevri.
- ◆ Popularization of the ancient varieties of Georgian vine
- ◆ Promotion of wine-making companies for participation in international exhibitions and wine tasting events.
- ◆ Popularization of Georgia as the country of the most ancient wine culture and traditions



THE MAIN MESSAGES ARE FOLLOWING:

- Georgia – Homeland of Wine
- Georgia – Cradle of Wine
- Georgia – More than 525 Indigenous Grape Varieties
- Georgia – More than 525 Indigenous Grape Varieties
- Georgia – 8 000 Vintages
- Georgia – Ancient wine making country with unique “Qvevri” wine
- Georgia - wide range of wine making technologies



Diversification of markets is still a significant challenge in order that Georgian wine is formed as a competitive category. Based on analysis and consideration of preliminary data the following strategic and priority markets have been selected: China, USA, Poland, Japan, Baltic States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

In 2017, the Georgian wine was showcased at more than 200 events held in US, China/Hong-Kong, Singapore, France, Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany, Baltic States, Japan, Poland, Belgium, Sweden etc.

The following events are to be mentioned:

- Since 30th January till 4th February - presentation and wine tasting of Qvevri wine has been conducted in French cities: Toulouse, Lyon, Angers and Saumur. Qvevri wine was presented on specialized wine tastings in Toulouse and Lyon and on traditional exhibitions in Angers (exhibition Les Penitentes) and Saumur (exhibition La Dive Bouteille), where the Georgian companies take part for the sixth time.
- On 18th-19th February 18 wine-making companies from Georgia participated in US city of Boston on the huge international exhibition of wine and alcohol "Boston Wine Expo". This year "Boston Wine Expo" has been conducted for the 26th time and it traditionally was attended by thousands of guests - importers and distributors of wine, sommeliers and representatives of media.
- On 21st February a "Day of Georgian wine" has been conducted in New York, organized jointly by the National Wine Agency and the marketing company "Marq Energie"; up to 20 Georgian wine-making companies presented there 40 names of wines - both Qvevri wines and wines made by classic methods.
- On 15th February a presentation-wine tasting of Georgian wine has been conducted in Stockholm under the support of National Wine Agency, Trade Chamber Sweden-Georgia, and Georgian embassy to the Kingdom of Sweden and Georgian companies. The event served to diversification of export markets of Georgian wine, popularization of Georgian wine on the market of Sweden and awareness raising of local consumers and professionals about Georgian wine.
- On 7th-10th March the workshop-presentation of Georgian wine has been conducted in the capital of Japan Tokyo in the framework of the 42nd international food and beverage exhibition "FOOD-DEX JAPAN 2017". The event have been attended by journalists working on the wine theme, wine importers experts, representatives of restaurants and commercial networks.
- On 12th-13th March the international exhibition of natural wines "RAW London" (The Artisan Wine Fair London) has been conducted in Great Britain, London; 6 companies making wine in Qvevri participated under the support of the National Wine Agency. The world renowned wine expert, international Master of Wine Isabelle Legeron (France) was the organizer of the exhibition.
- On 20th March under the initiative of the vice-president of the Association of sommeliers of Monaco Dominic Millard and the support of the National Wine Agency the wine tasting of Georgian wine has been conducted in Monaco. The wine tasting was attended by 85 sommeliers, wine-makers, journalists and businessmen from Italy and France.
- On 19th-21st March the annual international exhibition of wine and alcohol ProWein-2017 was conducted in the German city of Dusseldorf; 23 Georgian wine-making companies participated in it under the support of the National Wine Agency; it was organized by the "Georgian Wine Association". Within the framework of the exhibition two wine tastings of Georgian wine have been conducted on the stand of the leading European magazine on viniculture "Vinum"; it was led by the chief editor of the edition Rudolf Knoll.
- On 22nd March in Amsterdam the contractor of the National Wine Agency, the company "Saperavi Wine Agency" has organized a wine tasting of the Georgian wine. The mentioned company is

actively involved in import of Georgian wine to the Netherlands and promotes raising of awareness of Georgian wine. It also widely disseminates information about the unique method of wine-making in Qvevri and the very ancient aboriginal varieties of vine.

- On 23rd-25th March in China, the city of Chengdu, Sichuan province the international exhibition on wine and food “The 96th China Food & Drinks Fair” has been conducted, where 27 Georgian wine-making companies participated, promoted by the National Wine Agency.
- On 12th-14th of April in the capital of Japan Tokyo the international exhibition “Wine and Gourmet Japan 2017” has been conducted; 14 Georgian wine-making companies participated in it; their participation has been organized by the National Wine Agency and supported by the Embassy of Georgia to Japan. Within the framework of the exhibition a special event- a workshop - wine tasting “Georgia - 8 thousand vintages” has been conducted.
- On 5th-6th may in the capital of Lithuania Vilnius the hug wine exhibition “VINO DIENOS” has been conducted with participation of 8 Georgian wine-making companies. Within the framework of the exhibition a special tasting event “Georgia - birthplace of wine” has been conducted.
- On 13th May in the Mtatsminda Park the “New Wine Festival” has been conducted. The event has been organized by the “Wine Club” of Georgia, National Wine Agency, Tbilisi Municipality and the National Tourism Administration of Georgia.
- Small family and middle sized wine cellars from various regions of Georgia participated in the Festival, as well as big producers and companies, which presented to the guests the wines of 2016 harvest. More than 110 participants have presented their production on the Festival.
- On 22nd-24th May the London international exhibition „London Wine Fair 2017” has been conducted in the exhibition center „Kensington Olympia”. 17 Georgian companies participated in the exhibition under the support of the National Wine Agency.
- On 9th-11th June the International Exhibition of Wine and Alcohol “WinExpo-Georgia 2017” has been conducted in Tbilisi. 97 companies have presented more than 170 various kinds of wine and alcoholic beverages. 11 countries participated in the exhibition. Within the framework of the exhibition the Ninth wine contest - 9th International Wine Award 2017 - has been conducted. 164 various kinds of wine of 43 producers - big companies, as well as small and family wine cellars - have been presented in the contest. On 10th June on the official ceremony the wines - winners in 6 categories - have been made known and the Gold (26), Silver (36) and Bronze (84) medals and international diplomas were awarded to them.
- On 18th-21st June, in France, in the city of Bordeaux the International Wine Exhibition “Vinexpo Bordeaux 2017” has been conducted. Under the support of the National Wine Agency 24 Georgian wine-making companies have presented their production on the exhibition-2017. Within the framework of the exhibition a tasting event of Georgian wine “Georgia - birthplace of wine” has been conducted; it was led by the chairman of the National Wine Agency George Samanishvili and the chairman of the wine tasting commission, the vice-president of the OIV commission Ana Godabrelidze.
- On 3rd July in Krakow, in the most known historical winery “Winnica Srebrna Góra” the wine tasting-workshop of Georgian wine “Georgian wines for the summer” has been conducted. The event was led by Mariusz Kapczynski, the head of the contractor company of the National Wine Agency “Vinisfera”.
- On 7th August in the capital of Netherlands Amsterdam the wine tasting of Georgian wine has been conducted; it was attended by local sommeliers, journalists and wine critics. Based on international trends of wine consuming and statistics, the Dutch market is sufficiently prospective for export of Georgian wine.

- On 2nd-3rd September the Fourth international workshop on Qvevri wine has been conducted; it was organized by the Ikalto Qvevri School-academy, "Georgian Wine Association" and supported by the National Wine Agency. Within the framework of the workshop the first "International Qvevri wine Award" has been conducted in the Ikalto school-academy. The awarding of winners of the contest has been carried out in the Ikalto Monastery complex. Out of 150 samples of wine 22 ones were awarded Gold medals, 20- Silver and 29- Bronze medals.
- From 27th August to 3rd September the festivals of Georgian wine have been conducted in Singapore and the Chinese cities, Shanghai and Hong-Kong. The festivals have been organized by the manager of the contractor company of the National Wine Agency - "Meiburg Wine Media" - Master of Wine Debra Meiburg. The festivals of Georgian wine were attended by local importers of wine, masters, representatives of media and networks of restaurants and hotels.
- On 31st July the exhibition "Georgia - the cradle of Wine" has been opened in the French city Bordeaux in the World center of wine civilization. Georgia was the first invited country, which opened the cycle of exhibitions of vine-growing and wine-making and was the honorary host of the Museum of wine civilization. The exhibition has been closed on 4 November. On 14th September the Georgian Qvevri has become a part of the permanent exposition of the Center - Qvevri has been placed near the entrance to the World wine civilization center. The ceremony has been attended by the prime-minister of Georgia George Kvirikashvili. More than 60 thousand visitors had a possibility to familiarize with the exhibition. Within the framework of the exhibition many events, including wine tastings and scientific conferences have been conducted.
- From 30th September to 8th October the "Week of Georgian wine" has been conducted in Georgia. The week has been opened in the town Marneuli by the "Festival of Georgian wine". In the town Gurjaani, in the park Akhtala the "Gurjaani wine festival" was conducted for the first time and in the town Telavi the wine festival "Telavino" has been conducted for the fourth time. Within the framework of "Tbilisoba", 15 Georgian wine making companies were presented in the Rike Park. Within the framework of the week the Georgian Association of sommeliers has organized the Fourth National Award of Georgian wine. In the Tbilisi winery #1 the festival "New Small Wine Cellars on the Big Arena - 2017" has been conducted.
- In the first half of November Georgian wine was presented on 5 events in the United States of America: on the international exhibitions of natural wines in New York "RAW NY" (5-6 November) and in Los Angeles "RAW LA" (11-12 November), as well as on specialized tasting events - presentations carried out for big wine importers, distributors and media. The tasting events of Georgian wine have been led by the famous American wine critic and professional Alice Fairing. Here a presentation of the book "Tasting Georgia" of the famous Italian photographer, traveler and wine critic Carla Capalbo has been carried out.
- On 15th-17th November 20 Georgian wine-making companies were presented on the International Wine Trade Fair in Krakow (Poland) "EnoExpo 2017".
- On 14th-16th November under the support of the National Wine Agency 30 Georgian wine-making companies were presented on the huge exhibition in Shanghai (China) "Prowein Shanghai 2017". Within the framework of the exhibition specialized wine tastings -workshops of Georgian wine have been conducted, which were led by the contractor of the National Wine Agency Master of Wine Debra Meiburg.
- On 24th-25th November on the annual event "Wine Weekend", carried out in the town Rijswijk in the Kingdom of the Netherlands a specialized stand "Taste of Georgia" has been arranged, where Georgian wines have been presented. Within the framework of the event two presentations - workshops "Georgian Amber Wines" have been conducted; they were attended by wine professionals.



France, Bordeaux Wine Civilization Museum



Georgia- Cradle of Wine, exhibition in Bordeaux



Germany, Dusseldorf, exhibition. Prowein Dusseldorf



Bordeaux, France, exhibition- Georgia Cradle of Wine



Wine tasting. Prowein Dusseldorf



Japan, Georgian Wine tasting



Poland, Georgian Wine tasting



China, Georgian Wine tasting



Hong-Kong, Georgian Wine tasting



Germany, "Green Week" exhibition



China, Georgian wine tasting



Bordeaux, Julia Harding, Georgian wine tasting



Japan, Tokyo, Georgian Wine tasting



Japan, Tokyo, Georgian Wine tasting



Georgia, Master of Wine Lisa Granik

- On 1st December in Tokyo and on 3rd December in Osaka huge presentations - wine tasting of Georgian wine have been conducted; they were led by the contractor of the National Wine Agency, Master of Wine Kenichi Ohashi. The presentation workshop of Georgian wine was attended by local sommeliers and representatives of media. The articles about Georgian wine by Kenichi Ohashi have been published in two issues of the Japanese magazine "Sommelier" and the magazine "WANDS".
- On 10th-11th December the wine tasting and presentation of Georgian wine "Georgia -the cradle of Wine" has been held in Alicante (Spain) within the framework of the "Days of Georgian Culture". On the workshop on Georgian wine the various names of Georgian wines have been presented for tasting.

In 2017 Georgia was visited by many wine professionals and amateurs, which tasted Georgian wine acquainted themselves with the culture and traditions of Georgian wine:

- ✓ Students of the master program of management of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) acquainted themselves with the culture of Georgian wine and the modern vine-growing. The members of the group consisting of 18 persons within the framework of the familiarization tour in April have visited Kakheti; there they observed the wineries of Georgian wine, acquainted with the technology of manufacturing of Qvevri and have tasted various names of Georgian wine.
- ✓ In May the Japanese Master of Wine Kenichi Ohashi has visited Georgia with one-day visit with the purpose of research of Georgian market. Together with the Japanese wine professional the representative of the magazine of the Japanese Sommelier Association, wine critic Akihiko Yamamoto was in Georgia, who is preparing a vast article about Georgian wine (the article will be published in JSA in 2018).
- ✓ A group of American wine professionals, consisting of sommeliers, wine importers, and wine critics visited Georgia for a week in May. The group was led by the contractor of the National Wine Agency, the manager of the American marketing company "Marq Energie" Julie Peterson. In the framework of the tour the guests have studied the wine making companies from the Georgian provinces Kartli, Imereti, Guria, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kakheti, where they acquainted with the technologies of making of Georgian wine.
- ✓ A group of Japanese wine importers has also visited Georgia. It was led by the Master of Wine Kenichi Ohashi; a member of the group was the famous Japanese sommelier Motohiro Okoshi. The main goal of this visit was acquaintance with Georgian wine, and offering it to Japanese consumers. The guests have visited more than 20 companies in Kartli and Kakheti, where they tasted various styles of wine.
- ✓ With the purpose of popularization and export of Georgian wine to the Netherlands, Dutch importers and journalists, led by the director of the Dutch company "Saperavi Wine Agency" Bernard Nauta have visited Georgia. Within the framework of the tour that took place in the second half of June the Dutch guests visited Georgian wine-making companies in Kartli and Kakheti and tasted their production.
- ✓ In July, the group of American sommeliers has visited Georgia for one week, and has visited companies in Kartli, Kakheti, Imereti and Samegrelo. The group was led by the contractor of the National Wine Agency, the manager of the marketing company "Marq Energie" Julie Peterson.
- ✓ On 27th August, a group of American sommeliers and importers has visited Georgia for 5 days. In the framework of the tour, the guests have visited 18 Georgian wine-making companies. The group consisting of 7 wine professionals was led by the manager of the contractor of the National Wine Agency, the American wine company "Tasting Works", the famous Master of Wine Liza Granik

- ✓ In the beginning of September, a group of Chinese wine importers and journalists have visited Georgia for 7 days. In the framework of the visit, the guests have visited cellars and companies in Kartli, Kakheti, Imereti, Guria and Samegrelo. The group of 13 persons was led by the contractor of the National Wine Agency, the Master of Wine Debra Meiburg.
- ✓ The Master of Wine from Great Britain Sara Abbott has visited Georgia together with interested journalists in September, during the period of grape-picking season (rtveli). The British professionals have visited wine cellars and companies in Kakheti. Sara Abbott has also visited representational offices of Georgian wine companies in Tbilisi. She presented to the participants of the meeting the price policy on wine in Great Britain, the issues of packaging and quality of wine, that will promote securing a foothold of Georgian wine on the market of Great Britain.
- ✓ American wine professionals visited Georgia in September, for one week. The guests have visited cellars and companies in Samegrelo, Imereti, Kartli and Kakheti, where they have acquainted with the technologies of making of Georgian wine; tasted wines, made by European and traditional methods. The group of American wine professionals, consisting of sommeliers, wine importers, and wine critics was led by the contractor of the National Wine Agency, the manager of the American marketing company "Marq Energie" Julie Peterson.
- ✓ In the end of September, Georgia was visited by the group of Dutch sommeliers. The members of the group have evaluated that Georgian wine has big potential of increasing export to the market of the Netherlands. The Dutch guests have visited wine companies in Tbilisi, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti.

In 2017 Georgian wine became a winner of many awards. In their number the following successes on events supported by the National Wine Agency are to be mentioned:

- ✓ 12 brand names of Georgian wine have won the highest honors of the 4rd "Sakura" Japan Women's Wine Awards 2017 - one "Double Gold", six Gold and five Silver medals.

The international competition "Sakura" Award is a huge event that was held in 2017 for the fourth time. The jury of the competition is completed exclusively by women working in Japan in the sphere of wine - sommeliers, wine critics and journalists. 4212 wines from 37 countries were presented in the competition. The wine "Saperavi 2015" of the "Vaziani Company" won the top honor of the Award "Sakura" - the Diamond Trophy.

In February 2017 the mentioned wine became owner of the "Double Gold" of "Sakura" Award and according to the rules of the competition was presented to the exhibition "Foodex Japan 2017" for winning of the top honor - the Diamond Trophy.

- ✓ In Dusseldorf (Germany), within the framework of the exhibition "ProWein 2017" the Gold prize of the international competition "Mundus Vini" and the award "Best of show Georgia" have been handed over to the wine "Besini Premium" of the company "Besini" (red dry, 2013). The wine "Saperavi" (classic red dry, 2013) of the company "Winery Khareba" was awarded a Gold prize and the wine "Khareba" (red dry, 2012) - a Silver prize.
- ✓ In Bordeaux, in the framework of "Vinexpo Bordeaux" on the „Citadelles Du Vin" competition 4 Georgian wine companies were awarded trophies - "Khareba 2012" (company "Winery Khareba") was awarded a Gold medal;
- ✓ "Cabernet 2015" (company "Vaziani Company" - "Makashvili Wine Cellar") - also a Gold medal; "Kindzmarauli 2013" (company "Kakhetian Wine Cellar") and "Chacha" (company "Shumi") - Silver medals.
- ✓ On the wine international festival "GALICJA VITIS 2017" in Krakow (Poland) the Georgian wine company "Winery Shilda" has awarded Gold medals for wines like "Kisi 2015" (white dry) and "Mukuzani 2015" (red dry). This competition was held under the aegis of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV).

- In the framework of “EnoExpo 2017” competition in Krakow (Poland), the wine “Green Qvevri 2014” of the Georgian wine company “Giuaani” was awarded a Gold medal - this was one of the five Golden trophies awarded in the competition. Other wines of this producer (“Green Qvevri 2016” and “Kisi Qvevri 2016”) were awarded Bronze medals. Another company from Georgia (“Telavi Wine Cellar”) was awarded a Bronze medal for wine called “Satrapezo 10 Qvevri 2014”.

“Amber Wine”

In 2017 the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) took for discussion a proposition of the Georgian side to introduce a wine, made by Georgian traditional methods, i.e. fermented on grape skin (chacha) named “Amber Wine”, in the international list of special wines. For now, there are only 7 types of wines in the OIV international list. Those types are: sparkling; fizzy; liquor type; fortified; natural sweet wines; “IceWine”; and wine ripened under membrane (Jerez type). After completion of respective procedures, the Georgian “Amber Wine” will become the eighth type in the list of special wines.

Export

In 2017, Georgia exported unprecedented amount of wine in the history of independent Georgia.

According to the data of the National Wine Agency, 76.7 million bottles (0.75 l) of wine were exported from Georgia into 53 countries, which exceeds the equivalent figure of 2016 by 54%. The wine worth USD 170 million was exported from the country, which exceeds the same indicator of 2016 by 49%.

It is noteworthy that the growth rate of wine export increased in the following countries: in China by 43% (7,585,407), in Russia – 76% (47,778,920), in Ukraine – 46% (8,502,554), in Poland – 15% (2,676,440), in Latvia 20% (1,505,138), in Belarus – 56% (1827130), in USA – 56% (457920), in Germany – 38% (404538), in Israel – 150% (213,074), in Mongolia – 82% (168,162), in France – 178% (99,796), in Azerbaijan 75 % (141,294), etc. The first five Georgian wine exporter countries are as follow: Russia - 47,778,920 bottles, Ukraine - 8,502,554 bottles, China – 7,585,407 bottles, Kazakhstan - 3,322,867 bottles and Poland 2,676,440 bottles.

“Kindzmarauli” (12.8 million bottles) takes the first place among the exported wines of local appellation; “Mukuzani” - 4.2 million bottles, “Tsinandali” – 3.4 million bottles, “Akhasheni” – 1.5 million bottles, “Khvanchkara” – 887.5 thousand bottles, “Tvishi” 308.8 thousand bottles and etc.

At the same time, in 2017, 18.4 million (0.5 l) bottles of brandy were exported in 26 countries, which exceeds the same indicator of 2016 by 78%. In total, the brandy worth USD 39.4 million was exported; the growth rate, compared to 2016, accounted to 70%.



In 2017, 288 thousand (0.5 l) bottles of Chacha were exported in 23 countries; the growth rate was 180%. In total, Chacha worth USD 846.3 thousand was exported; the growth rate, compared to 2016, accounted to 148%.

In total, the revenues generated through the export of wines, Brandy, Chacha, brandy on tap, wine materials and brandy spirits reached to USD 283.8 million; the growth rate, compared to 2016, was 46%.

Legislative activity

In 2017, the Parliament of Georgia has introduced amendments in the law "On vines and wine".

These amendments introduced in the law are very important for development of vine-growing and wine-making in Georgia, as historically, culturally and economically priority industry of the country.

The law "On vines and wine" was adopted in 1998, and was not significantly amended after 2002. The terms have been added to the law; those definitions that allowed double interpretation were technically developed. The amendments of the law will promote implementing of the state policy in the industry.

Harvest - 2017

The increased volume of wine export, diversification of export markets, widened wine enterprises, the developed system of cheap agro credits and agro insurance allowed to remove subsidies on grapevine in Kakheti region in the harvest period in 2017. Respectively, a price on grapevine has been established according to its quality and origin, without government intervention.

In 2017, 125 thousand tons of grapes were processed in Kakheti region. Respective income generated by vine-growers accounted to GEL 144 million. The following varieties of grapes were processed: Rkatsiteli- 63.7 thousand tons, Saperavi- 54 thousand tons, Kakhuri Mtsvane- 3.6 thousand tons and other varieties of grapes.



In Kakheti region, the largest number of grapes (34.7 thousand tons) was processed in Kvareli municipality; in Gurjaani- 32 thousand tons, in Telavi – 24.6 thousand tons, in Sagarejo- 13.2 thousand tons, in Signagi- 10 thousand tons, in Akhmeta- 4 thousand tons, in Dedoplistskaro- 3.2 thousand tons and in Lagodekhi- 3.15 thousand tons. 230 companies were registered in the Coordination Headquarters of Harvest. 15 thousand vine-growers have delivered grape to these companies.

At the active phase of the harvest, they processed 5 thousand tons of grapes in a day. Every day, about 100 companies participated in this process. As a result, there were no queues near the factories. The harvest-2017 has been conducted in an orderly way - no vine-grower had a problem with grape. Vine-growers and producers agreed about price without government intervention; prices proposed by wine companies turned out to be acceptable for vine-growers.

In Racha-Lechkhumi region, 760 tons of grapes (Aleksandrouli and Mujuretuli) were processed; total income generated by population was more than 5.4 million. With the purpose of variety accuracy, ampelographers were taking part in the harvest. Up to 1000 vine-growers supplied grapes to the wine companies.

In the harvest-2017 the price was established according to quality and origin of grape, without government intervention: the average price of Rkatsiteli - 0.75 -0,85 GEL; Saperavi 1.50-1.75 GEL. The grape has been processed almost completely by the private sector.

Vineyard Cadaster Program

In 2017, the National Wine Agency was implementing Vineyard Cadaster Program.

The program includes:

Vineyard cadaster includes the registers of vineyard areas, manufacturing of orthophotos, registration and pasportization of vineyards and vine-growers, more precise definition of borders of zones, collection of personal details of vine-growers and subjects of the sector of vine-growing and wine-making sector etc.

In Akhmeta municipality vineyards being in ownership of 13 populated areas have been registered; there are 5,992 plots, and the area of vineyards is 1,817,2 hectares.



The cadaster system efficiently works in those countries of the European Union, where the vine-growing and wine-making industry is developed. Availability of the cadaster base is necessary for regulation of the vine-growing and wine-making sphere -for improvement of accountability of vineyards, for decision-making in the vine-growing and wine-making industry, for correct planning of the harvest process, for monitoring of wine producing and its movement.

Research of Vine and Wine Culture

The world scientific society has recognized, that the most ancient trace of wine-making is discovered on the territory of Georgia. On 13th November, US National Scientific Academy's scientific journal (PNAS) has published the article „Early Neolithic Wine of Georgia in the South Caucasus“. This article was about a research of archeological materials, approving that on the territory of Georgia wine was made about 8000 years ago. The research was carried out in the framework of the Georgian Vine and Wine Culture Research and Promotion Project, which was implemented by the National Wine Agency since 2014. The mentioned scientific conclusion grabbed the headlines in international media; articles were printed in almost all famous information and scientific editions like The New York Times; BBC; CNN; The Guardian; National Geographic; Washington Post, etc. The fact of discovery of the most ancient wine was introduced into the Guinness Book of Records.

In the framework of the Georgian Vine and Wine Culture Research and Promotion Project a laboratory research of wine made from wild grapevine started.

Quality control

With the purpose of quality control of export wine 110 wine tasting have been conducted in the wine tasting commission of the National Wine Agency for organoleptic testing of alcoholic beverages of grape origin.

At the same time, 88 inspectorial controls have been conducted in the companies of alcoholic beverages of wines of export place of origin as well as table wines and wine brandy.





სანოფლო-სამეურნეო
კოოპერატივების
მანვითარები სანაგებო



AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

According to the data of 2017, 1,352 entities owning the status of agricultural cooperatives were registered countrywide.

Entities owning the status of agricultural cooperatives by regions:

Kakheti - 147
Qvemo Qartli- 169
Mtskheta-Mtianeti - 69
Shida Qartli - 93
Samegrelo- Zemo Svaneti- 109
Guria - 43
Adjara -118
Samtskhe-Javakheti - 305
Imereti - 123
Racha-Lechkhumi -124
Tbilisi - 52

The state provides assistance to agricultural cooperatives through various target-oriented programs:

State Program on Providing Agricultural Cooperatives with Motor Hoes

Program "Providing Agricultural Cooperatives with Motor Hoes and Manual Seeders" anticipates provision of small-size agricultural equipment to the cooperatives at preferential price – GEL 900 (which is 24% of its total value). Each set consists of motor hoe aggregate with mower, plow, cultivator and manual seeder.

In 2017, within the scope of the Program, 101 cooperatives received 101 agricultural equipment sets, which will facilitate better farming practice for Difficult terrain and small land parcels.

State Program on Supporting Beekeeping Agricultural Cooperatives

The aim of state program "Support to Beekeeping Agricultural Cooperatives" is to improve material and technical base of agricultural cooperatives engaged in beekeeping, increase quality and amount of honey and other beekeeping production.

In 2017, 4,592 beehives (including wood and polystyrene beehives) were handed over to 67 beekeeping cooperatives; honey storage tanks with total capacity of 55,000 liters were handed over to 25 agricultural cooperatives; 21 honey extractors (slippers) were provided for 21 cooperatives and 22 knives with the electric booth were provided for 22 cooperatives.



State Program to Support Dairy Production Agricultural Co-operatives

In 2017, within the scope of the "State Program to Support Dairy Production Agricultural Co-operatives", 10 cooperatives were provided with various milk collecting and processing equipment, as well as field laboratory and artificial insemination equipment to improve cattle breeding.

the cooperatives involved in the state program were obliged to establish enterprise building facilities in which the equipment within the capital investment have been installed.

The farm cooperatives involved in the program have the opportunity to collect raw milk in accordance of approved standards - to supply raw materials jointly to proceeding enterprises and/or start proceeding activities, which will lead increasing incomes for cooperative members.



State Program to Support Viticulture Cooperatives

Three grape processing plants were established in Kakheti region, (Telavi and Kvareli municipalities), within the framework of the State Program to Support Viticulture Cooperatives

the cooperatives participating in the state program, have more than 60 members and operate more than 70 ha vineyards.

The program participants have received necessary equipment to process 100 tons of grapes. The cooperatives were obliged to establish enterprise building facilities

Within the state program, the cooperative members were able to benefit from the sales of wine, not only grapes.



Rational use of state-owned -pastures in high Mountain Regions

The state program has been launched in 2017 and will continue in 2018.

Within the program, the state-owned hay-pastures will be utilized rationally and efficiently. To this purpose, agricultural cooperatives that satisfy the criteria established by the program will be leased with grasslands and appropriate equipment - tractors, grass-cutters and other necessary equipment (plow, rotating and segmented grass cutter, patcher etc.)

29 agricultural cooperatives from 21 municipalities are involved the state program

Within the framework of the program, it is planned to establish milk processing enterprise in Dusheti municipality, administrative unit of Ukanapshavi.





Mashveli irrigation system headwork

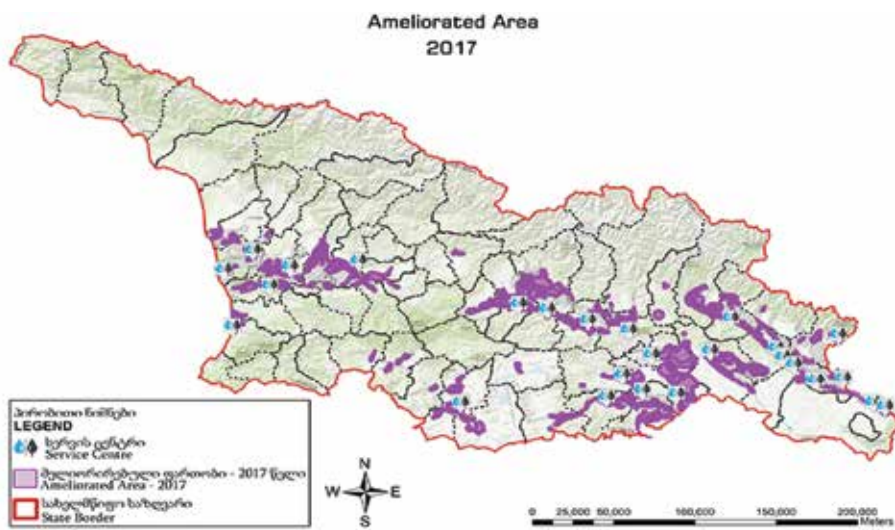
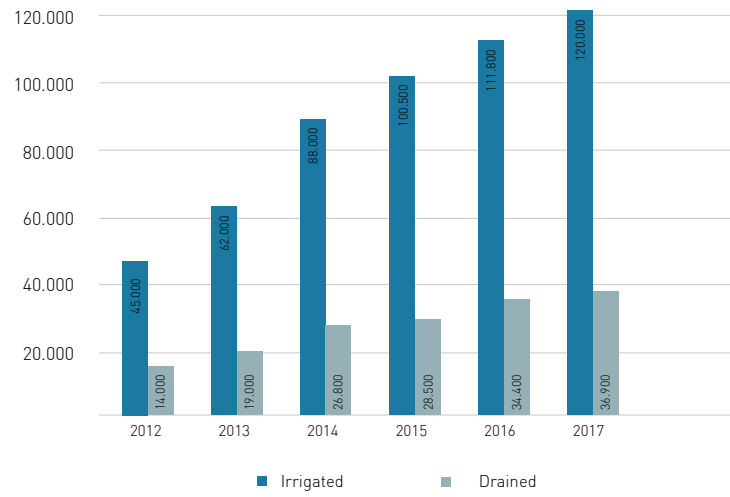
GEORGIAN AMELIORATION

Amelioration is a priority direction of agriculture. Arrangement and rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage systems significantly contributes to the development of agricultural sector

"Georgian Amelioration" LTD carries out large-scale rehabilitation works for amelioration infrastructure. As a result, the area of ameliorated land increases annually, which is an additional stimulus for the population to return to the farming..

For the last 6 years, 216 projects for rehabilitation of amelioration infrastructure had been arranged in the country. Restoration works had been carried out at amelioration channels total length of which accounted to more than 2,684 km, as well as 31 headworks and 24 pumping stations; Within the technical maintenance 8883 km length amelioration channel was arranged.. 8,030 hydrotechnical facilities were restored.

As a result, the area of irrigated in the country increased from 45,000 ha to 120,000 ha, and the area of drained land increased from 14,000 ha to 36,900 ha.



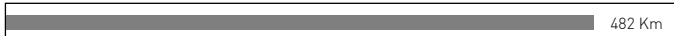
2017 Year

Rehabilitation of amelioration infrastructure implemented- 55 projects

Total cost of rehabilitation projects - 35,791,825 GEL

Rehabilitation works were provided to

Headwork  2 units

Irrigation channels  482 Km

Pumping stations  7 units

Cleaned and fixed within the scope of technical maintenance

Irrigation channels  2042 km.

Hydrotechnical facilities  2980 km

- **the water was provided to the ponds with the total area of 1888 ha, which are used for fish farming.**
- Structural reform was held in "Georgian Amelioration" LTD. Amendments were implemented in the direction of management decentralization, increasing efficiency of regional service centers. As a result, the quality of customer service was improved.
- For the irrigation season the company moved to emergency regime. Regional coordination centers were created to supervise and control irrigation process. The centers have been focused on efficient gathering, analyzing and utilizing of irrigation water and its effective consumption..
- Correction of geometric data base and identification of registered customers land plots have been conducted:
 - ✓ The personal IDs of registered water users in the billing system were compared to the IDs of owners of the land plots registered in the Public Registry
 - ✓ The comparable land plots were sorted into land plots in the possible irrigation areas
 - ✓ The land was sorted into land plots owned by legal entities and individuals.



Nadarbazevi Water Reservoir



Tiriphoni Irrigation System



Tsikhesulori Drainage System

- Unique inventory numbers were given to the hydrotechnical facilities, based on previous years inventory results.
- Hydrotechnical area boundaries of irrigation systems were reflected on the data base.
- Additional water provided areas, resulted by rehabilitated systems in 2017, have been registered in the database
- An electronic version of the geometric map was created, which reflects the amelioration system schemes, structures and other necessary information.

Georgian Amelioration carries out rehabilitation/maintenance works through the special equipment. If necessary, heavy equipment is used for liquidating the consequences caused by disaster results sediments. In 2017 the company participated in liquidation works of fire and abundant rainfall impact in Shida Kartli and Kakheti regions.

"Georgian Amelioration" LTD intensely cooperates with donor organizations, including World Bank, Netherland's Enterprise Agency (ORIO), and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

Within the World Bank program- "Irrigation and Land Market Development", following works are underway:

- Rehabilitation of the headworks of the right main channel of Kvemo Samgori irrigation system in Sagarejo municipality. Irrigation water supply will be improved at 9,500 hectares
- Rehabilitation of Zeda Ru irrigation system in Gori and Kareli municipalities. Water supply will be improved at 2,304 hectares
- Rehabilitation of Tbisi-Kumisi irrigation system in Tetrtskaro municipality. Water supply will be improved at 8 300 hectares

Within the World Bank Program – “Irrigation and Land Market Development”, the “Irrigation Strategy for Georgia 2016-2025” was prepared.

The document encompasses four major directions of sector development:

- Institutional development of amelioration company;
- Creation of local level system management;
- Elaboration of tariff policy;
- Regulation of irrigation services;

Within the scope of the Netherland’s Enterprise Agency (ORIO) program, financial and economic research for Zemo Samgori Irrigation System Rehabilitation project was finished, also environmental and social impact assessment and sight investigation reports were developed. The work on the detailed engineering design will start in 2019.

In 2017 Georgia joined ICID (International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage). The ICID platform has become available for Georgia, which unites all interested stakeholders involved in irrigation and drainage sector, including political decision makers, experts, research institutes, NGOs and farmers. Different countries have different institutional and organizational experiences in development and management of irrigation and drainage systems. Therefore, with participation in various ICID workshops and congresses, Georgia will have an opportunity to get acquainted with global perspectives of organizational aspects of irrigation and drainage, necessary for sustainable agricultural management. ICID unites 76 member countries across Africa, America, Asia and Oceans, and Europe, covering 95% of the world’s irrigated area.



In order to minimize dependence on the variable natural conditions of agricultural production and ensure production of high value-added products, "Georgian Amelioration" LTD plans construction/rehabilitation of three irrigation reservoirs:

Shida Kartli

- The new water reservoir with the volume of 12 million m³ will be built on the river Tedzami, which will provide 7,000 hectares of agricultural land with irrigation water.

Kakheti

- The construction of water reservoir with the volume of 80 million m³ is planned on The River Ilto. After implementation of the project, irrigation water supply will be improved for 43,000 hectares;
- Rehabilitation of the dam of "Dalis Mta" water reservoir, within the volume of 140 million m³, will be implemented. The reservoir will provide water for 24,200 hectares of agricultural land.

By the end of 2017, 51 transitional rehabilitation projects have been in the process of implementation throughout the country, with a total budget of 47,719,906 GEL.





სურსათის
ეროვნული
სააგენტო



NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY

LEPL National Food Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia is the competent authority carrying out state control over the food safety, veterinary and plant protection fields.

One of the main functions of the Agency is to protect human lives and health through the provision of safe food. The Agency's activities are being implemented by the central office and 12 regional structural units.

The major responsibilities of the Agency are to:

- Ensure food/feed safety and quality;
- Carry out state control over the fulfillment of hygiene, veterinary-sanitary and phytosanitary requirements and rules;

- Ensure risk management and communication with regard to food/feed, and epizootic requirements and rules;
- Register and take control of pesticides, agrochemicals, veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) and denominations of mineral waters;
- Assign water trade mark categories;
- Organize preventive, treatment and eradication measures against especially dangerous animal diseases;
- Coordinate and supervise private veterinary activities;
- Protect plants through the quarantine and against especially dangerous harmful organisms;
- Issue permits and certificates in accordance with the rule as defined by the law;
- Provide timely information to the population on dangers and potential risks.

Food Safety

The purpose of state control over the food safety is to protect human life, health and consumers' interests, which is implemented through the following mechanisms: inspection, supervision, monitoring, sampling and documentary checks.

For taking state control over food/feed, the Agency carries out planned and unplanned inspections.

Planned Inspection

Planned inspection is one of the Level of state control, through which compatibility with the requirements provided for by legislation are inspected during the food production, processing and distribution, as well as at the stage of primary production. Planned inspection is carried out in accordance with the annual program for state control through the risk assessment.

In 2017, 4,425 inspections were carried out, including:

- 196 slaughterhouses
- 411 facilities working on the production/realization of meet/meat products
- 105 enterprises working on the production of milk and dairy products (including, 42 cheese enterprises)
- 1,129 public catering facilities
- 422 food supply facilities at nursery schools and 247 – school lunchrooms
- 35 enterprises working on fish and fish products
- 62 agricultural markets
- 47 enterprises working on Semi-finished products
- 631 bread and pastry facilities, bakeries and confectionaries
- 91 enterprises working on production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- 793 markets

In addition, hazelnut and sunflower processing enterprise, honey producers and sellers, vegetable oils, flour products, sugar, salt, chips, dried fruit, bay-leaf, canned products, fruits and vegetables, tea and coffee enterprises were also inspected, as well as distribution, retail and wholesale trade facilities, refrigeration farms and warehouses.

Unplanned Inspection

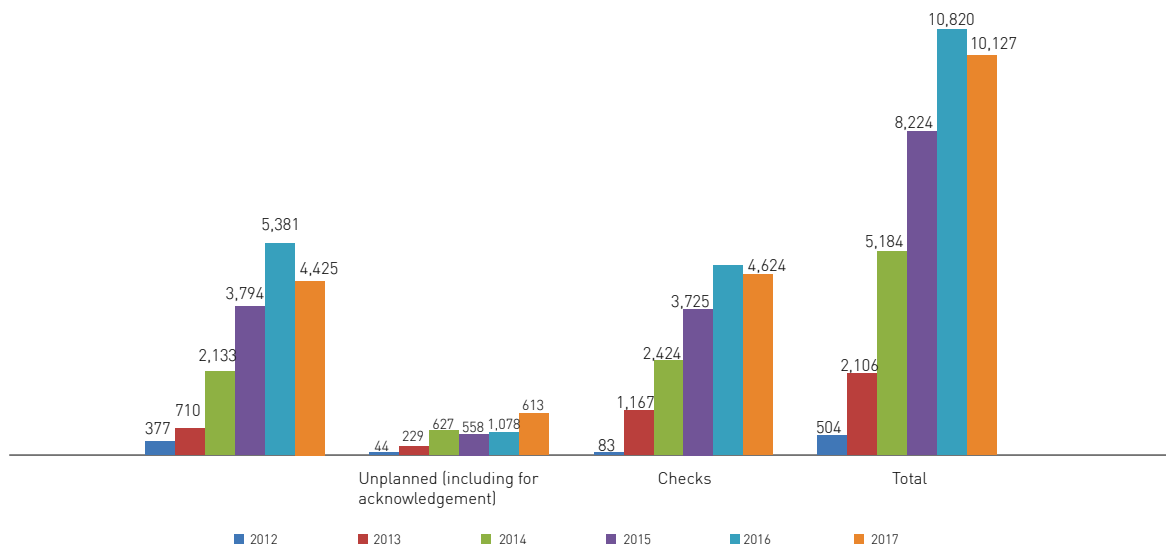
Unplanned inspection is implemented without initial planning, based on the results of state control, including the results of laboratory tests of the samples taken by the Agency. Respective notification by population, state institution and etc. may also become the ground for unplanned inspection.

In 2017, unplanned inspection was carried out at 782 business operators, 296 business operators were inspected for acknowledging purposes.

4,624 business operators were rechecked

In 2017, the National Food Agency carried out 10,127 inspections in all.

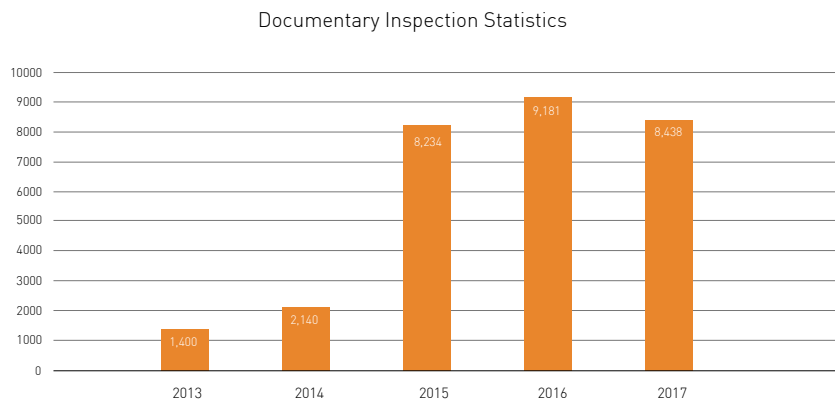
Statistics of Inspections in 2012-2017



Documentary Checks

Documents' checks is the state control mechanism, through which documents related to the activities of food/feed business operators, including recordings and labels of food/feed, are checked independently or together with other state control levers.

In 2017, 8,438 documentary checks were conducted in public nurseries (restaurants, ready to eat products, shawarma and fast food cafes) in children's kindergarten and school buffets, food stores and markets, agricultural markets, bakeries, meat shop and other food producing/processing facilities



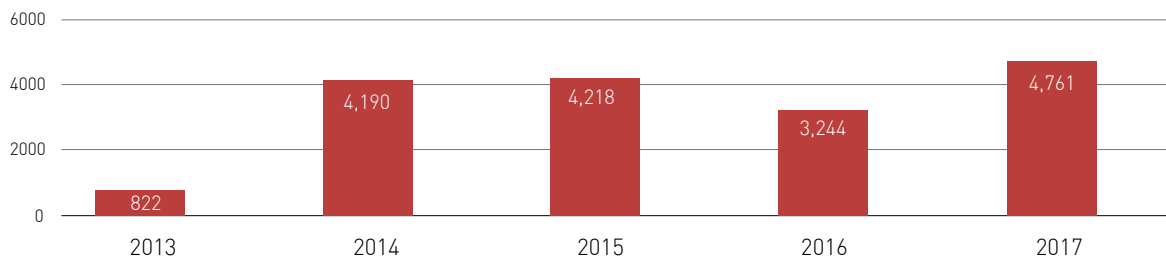
Sampling

In 2017, authorized persons of the National Food Agency took 4,761 samples of food (including drinking water) in compliance with the rules established and transferred to the laboratory. The violations have been revealed in 811 cases

Monitoring

Monitoring is the state control mechanism, through which planned observations and measurements are carried out for the assessment of compatibility of food/feed with the requirements as defined by the legislation of Georgia. Within the scope of monitoring, food samples are taken from the sales facilities, which are further examined in accredited laboratories.

Monitoring Statistics



Supervision

Supervision is the state control mechanism, through which observation over the work of food/feed business operators is carried out.

In 2017, at the poultry and animal slaughterhouses 4,815,089 poultry and 698,585 animals were slaughtered (according to initial data), including: 204,939 cattle, 364,096 sheep and goats, 121,182 pigs, 8,324 rabbits and 44 horses. 516,506 veterinary certificates (Form N 2) were issued in all.

Issued Certificates

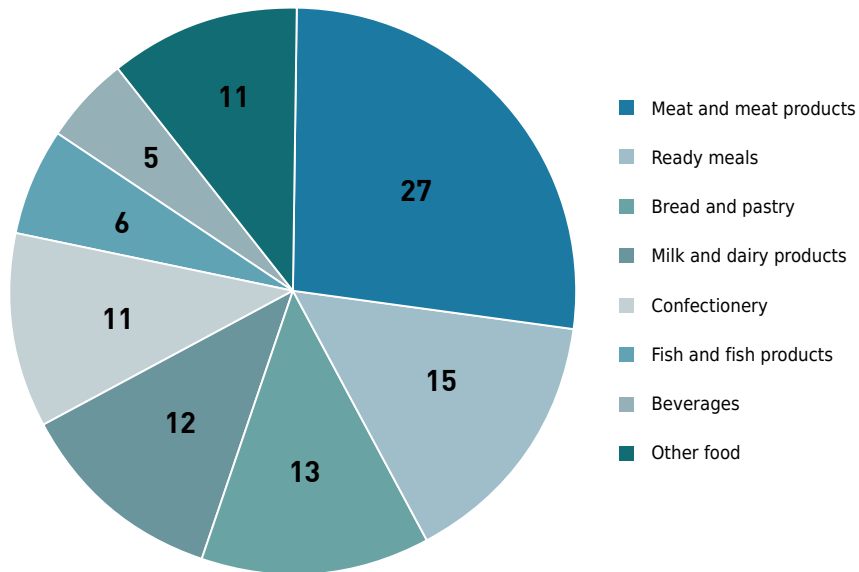
1,571 hygienic, 28 compliance assessments, 22 - approval and 935 veterinary certificates were issued in 2017

Consultations

Authorized persons provided 342 consultations; in particular, 192 were provided at the National Food Agency and 150- out of the Agency.

In the period of 2017, 760 notifications were registered in the Food Safety Department (697 – by individuals via phone, 30 – by National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, 33 – by other organizations). Relevant responses have been made.

Distribution of registered notices by food types



Within the framework of the Food Safety State Control Program 2017, Business units Inspections, Documentary inspections, Monitoring and Surveillance Results were evaluated and analyzed. The program of food safety state control of 2018 was elaborated and priorities were identified.

Results Achieved

Conditions at consumer markets were improved due to the state control held in 2017. Compared to previous years, consumers were more protected. Respective amendments to legislation and trainings provided supported the efficiency of the state control. As a result of trainings, the competences of the inspectors and respectively efficiency of inspections increased.

Legislative Amendments

In order to protect consumers' interests and to promote fair business practice, since July 1, 2017, the Governmental Resolution # 152 has amended changes that prohibit the use of term "cheese" on the label of products made from milk powder. Changes also included the definition of "reduced fat-containing butter". The use of this labelling will be allowed on butter, where milk fat content is less than 39% and not more than 79%. In addition, rules of procedure remain in force that the term "butter" is not allowed in the label, (including business operator's name), if product contains vegetable fat or other fats, except for milk fat.

Ensuring Veterinary Reliability

Veterinary Department is responsible to ensure epizootic reliability in the country and takes control over it; assesses the risks to epizootic situation, registers veterinary medicines, identifies the reasons for the emergence and large-scale spread of mass, dangerous and infectious diseases that are common to both animals and humans and takes necessary measures for their prevention, treatment, localization and eradication. The most important functions of the Veterinary Department are to control the marketing of veterinary medicines, to ensure, registration and traceability of animals, to provide veterinary services to business operators, to ensure diagnosing of animal diseases, to supervise over livestock migration and movement and over collection, to monitor utilization and removal of biological waste.

Vaccinations made in 2017

- 2,662,545 animals were vaccinated and revaccinated against FMD, including 1,000,017 cattle and 1,662,528 sheep and goats.
- 1,045,695 animals were vaccinated against anthrax, including 385,372 cattle, 655,644 sheep and goats and 4,679 horses.
- 280,576 animals were vaccinated against rabies, including 263,570 dogs/cats and 17,006 cattle.
- 232,751 cattle were provided vaccination against brucellosis.
- 826,312 sheep and goats were vaccinated against sheep and goat pox.
- 341,461 small ruminants were vaccinated against PPR.
- 291,527 cattle were vaccinated against lumpy skin disease (LSD)

Tested:

- 153,088 cattle were tested for brucellosis.
- 4,992 cattle and sheep and goats were tested for nonstructural proteins (NSP)
- 1137 large and small ruminants were tested on FMD structural protein (SP)
- Post vaccination testing of small ruminants for PPR was conducted in 499 small ruminants
- Post vaccination testing for rabies was conducted in 300 dogs.

Treatments provided:

- 22,512 cattle and 3,074 livestock housings underwent the treatment against Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever.
- 7,064 heads of cattle were tested for tuberculosis, using allergy method.

Cases of rabies

In 2017, rabies cases were reported in 40 animals (e.g. 19 dogs, 2 horse/donkey, 12 large ruminants, 1 pig, 6 wild animals). It is noted a decreasing of cases by 65 % in animals compared with year 2013. Human cases were not reported for past since 2014.

Cases of anthrax

In 2017, anthrax cases were reported in 15 animals (e.g. 10 large ruminants, 2 small ruminants, 3 soil samples). It is noted a decreasing of cases of anthrax by 63 % compared with year 2013.

Livestock Identification-Registration

To take control over the livestock health, ensure their registration and traceability, and support labeling and transparency, identification and registration of livestock is being carried out, which is the accompanying process to animal vaccination.

- According to the initial data, in 2017, 455,084 cattle and 132,092 sheep and goats were identified.
- 432,464 cattle, 109,273 sheep and goats and 63,189 livestock housings were registered at the electronic database.
- 1,106,653 livestock were registered within state programs on veterinary activities.
- Veterinary activities in the frame of the state programs have been carried out for 1,106,653 livestock.
- In parallel of vaccination against brucellosis, 232,751 certificates (passports) were issued.

Registration and control of VMPs

In 2017, 272 VMPs were submitted for registration and 222 products were registered (national and recognized, 1st grade change, reregistration etc)

- 250 veterinary shopping facilities were inspected, including veterinary drugstores, veterinary hospitals, zoological shops, and etc.
- For quality monitoring, 227 samples of VMPs were examined in laboratories. 4 preparations produced in Georgia were considered improper; sale of outdated products was also observed.

Result achieved: registration and sale of high quality VMPs increased across the country.

Products exported from Georgia:

• 134,134 cattle	• 2,342,340 chickens
• 83,422 sheep and goats	• 649,000 kg manganese oxide
• 2,713,443 kg cattle salted leather	• 5,165,243 kg fish oil
• 315,108 kg small ruminants salted leather	• 11,113,000 kg fish powder
• 156,778 kg chrome leather	• 918,410 kg soybean oil
• 24 kg painted leather	• 249,870 kg wheat bran
• 1,576,257 kg wool	• 2,985,840 incubation eggs

Veterinary and Sanitary Supervision

To take control over the livestock health and seasonal movement, operation of Biological Safety Centers is especially important. In 2017, 12,882 cattle and 630,399 sheep and goats were treated with insect acaricidal preparations.

Ensuring Phytosanitary Reliability

Phytosanitary Department is responsible to carry out quarantine measures in the country, to protect the territory of the country against the introduction and spread of harmful organisms.

The Department ensures phytosanitary diagnostics for agricultural lands, forecasting the spread of harmful organisms and implementation of the measures against them, phytosanitary and quarantine inspection of the phytosanitary regulated articles.

Phytosanitary Department, through its structural units, organizes disinfection of products of plant origin, transportation means, warehouses and respective facilities, registers pesticides and agrochemicals, carries out phytosanitary monitoring and risk analyses, issues phytosanitary and re-export certificates, provides phytosanitary services to business operators.

Measures against Pests

National Food Agency annually takes the measures against especially dangerous quarantine pests, locusts, american fall webworm, box tree moth etc.

In 2017:

- 58,416,8 ha of land were treated against BMSB (Brown Marmorated).
- 1,5107,8 ha of land was treated against locusts.
- 1,050 ha of land was treated against American fall webworm.
- 900 ha of land were treated against box tree moth.
- 1,005 ha of land were treated against mosquitos (as a result of the implemented measures, the rate of proliferation of transmissional diseases decreased considerably in Black Sea recreational area).

State Control over Pesticides and Agrochemicals

Phytosanitary Department continuously carries out state control over the quality of pesticides and agrochemicals in sales network. In 2017, 289 pesticide and 48 agrochemical samples (337 in all) were collected and examined in the laboratory.

140 sales facilities were also inspected.

In 2017, Georgia exported 151 671 tons of fruits and vegetables, including:

• Potato - 32,426,5 tons	• Citrus fruits - 21,684 tons
• Tomato - 3,604,7 tons	• Persimmon - 4,412 tons
• Greens - 3,775 tons	• Peach - 4,467,6 tons
• Nuts - 18,669,7 tons	• Nectarine - 7,141 tons
• Bay leaf - 4,742 tons	• Other fruits - 4,213 tons
• Wood - 100,235,56 cub.m.	• Vegetable - 3,406 tons
• Tea - 2,191,4 tons	



LABORATORY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The main activity of the LEPL "Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia" (LMA) is the diagnostics of various diseases of animal, avian, fish, bees and herbs, and also the research of food products and potable water. The Laboratory, within the frame of its competences, takes part in quarantine measures and actions for liquidating the reasons of the diseases, and promotes the approbation and introduction of modern methods of diagnostics.



Vivarium



General Chemistry Laboratory



Laboratory of Herbology

Quality Management

The signing of the Agreement of the Association with EU has set up the responsibility of the introduction of modern standards.

The responsibilities under the “deep and comprehensive Agreement” (DCFTA) taken up by Georgia, it has become necessary to establish an international-level laboratory.

The Laboratory at Ministry of Agriculture Georgia has both national and international accreditation, based on ISO 17025, and it also has introduced the Quality Control System, according ISO 9001:2015. Both the Laboratory and the Research it carries out are internationally recognized. This creates the sense of credibility both in the country and outside its borders. International accreditation makes reliable the results of tests of reliability and accuracy.



All the procedures within the LMA Network are carried out, in accordance with the standards of Biosafety and Standard operations procedures (SOPs).

In accordance with the European Neighborhood Program of Agriculture and Rural Development, 75% of the methods implemented in the laboratory (that is, 213 research methods out of the 285 research methods) are accredited, according to the EC and/or some other International standards

Surveillance across the country

Regional labs of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia are intensively involved in “Integrated Health Program” within “Cooperative Biological engagement Program” (CBEP) of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and are ready to be involved in laboratory works in case of epidemic threats.

Laboratory staff training/professional competency testing program.

In the Laboratory, considerable attention is paid to both scientific-research activities, as well as to the qualification promotion of the laboratory staff. The retraining of staff in new methodologies is on a permanent basis. Laboratory specialists are taught and trained both in the United States and leading European reference laboratories.

The Laboratory of the Georgian Ministry of Agriculture is tightly involved in the Professional Competency Testing Program. This means that the Laboratory is regularly tested in the professional researches. The participation in similar activities presents not only the objective confirmation of the reliability and validity of the proposed testing for the Customer's sake but also one of the mandatory conditions of the accreditation to preserve it.

Support to Professional Education

In order to adequately teach and equip future professional experts, the laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture actively cooperates with various educational institutions.

Laboratory supports the students of professional and higher educational institutions to involve in the Laboratory's practice with a view to employ them in the future.

As a result, the number of young qualified specialists increased considerably. Note worthily, after a new employee is hired, the HR continues his/her professional development. The students who were recently employed have already taken participation in a number of working studies and trainings, which have been organized by the invited local and international experts.

Within the scope of "The Rule and Conditions of Internship at Public Institutions", the students from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Ilia State University, Georgia's Agrarian University and Sokhumi State University are taking internship at the Laboratory.

The following are the events that have been organized in 2017, in the context of the promotion to the professional education:



- Informational-educational meeting with the students of Katchreti Cattle-breeding College (experts in Veterinary) on various issues of a number of animals and avians diseases, as regards for the diagnostics of Pathoanatomy and Parasitology;
- Day of Open Door for students of the finishing class, and also for the students of such colleges as "Spektri", "Fazisi", "Orientiri", and - last but not least - for students of Agrarian University;
- Informational-educational meeting with the students of the Tempus Program at the Tbilisi State University on various issues of Pathomorphological Research and on the principles of practical of Parasitology Laboratory;
- Public Lecture for the sake of students: "Qualitative Research of Food Products"

Plant Pests Diagnostics Department

The studies introduced:

- Detection of the organism (*Erwinia amylovora*) causing fruit tree blight through the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method.;
- *Xanthomonas* spp. Introduction of the detection and identification of (*X. vesicatoria*, *X. euvesicatoria*, *X. gardneri*, *X. Perforans*) through the polymerase chain reaction;
- Introduction of the detection and identification of *Xylophilus ampelinus* through the polymerase chain reaction;
- Introduction of the detection and identification of *Pseudomonas syringae* PV. *Actinidiae*, through the polymerase chain reaction;
- Identification of the peanut content in food products by the qualitative analysis (the RT PCR Method);
- Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) of [diagnostics] of viruses of five potatoes species (PVX, PVY, PVM, PMTV, APLV);
- Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) of [diagnostics] of viruses of two tomato species (ToMV, TSWV);



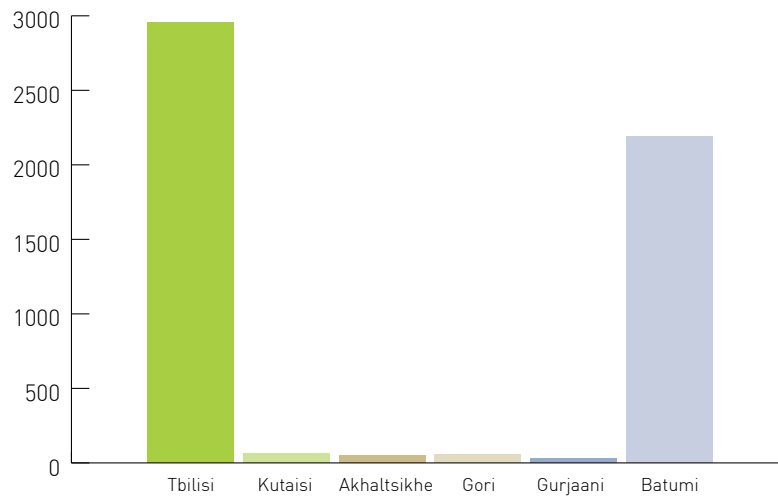
- Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) of potato ring rot-causing bacteria *Clavibacter michiganensis* subs. *sepedonicus*);
- Detection of the organism (*Erwinia amylovora*) causing fruit tree blight through the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method;
- Nucleic acid separation from the vine GLRaV-1 and GLRaV-3-viruses;
- Nucleic acid separation from the vine GLRaV-1 and GLRaV-3-viruses;
- Detection and identification of *Guignardia citricarpa*;
- Detection and identification of quarantine harmful organism *Tilletia* (*Neovissia*) *indica*; Tomato and pepper bacterial maculation causing *Xanthomonas* spp.
- Detection and morphological identification of (*Xanthomonas* – as *euvesicatoria*, *Xanthomonas gardneri*, *Xanthomonas Perforans*, *Xanthomonas vesicatoria*);
- Detection and morphological identification of vine's bacterial necrosis *Xylophilus ampelinus*;
- Detection of bacterial pathogens by prompt testing;
- Morphological and biochemical identification of bacteria in topsoil pattern;

- Detection and morphological and biochemical identification of cancer-causing kiwi bacteria *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *Actinidia*;
- Morphological and biochemical investigation of Carolina wren (*Solanum carolinense* L.);
- Morphological and biological investigation of perennial ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*) D.C.;
- Morphological and biological investigation of *Emex spinosa* L.;
- Morphological and biological investigation of wild soybean (*Euphorbia dentate* Michx.)



Studies of vegetation's patterns, according to regional laboratories

Tbilisi	Kutaisi	Akhaltsikhe	Gori	Gurjaani	Batumi
2,954	67	52	55	31	2,189

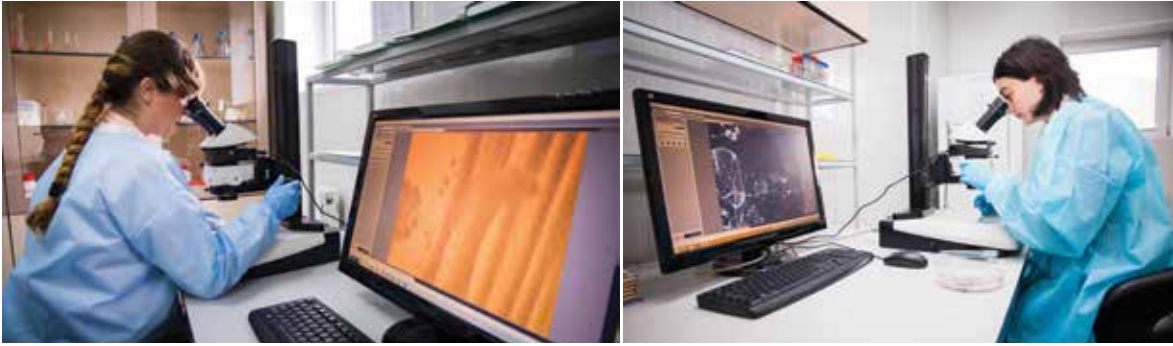


Standard Operation Procedures (Sops):

- 38 SOPs have been elaborated and approved;
- 11 SOPs have been amended.

Accreditation

- Seven new indicators have been added to the Accreditation List



Department of Diagnostics of animals Diseases

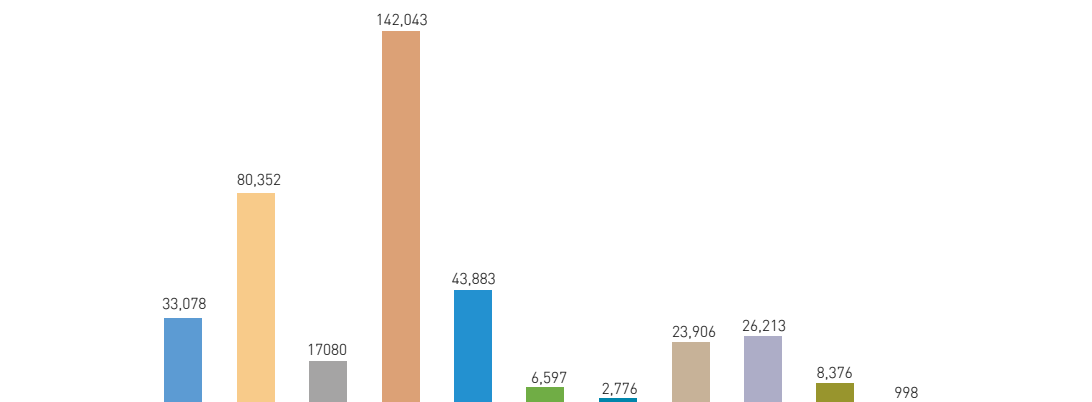
The studies introduced:

- Detection of rabies antibody in both domestic and wild carnivorous cattle / animals, by the means of blocking agents' enzyme-linked immunosorbent analysis (ELISA);
- Immunofluorescent antibody analysis (IFA) of coxiellosis (Coxiella burnetii);
- Detection of antibody of Coxiella burnetii (coxiellosis), by the means of blocking agents' enzyme-linked immunosorbent analysis (ELISA);
- Detection of Coxiella burnetii by momentary polymerase chain reaction with the use of LightCycler 2.0;
- Clostridia-caused diseases: emphysematous carbuncle-Cl.
- Clostridia-caused diseases: emphysematous carbuncle-Cl.
- Chauvoei, bradzot - Cl. septikum, malignant tumor-Cl. sporogenes, enterotoxaemia and anaerobic dysentery-Cl. Perfinges.
- Primary isolation from the animal's pathological material;
- Fish diseases: the pathogenic agents causing aeromorphosis (rubella), Pseudomonosis and vibrio taken from the primary insulation path. material of fish;
- Identification of dysentery amoeba and lamblia-cysts by method of drinking water coagulation.



Testing of Veterinary Materials, according to Regional Laboratories

Tbilisi	Kutaisi	Akhaltsikhe	Marneuli	Zugdidi	Ambrolauri	Gori	Ozurgeti	Gurjaani	Dusheti	Batumi
33,078	80,352	17,080	142,043	43,883	6,597	2,776	23,906	2,6213	8,376	998



Standard Operation Procedures (Sops):

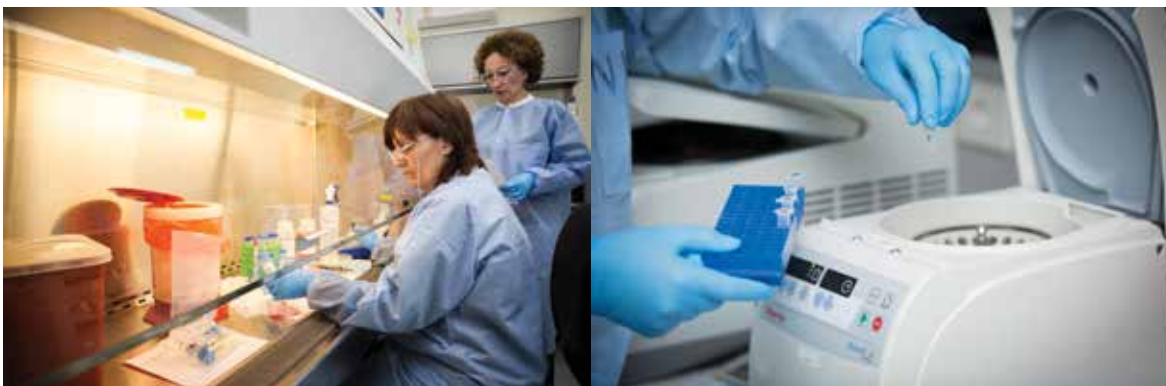
- Five SOPs have been amended;
- Twenty updated SOPs have been elaborated.

Accreditation

- Department has passed National Accreditation in 38 spheres;
- Department has passed International Reaccreditation in 52 realms.

Professional Testing:

- Identification of Brucellosis pathogenic agents (*B. abortus*, *B. melitensis*) - extraction of culture - PCR- APHA - Animal & Plant Health Agency, Weighbridge, United Kingdom;
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza; Newcastle disease; - APHA - Animal & Plant Health Agency, Weighbridge, United Kingdom;
- Ovine rinderpest - Cirad - LA RECHERCHE ACRONOMICQUE POUR LE DE- VELOPPMENNT, Montpellier, France;
- West Nile fever: Rift Valley fever (RVF) - CISA-INIA - Centro de Investigacion En Sanidad Animal-Institution Nacional De Investigacion; Madrid, Spain.





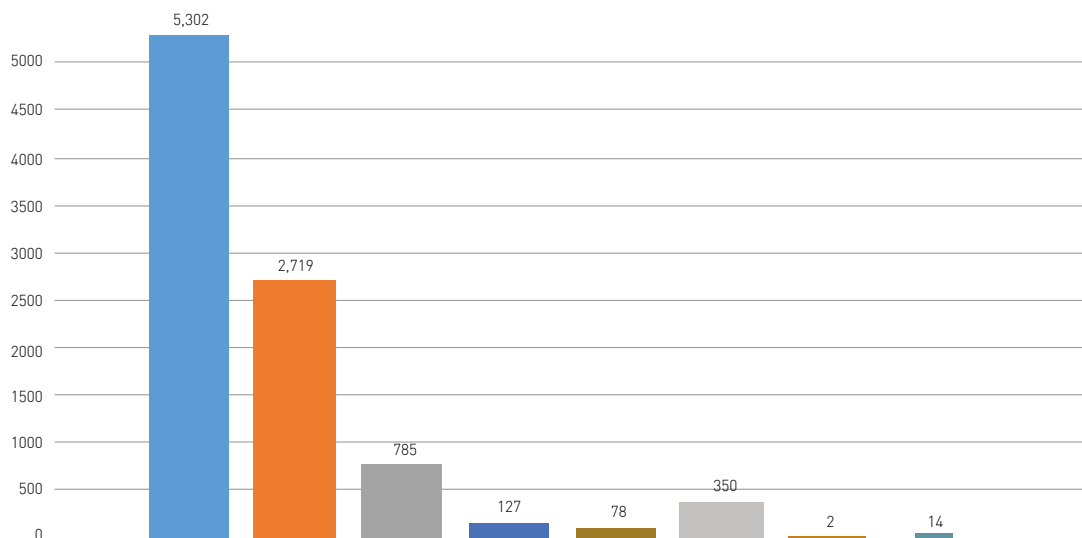
Department of Food Research

The studies that have been introduced:

- Serotyping of Salmonella (Salmonella);
- Golden staphylococci (Staphylococcus aureus) counting method (in cheese);
- Testing of phosphor organic pesticides by the Gas Chromatographic method (in honey);
- Measurement of anions (nitrates, nitrites, sulfate, fluorine, chlorine, bromine);
- Method of ionic chromatography (water);
- Testing of aflatoxins (B1+B2+G1+G2) by the high-efficiency Liquid Chromatography method (in nuts);
- Testing of heavy metals (copper, lead, cadmium, zinc, arsenic) by atomic absorbable and atomic emission spectrometric (in nuts);
- Testing of heavy metals (copper, zinc) by the Atomic Emission Spectrometry Method (fruits and vegetables);
- Screening method (method of biochips) - (Radox Evidence Investigator) - Antibiotics: identification of tetracycline group of chinless, A ceptor, thiamphenicol, streptomycin, and tylosin (in honey and meat); Antimicrobial array II (AM II);
- Screening method (Radox Evidence Investigator) – Identification of Chloramphenicol and nitroimidazole (Antimicrobial array V (AM V));
- Identification of nitrofurans (AOZ, AMOZ, AHD.Sem) by the Screening Method (Radox Evidence Investigator) - (in honey, seafood and meat) (Radox Evidence Investigator) - (Antimicrobial array III (AM III));
- Identification of mycotoxins in animal nutrition products, prepared on the basis of cereals and various wheat products, with the use of the Screening Methods (Radox Evidens Investigator):
 - a) Identification of Mycotoxins (ochratoxin A, aflatoxin G1, deoxynivalenol-B1, zearalenone) (Myco V, (Myco 5))
 - b) Identification of Mycotoxins (fumozine, ochratoxin A, deoxynivalenol-G1, zearalenone, T2-toxin, aflatoxin B1) (Myco VII, (Myco7))
 - c) Identification of Mycotoxins (paxioline, fumozine, ochratoxin A, ergot alkaloids, diacetoxy-scirpenol, deoxynivalenol G1, zearalenone, T2 toxin-B1) (Myco X (Myco 10)).
- Fat testing method, with the use of Soxhlet's (extraction) apparatus.

Foodstuff Investigation by Regional Laboratories

Tbilisi	Kutaisi	Akhaltsikhe	Zugdidi	Ozurgeti	Gurjaani	Dusheti	Batumi
5,302	2,719	785	127	78	350	2	14



Standard Operation Procedures (Sops):

- Six SOPs have been amended;
- 36 new SOPs have been elaborated and approved.

Accreditation

Department of Food Research has passed the Planned International Accreditation (ANAB) in accordance with Standard 17.025, and also the National Accreditation:

- Chemical studies of food and cattle-feeding quality and safety parameters;
- On microbiology testing of food and cattle-feeding;
- On radiology research of food products; (strontium 90, cesium 137).

Department of Food Research has increased the realm of national accreditation, having added the following parameters:

- Histamine-content testing of fish;
- Butterfat-content testing of milk and dairy products;
- Trans-fat testing Gas Chromatograph - with the use of Flame Ionization Detector;
- Antibiotics testing (using the Etalon and Screening method);
- Testing of aflatoxins (B1, B1+B2+G1+G2) in nuts by Liquid Chromatography method;
- Heavy metals Identification method (arsenic - in fruit and vegetables; copper, zinc - in nuts);

- Radox Evidence Investigator – Screening method;
- Phosphor-organic pesticides Identification in honey, by Gas Chromatography method;
- Method of testing the freshness of meat;



- *Listeria monocytogenes* – Quantitative method;
- *Clostridium* - Method of nucleation and counting;

Professional Testing

- Department of Food Research has successfully passed the Professional Competence testing (13 Indicators).



სსიპ სოფლის მეურნეობის
სამეცნიერო-კვლევითი
ცენტრი



SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH CENTER OF AGRICULTURE

LEPL Scientific - Research Center of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia carries out various activities. In particular, it supports the development of agrarian sciences, agriculture, food production, maintenance of agro-biodiversity, promotes artificial insemination of animals and breeding activities, ensures restoration of the centers for plant breed testing and selection, development of the system of standards and certification for seed and planting materials, introduction of new technologies and risk assessment in food safety, veterinary and plant protection fields, development of organic methods, supports to the development of organic farms and extension of the persons engaged in agriculture.

Infrastructure

Scientific - Research Center of Agriculture owns well-equipped agricultural centers, modern laboratories and demonstration testing areas:

- Jigaura Village, Mtskheta Municipality - Permanent Crop Research Base;
- Jigaura Village, Mtskheta Municipality - Laboratory for Integrated Protection of Plants;
- Tsilkani Village, Mtskheta Municipality - Annual Crop Seeds' Research and Demonstrative Base;
- Vachiani Village, Akhalkalaki Municipality - Annual Crop's Seedlings Base;
- Anaseuli Village, Ozurgeti Municipality - Adam Beridze Soil and Food Products Diagnostics Center LTD;
- Tbilisi - Wine Laboratory LTD;
- Selection, breeding and demonstration areas in 26 municipalities of Georgia;
- Village Mukhuri, Ckhorotsku Municipality - Bee Breeding Station.

In 2017 following tasks were completed:

- Repair works of beekeeping breeding facility in the village of Mukhuri (Chkhorotsku municipality) equipped with modern laboratory and other necessary equipment;
- Equipping the seed and planting materials certification and standards Laboratory in Tsilkani (Mtskheta Municipality);
- Equipping multifunctional laboratory in village Tsilkani (Mtskheta municipality) with modern research and diagnostic equipment of soil research and DNA molecular marking according international standards;
- The first phase of Georgia-China Technical Cooperation Project in the village of Shulaveri (Marneuli municipality). Scientific-research center has received 33 greenhouses.

In 2017, in the Agricultural Research Center, scientific support for agricultural development, maintenance of plant and animal agri-diversity, modern technologies' research and implementation were carried out in the following main directions:

- Crop production - research and restoration of gene pool, introduced species, integrated methods for plant protection, organic agricultural production;
- Animal husbandry - search and restoration of animal, bird, beneficial insect, fish species, populations, breeds; creation of breeding pools, veterinary;
- Modern technologies for storage and processing;
- Restoration of degraded soils, soil fertility research.

For the purpose to ensure testing annual and permanent crop breeds, to search and preserve local gene pool, ensure adaptation to soil and climatic conditions and study biochemical and commercial parameters, following activities were carried out:

- Biological and cultivating features of 50 indigenous grapevine species is studied and described (characterized ampelographically) in accordance with OIV descriptors; laboratory research for 10 species of introduced grapevines were conducted;



- Researches were conducted to study the promising micro-zone for Khashmi and Usakhelouri wines widely acknowledged in Georgia and to identify and register Geographic area for the production of new Khashmi and Usakhelouri, dry wines of local appellation;
- Cross-breeding of fungus resistant varieties with the Georgian vine varieties have been implemented. 9 combinations were successful as a result of hybridization; Hybridization was carried out at Jigaura Base, led by Swiss breeder Valentin Blattner;
- In order to study wild and wildly harvest grape forms, 32 vine forms have been surveyed based on phonological phase and described in accordance with the OIV 45 descriptors,
- For the purpose of renewing and replenishing the fruit crops, rare and endangered species and varieties have been searched and preserved in Eastern Georgia (Kakheti, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti);
- Biological and cultivation particulars for 40 fruit species were studied;
- The local rare varieties of fruit trees have been retrieved and the bud materials obtained for further reproduction;
- Agrotechnical works for new varieties were held in 8 regions of Georgia. Samtskhe-Javakheti (Adigeni-Bolajuri), Samegrelo (Chkhorotsku - Lesichine), Imereti (Samtredia - Didi Jikhaishi), Shida Kartli (Khashuri), Lechkhumi (Aghvi), Guria (Ozurgeti-Anasuli), Kvemo Svaneti (Pakhi); Lechkhumi (Tsageri Aghvi);
- 2 projects presented by Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture were won and financed within the state scientific grants competition of fundamental research of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation;
- Demonstration areas for various annual crops and testing nurseries of primary seed production were arranged in 12 municipalities of Georgia (Telavi, Akhmeta, Mtskheta, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Adigeni, Mestia, Kazbegi, Khashuri, Dedoplistskaro, Marneuli, Ambrolauri);
- For the purpose of searching and preservation of the local annual crops, the onion 2, garlic 2 and kidney beans 1 local varieties were identified and restored;

- Out of 76 clones received from the International Potato Center (CIP), 28 clones with the best indicators (high-resistant, resistant to disease) have been selected, followed by surveys in various regions.
- As a result of the survey conducted in Akhalkalaki (Vachiani), 4 potato clones from CIP (potato international center) were found to be resistant to late-blight and potato cancer;
- Two super elite and elite potato seed materials were gained for the reproduction of seed materials - total 16,300 kg;
- Based on field testing of potato varieties, 2 local varieties were distinguished with productivity, disease and drought resistance: Javakheturi and Meskheti Red;
- Based on modern biotechnological methods, potato cultivation technology has been developed;
- 2 forms of flax were selected and studied

To study the genetic resources of rare species of forests, tree wild ancestors and to promote the development of mulberry production:

- For the first time in Georgia, forest areas with high conservation value have been described;
- the pool of plant collection has been enlarged, including 49 varieties and 300 plants;
- Based on detailed inventory, the materials were processed on the 8 rare species in Colchic forests of Adjara. Maps of the spread area were prepared for 4 species;
- 19 samples of seeds of this species for the seed bank have been collected and processed
- In order to organize bio landscapes and plantations, to arrange windshields. the local and non-local, non-invasive species research and selection of prospective forms are arranged

To study and test of species of cereal crops, (research and conservation of local genome, adaptation to soil-climatic conditions, biochemical and commercial indicators) following works have been carried out:

- Regeneration and Conservation of wheat endemic species (5) and sub-species (14);
- Propagation of wheat endemic species (16)
- Production of super elite (8) of local varieties;
- Study of 470 genotypes of autumn wheat from international nurseries, 40 varieties of barley, oats, as well as 300 genotypes of spring wheat and barley;
- From international nurseries, 75 adapted forms of wheat and barley have been selected;
- Propagation of local varieties (Akhaltzikhe red, Doli, White Dika, Shavpkha) to promote production of high quality wheat;
- "Argo" variety of oats has been registered by "Sakpatenti";

Through the use of modern biotechnologies (in vitro) and for the production of high quality, virus-free primary seeds and seeding and planting materials of annual and perennial crops, at the Service for Microclonal (In Vitro) Propagation of Plants and Virus Free Planting Materials Research:

- Energy efficient and effective technique for rapid and mass micropropagation of potato was developed;
- For (in vitro) reproduction of goji berry and chrysanthemum, optimum feeding areas were developed through the use of plant growth regulators (PGR) of different concentration.
- Positive outcomes of initial Vitro Propagation of rare varieties of Georgian vine: The technology of making explant taken from the vine plants in vitro propagation has been developed;
- Approved: Positive Results of Primary Study of Vitro Propagation: blueberry and stone fruit cultivars clone Sapling – MRS, sweet potato: The technology of primary sterile exposure and optimal feeding areas for the proliferation of sprouting has been developed;
- The optimal nutritional areas required for the development of sprouting for vine varieties (Tsitska, Kisi, Tsolokouri, Rkatsiteli) have been developed;
- 30 high productivity and resistant clones have been selected from CIP clones

Quantitative indicators:

3 local and 9 introductory varieties of potato, CIP 76 new clones Seed material of the SSSE category – up to 82 000.

Goji-Beri 300 Basic saplings

Plant seedlings in the laboratory.

To support the development of organic agricultural production in Georgia:

- Cereals, vegetables and other food products were harvested through the organic agricultural techniques in Sagarejo, Mtskheta and Samtredia municipalities;
- Buffer zones - 500 cypress and 500 thuyas were planted on organic farming testing areas;
- 37 organic preparations of local and foreign production were studied;
- "Organic Farmer" - module of teaching program was developed and submitted for review to the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, which was created in cooperation with UNDP Professional Development Support Program in Georgia. The module is designed for farmers and students of professional colleges;

For the support of seeding and planting material production:

- Created: ex-situ active collection of endemic species of wheat, maize and beans;
- The functioning of crops seed bank has started;



- The National Technical Questionnaire was prepared for the endemic varieties of wheat for the first time in Georgia, based on the methodology of the New Generation Protection Union (UPOV): Makhka Triticum Macha "Makha"; Colchian copy Triticum georgicum "Kolkhuri asli"; Zanduri Triticum timopheevii "Zanduri"; Dick Triticum aestivum "Dika";;
- Traditional varieties of maize (3) and beans (5) are described in accordance with UPOV methodology;
- The list of agricultural cultivars allowed for distribution in Georgia is prepared for registering in catalogue: 4 endemic grains of wheat, 3 species of corn and others. Relevant photo materials are included in the catalogue.
- Draft of the Law of Georgia on Distribution of Agricultural Cultivars Varieties Subject to Compulsory Certification was prepared.

Secondary legislation drafts prepared:

- Rules of labeling of seeds and planting material of agricultural crops subject to compulsory certification;
- Rules of certification of seeds and planting material of agricultural crops subject to compulsory certification;
- Methodological Scheme for Examination of Agricultural Varieties on Usefulness;
- Rules of National Catalogue of Agricultural Cultivars Allowed for Distribution in;
- List of Agricultural Cultivars subject to compulsory certification

Within the framework of the association agreement between Georgia and the European Union, Georgia has an obligation to produce certified seed materials. To this end, 140,35 ha (66,6%), of wheat and barley 22 hectares (26%) of maize and 20 ha (7.5%) of soy beans fields were inspected. Certified seed materials, therefore, amounted to: wheat 363.31 t. (87%), corn 16,426 t. (4%), barley 36.5 t. (8,7%) and soy beans 752 kg (0,3%).

By 2017, the total area of field with required seed certification registered: 68% for wheat, 12% for maize, 8% for barley and 12% for soya.

Within the framework of the Voluntary Certification System, the Standards and Certification Service body certified seed lots of wheat and barley crops (as of 2015-2017):

- 2015 - wheat - 27, barley - 0
- 2016 - wheat - 33, barley - 1
- 2017 - wheat - 15, barley - 3

Wheat and barley crops seed materials certified (tons):

- 2015 - wheat - 651.7 tons, barley - 0
- 2016 - wheat - 770.5 tons, barley - 25 tons
- 2017 - wheat - 363.31 tons, barley - 36.5 tons

Total area of wheat and barley field with certified seeds:

- 2015 - wheat - 527 ha, barley - 0

Conducted:

- 152 laboratory tests

Issued:

- 34 quality certificates
- Approximately 11566 labels for certified seeds

Elaborated:

- 8 forms of inspection protocol for fruits and berry fruits planting materials
- Questionnaire describing the general condition in nursery farms

Inspected:

- 52 nurseries. 49 found to be compliant with qualification requirements

For research and introduction of plant protection integrated systems:

- Pheno-calendar schemes were developed for the protection of annual and permanent crops against pests;
- For the research of integrated protection of plants, regional researches were carried out. Assessment of phytosanitary conditions was ensured in hazelnut, citrus, fruit and vine plantations, as well as on wheat and potato harvesting areas. Dominant diseases, pests and weeds were detected and the measures against them were identified;
- More than 50 samples of diseased plants collected in the regions were studied and respective recommendations developed;
- "Plant Protection Technician" and "Forest Phytosanitary Control Technician" professional standards were developed in accordance with respective professional standard code - 3212/3142 of International Standard Classification Occupations (ISCO-08), (National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement);

To research the fertility of the soils:

- Within the scope of the project - "Inventory of the Soils of Kvemo Alazani Irrigation Zone (so called Jugaani lands, village of Tibaani, village of Erisimedi) and their Rational Use" electronic map of the project-covered area was prepared, through which 33 cutting patterns of soils were described. Out of them, 12 cutting patterns were described in compliance with international soil classification system - FAO/WRB standard;
- Within the scope of the study project "Inventory of Common Soil of Georgian Soils", in the municipality of Mtskheta, Dusheti and Kaspi municipalities have been prepared a set sampling activity for 20,000 ha. The sampling is based on the EU (G. Tóth, A. Jones and L. Montanarella (eds.) LU-CAS Topsoil Survey, methodology, data and results, JRC, EC, Ispra, Italy, 2013) and FAO GSP methodology Yosuf Yigini, Rainer Baritz, Ronald R. Vargas (eds.) Soil Organic Carbon Mapping Cookbook FAO, Rome, Italy, 2017) and is developed by geoinformation systems;;
- 215 samples of soils were studied in order to improve fertility of acid soils of moist subtropical lands of the West Georgia; respective recommendations were developed.

To restore and improve the local species and populations of domestic animals, birds, fish and beneficial insects and create the gene pool:

- 53 cows and 2 bulls of Red Megrelian cattle breed were found; 35 animals from Pshav-Khevsuri-an population of Georgian indigenous mountain breed were studied;



- 1 213 cattle, 211 crossbred pigs, 98 Kakhetian and Svanetian pigs were studied coprologically in 28 municipalities of Georgia (Mtskheta, Gori, Khashuri, Dusheti, Tianeti, Tetrtskaro, Gardabani, Marneuli, Tsageri, Lentekhi, Ambrolauri, Oni, Chokhatauri, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Abasha, Chkorotsku, Tsalenjikha, Zestaponi, Samtredia, Tskaltubo, Sagarejo, Telavi, Akhmeta, Gurjaani, Dedoplistskaro, Martvili, Khobi) and respective recommendations were developed;
- 400 typical Tushetian sheep, 30 Georgian soft wool sheep, 40 semi-soft wool sheep, 290 Megrelian sheep, up to 300 Megrelian goats and Svanetian pigs were found;
- Bee families of Megrelian populations of Georgian indigenous bee were selected in Samegrelo region;
- Selective works were carried out for 28 cattle (including 12 cows, 2 bulls and 14 calves) of Pshav-Kevsurian indigenous population of Georgian mountain bovines;
- Red Megrelian cattle were found in Samegrelo region;
- Acclimatization capabilities of Holstein and Schvitz breeds is being studied;
- Typical Kakhetian pig was found for selection and reproduction;
- In 2016, memorandum of cooperation was signed with Spanish company "Dereza Iberico" for restoration and reproduction of Kakhetian and Svanetian pigs in Georgia and develop nomadic pig husbandry;
- Populations of local hen, freckled duck and Javakhian goose were found for the creation of pool for bird reproduction;
- Search, restoration, preservation and study of wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) is under way;
- The spreading areas of Colchian pheasant were found; physical features of their eggs and the dynamic of growth of nestlings in farms were studied; species of Paravani Lake carp population were found in the lakes of Suldi village, Akhalkalaki Municipality;
- Georgian bee families of Megrelian population were selected in Samegrelo region; Group for selection of Georgian bees of Megrelian population was created based on study and research;
- 65 collection, foreign and modern local varieties of silkworm were preserved;
- Data on four varieties of silkworm were transferred to SAKPATENTI for registration.

For the study and research of modern technologies for processing and preserving of agricultural products:

- Wine samples made of 104 Georgian grape varieties made in Jigura's Experianenerate base;
- Study of grape yield and physiological-chemical indicators of wines according to organoleptic properties. Possible perspective varieties for Georgian regions were revealed;
- Wine sensory research was carried out based on methodology developed by the Scientific-Research Center as well as the joint project of the National Wine Agency with the participation of Italian specialists.
- Tasting of samples of apple cider and vinegar has been conducted; Recommendations were made to farmers and stakeholders.

For identifying the risks related to food safety, threats were assessed and recommendations developed:

- Risks related to drinking water;
- Potential threats related to contamination of food products by antibiotics;
- Possibilities and uncertainties of using monitoring results risk assessment;
- Acrylam risk in food;
- Plumbum risk in food.

The working version of the recommendations has been elaborated for the purpose of assessing the risks that have been forwarded to further consultations and discussions with risk management staff.

For the study and research of modern technologies for processing and preserving agricultural products:

- Enologic assessment of rare species of Georgian grapevine was developed;
- Technique for producing natural drinks rich of physiologically active substances was developed;
- The wines made of 21 species of white and 31 species of red grapes from collection vineyards were studied; their taste and major physical and chemical parameters were assessed;
- Examination samples of more than 22 processed products were made.

To increase the farmers' knowledge and experience and to share information on modern technologies, new species and techniques:

- 35 different thematic brochures and pheno calendar schemes were distributed among farmers in respective segments; consultations were provided (including through the telephone and online);
- Thematic trainings and mobile extension services have been provided throughout Georgia: Mtskheta-Mtianeti 14, Kvemo Kartli 27, Shartis 16, Kakheti 22, Imereti 15, Samtskhe-Javakheti 22, Kazbegi 3, Mestia 5, Guria 9, Racha - Lechkhumi 12 and Samegrelo 61 villages. A total of 206 villages in 11 regions;
- Up to 7500 farmers were retrained within the extension program;
- First phase of the Technical Cooperation Project of the People's Republic of China was completed, within the framework of which the farmers were trained on the maintenance of vegetable crops. Within the framework of the project, up to 200 farmers, interested persons and agrarian students were trained in 2017;
- A workshop on "Viticulture and winemaking traditions and perspectives of development in Racha-Lechkhumi" was held in Racha-Lechkhumi region; 70 local farmers were trained and recommendations were given;
- In the Shida Kartli region workshops were held, related to viticulture, winemaking, certification and livestock issues; Up to 50 farmers and interested persons were given retraining and recommendations.

International cooperation

- Italy, Rome - 16th Regular Session "The Role of Biodiversity for Food Production and for Sustainable Development of Agriculture". issues concerning genetic resources of plants, forest, animal microorganisms and invertebrates were discussed, as well as the protection and development of water and soil resources; The session was attended by representatives of 178-member states of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the EU;
- Azerbaijan - The 8th International Conference of the Association of Countries of the Black and Caspian Sea, "Change of Climate and Pesticides - New Challenges in Sericulture". Representatives from 20 countries, including Bulgarian, Romanian, Chinese, Cuban and others, participated in the conference. The objective of the conference was to discuss current situation in the field of sericulture and development prospects;
- Italy, Valekorra - Workshop "The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) European Workshop: Ideas and Experience-sharing on GIAHS in Europe and Central Asia" - Global Agricultural Heritage (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage) Systems (GIAHS) Workshop was attended by the representatives of the leading European and Asian countries, the aim of the workshop: to discuss trends of agritourism and possible prospects for development. Georgia was informed concerning agro-landmarks that could be granted GIAHS status, which will significantly contribute to the development of agro-tourism and the promotion of Georgian agricultural products on the international market;
- Azerbaijan, - "5th International Festival of Jams". Georgia has also presented its own stand among 25 countries. Goal of the Festival: Introduction and tasting of processed agricultural products; According to the international jury of 15 people, the main award of the Festival (Golden Grand Prix) has won the cherry-made jam from the Scientific - Research Center of Agriculture;

Georgia, Tbilisi - International scientific conferences were held in the scope of the NASA project " (GOFCD / GOLD - Global Observations of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics - The Conference of the Caucasus Network ".

"World Summit of Active Information Networks". Host organization: LEPL Scientific - Research Center of Agriculture. Participants: Georgia and 40 delegates from 15 countries of the world; The goal of the conference was to enhance relevant capabilities in order to share international experience, exchange data and establish a long-term monitoring system;

- Greece, Str. Heraclione - 260th International Conference ICENS - International Conference of Environment and Natural Science; Goal of the Conference: Introduction of current research activities of scientists and students for entrepreneurs and business sector representatives; Sharing new ideas, opinions and experiences; Establish business relations for future cooperation;
- Georgia, Tbilisi - establishing of office of International Potato Center in Georgia and international workshop - Strengthening Livelihoods in Georgia: Implementing an Integrated Approach for healthy potato seed production. Objective of the event: potato sector and its development prospects in Georgia, sharing international experience and recommendations for farmers. The event was attended by representatives from Asian, African and American potato centers;
- Georgia, Tbilisi - international scientific conference "Viticulture and winemaking in European countries, historical aspects and perspectives". Apart from local delegates, representatives of France, Italy, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Ukraine and Moldova attended the event. The aim of the conference was to develop viticulture and winemaking, the generalization of innovative technologies adopted by the European and other countries;

- Within the framework of the Georgia-China Technical Cooperation Program, 500 farmers and interested individuals have been trained (five-day 12 seminars) on modern technologies for preserving vegetable crops;
- Within the framework of the Georgia-China joint technical cooperation project, Georgian farmers passed a one-month training course in modern technologies for the maintenance of vegetables. The training was specially implemented for Georgian farmers with the initiative and financial support of the Ministry of Trade of the People's Republic of China;
- Within the framework of Tbilisi Festival of Science and Innovation, scientists of the Center conducted public lectures on breeding in Georgian Technical University.



Georgia's Rural Development Strategy for 2017-2020 and Action Plan for 2018-2020

Rural Development Strategy of Georgia for 2017-2020 implementation Action Plan for 2018-2020 was developed and approved by the Government of Georgia (Decree #593, December 28, 2017) – the Action plan combines 69 different sectorial programs.

The development of the Rural Development Strategy and its' action plan (2018-2020) has been coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia and involved all relevant state agencies, with the active cooperation and support of the UNDP. The participation of all relevant stakeholders in the development process was assured. Meetings with the representatives of the Georgian regions, including municipalities, business sector, NGOs and civil society were organized.

The expenditure of Action Plan for 2018-2020 of Rural Development Strategy of Georgia for 2017-2020 is reflected in the medium-term action plans of all line ministries and is in full compliance with the country's basic data and directions document for 2018-2021.

Strategy embraces various aspects of rural development, including agriculture, environmental protection, tourism, rural infrastructure, rural economic development, etc. The responsibility of every state agency is to carry out such activities and programs, while taking into account the local needs that will facilitate fulfillment of the Strategy objectives and implementation of effective rural development policies.

The Strategy's vision is to ensure the improvement of the quality of life and the sustainability of social conditions of the rural population that will be based on diverse economic opportunities, accessible social benefits, rich cultural life, environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

The strategy defines three major priorities, namely: economy and competitiveness, social conditions and living standards, environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

The implementation of the Rural Development Strategy is coordinated by the Rural Development Inter-agency Coordinating Council which was created by the Resolution of the Government of Georgia N639. The Council ensures the involvement of all relevant responsible state agencies. The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia is the leading body in the process of implementation of the Rural Development Strategy and its Action Plan and heads the Coordination Council.

The state budget is the main source of funding for implementation of the Rural Development Strategy and Action Plan. However, to ensure effective implementation, the Strategy and Action Plan also include close cooperation with international partners, international donors and financial institutions to mobilize resources, as well as to receive technical assistance. In this regard, the cooperation with the EU is a top priority.

On July 18, 2017, the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia approved the methodology for monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan which, in turn, is based on the Decree No. 628 of the Government of Georgia, December 30, 2016. The methodology aims to evaluate programs of the Strategy Action Plan - not only the implementation of programs (obligations), as well as the results achieved through the implementation of programs.

On December 22, 2017, the Rural Development Coordination Council of Georgia adopted objective indicators and description form of objective indicators of Action Plan 2018-2020.

Programs / projects initiated by the state to facilitate rural development

United Agroproject - aimed at ensuring the primary processing/storage market cycle of agriculture with access to affordable financial resources, development of insurance in agro-sector, promotion of nursery farming and modern gardens of perennial crops, co-financing agriculture products processing and storage enterprises.

Within the framework of the "United Agroproject" special attention is paid to the introduction of international standards. All beneficiaries of the project of "co-financing of processing and storage enterprises" are obliged to introduce the ISO-22000 or HACCP international standard.

In order to improve the competitiveness of the farmers, with the active cooperation with international organizations, various extension programs are being implemented; the extension strategy is developed.

Programs focused on the development of agricultural cooperatives are being implemented.

In the frame of agriculture modernization, market access and flexibility (AMMAR) project, demonstration farms, equipped with modern technologies, are constructed and practical field trainings are arranged for farmers. Small grants are issued to farmers.

Programs are being implemented through which ameliorated area is increasing from year to year, irrigation and drainage systems are developing and improving. Step by step introduction of modern irrigation systems are underway.

Special attention is paid to the popularization of agro-food products in local and international markets. The strategic marketing plan for popularization of Georgian vine and wine has been developed - the plan aims to ensure Georgian wine competitiveness and to promote Georgian wine establishment on targeted markets that will raise awareness of Georgian wine on international markets and stimulate export flows.

Current programs:

- Preferential Agrocredit
- Agro insurance program
- "Plant the future"
- Co-financing of Agricultural Processing and Storage Enterprises
- Agricultural Modernization, Market Access and Flexibility Project
- "Georgian tea"
- Milk Producer Cooperative Support Program
- Program for Promoting Viticulture Agricultural Cooperatives
- Supporting Agricultural Cooperatives of Beekeeping
- Program of Rational Use of Pastures in Mountain Regions.

Programs developed in 2017

- State program for promoting viticulture agricultural cooperatives. The program was developed and launched in 2017.

The cooperatives, meeting criteria established by the program, are given the necessary equipment for the initial processing of 100 tons of grapes. A beneficiary shall ensure the building facility.

- State program of rational use of pastures in mountain regions. The program was developed and launched in 2017.

The program will facilitate the improvement of the economic condition and boost prosperity of the rural population. Within the program, the state-owned hay-pastures will be utilized rationally and efficiently. To this purpose, agricultural cooperatives that satisfy the criteria established by the program will be leased with grasslands and appropriate equipment - tractors, grass-cutters and other necessary equipment (plow, rotating and segmented grass cutter, rake, hay press, trailers, etc.) The program targets 21 high mountain municipalities. Currently 29 agricultural cooperatives are involved the state program.

Within the program the establishment of milk processing enterprise in Dusheti municipality, in Ukana Pshavi administration, is also planned.

- Mechanization and Agro-leasing sub-components were added to the Preferential Agrocredit program in 2017.

In 2017 these sub-components have been added to the Preferential Agrocredit PPE component, specifically: the mechanization sub-component entails preferential agro-credit to purchase agricultural machinery and/or machinery implements. The agro leasing sub-component, entails preferential leasing to finance the purchasing of agricultural machinery and/or machinery implements.

- The program to support young entrepreneurs in rural areas - "Young Entrepreneurs." The program was developed in 2017 and will be implemented in 2018.

The support program is intended for young people with Georgian citizenship who want to start/develop business activity. The aim of the program is, by promoting youth engagement in entrepreneurship through financial and technical support, to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty in the regions. The main objective is to develop private sector in regions, to encourage youth involvement in business and to invest in production-realization chain of agro products. 250 young entrepreneurs will be financed within 2 years, while the total budget is 9.5 million Lari.

The program envisages financing of agricultural and non-agricultural business directions. Share of non-agriculture business in the total financing portfolio should not exceed 20%.

- Greenhouse Cluster - The program was developed in 2017 and implementation will be launched in 2018.

The project, with state support, envisages creation of a greenhouse hub in the Imereti region. 100 million GEL investment is planned for implementation of the project.

The project aims to stimulate the efficient use of traditional export opportunities of Western Georgia, particularly greens and vegetable export and to promote access to new markets.

- Development of berry crops farming. The program was developed in 2017 and will be implemented in 2018.

Within the framework of the project, blueberry, raspberry and blackberry gardens will be established. The first stage of the project is scheduled to start in 2018. The project aims to promote the cultivation of perennial gardens of berry crops in Zemo Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti, Guria and partly Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions. In total, 850 hectares of new berry gardens are planned to be established. 7 million GEL will be allocated to provide co-financing in the first stage of the project;

Support implementation of LEADER approach – establishing Local Action Groups (LAGs) at municipal level

EU initiative - European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) – has been implemented since 2013 in Georgia. It is aimed at strengthening the rural development of Georgia and strengthening the agriculture sector, civil society and rural population. One of the priorities of the program is to promote LEADER approach. According to the LEADER principles, every village has special opportunities and challenges, which is best understood by the local population.

The LEADER Principle in the decision-making process focuses on the introduction of the "bottom-up" practice.

Based on the LEADER approach, the beneficiaries are directly engaged in developing proposals for the economic development and relevant fund allocation. To ensure this process, the LEADER approach envisages the establishment of so-called Local Action Groups (LAGs) at the municipal level.

LAG is a consultative group whose members are public servants, local community members, legal/private persons, farmers, entrepreneurs or any other interested person.

Within the framework of the ENPARD program, 8 LAGs were established in the following municipalities: Borjomi, Kazbegi, Lagodekhi, Akhalkalaki, Dedoplistskaro, Tetrtskaro, Keda and Khulo.

These groups utilize local resources, establish local development strategies, define priorities and needs, mobilize communities and develop their proposals for financing. International NGOs provide management, technical and financial support for LAGs.

Lagodekhi LAG, project implementation organization - CARE International Caucasus

During the reporting period, the grant competition was announced in two phases. In the first phase, 8 projects have been selected and financed. Within the second phase, 104 proposals were selected and 55 of them were approved for further consideration. At the final stage 44 proposals were approved. Projects were focused on agricultural commercial and non-commercial activities, social issues and social infrastructure development issues.

Within the framework of the grant competition announced in both phases, 31 projects were financed. The number of beneficiaries in the competition amounted to 8,216 individuals. In addition, 89 persons (49 males,

40 females, from there 6 males and 1 female represented national minorities, 4 males and 3 females – young people, 1 male – disabled person) have benefited from financing.

Kazbegi LAG, Project Implementation Organization - People in Need (PIN)

Within the framework of the announced grant competition 63 projects were financed and included the following areas – tourism, tourism and other services, agriculture, youth and sports issues. The number of beneficiaries of projects amounted to 3 480 direct beneficiaries and 17 577 indirect beneficiaries.

133 persons were employed (among them 77 male and 56 female, 42 of them young people (under 30 years). Seasonally (6-9 months) employed are 81 persons, permanently - 52 persons.

The trainings on developing proposals, attracting financing, maintaining financial accounting, as well as on food safety, EU regulations, communication, video recording, photography and other aspects were organized for LAG representatives.

Borjomi LAG, Project Implementation Organization - Mercy Corps

During the reporting period, the grant competition was announced in two phases. In the first phase of the project (2016), the Borjomi LAG have selected and successfully implemented 28 projects. Trainings were conducted on various issues, including the design proposal for applicants, information meetings with the grant competition winners and experts.

Tetritskaro LAG, Project Implementation Organization - Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG)

Tetritskaro LAG was established in August 2017. Currently, work on the development strategy of Tetritskaro Municipality is underway. Project Implementation Organization (RDFG) plans to announce in 2018.

Akhalkalaki LAG, Project Implementation Organization - Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)

Akhalkalaki LAG was established in June 2017. Basic research of the municipality was conducted, the main needs were identified, and the capacity development training was conducted based on LEADER approach, strategy planning and analysis. The thematic groups prepared 14 field profiles and SWOT analysis.

Dedoplistskaro LAG. Project Implementation Organization - HEKS/EPER Georgia

The development strategy of Dedoplistskaro Municipality has been developed. The grant competition was announced for project proposals.

Khulo LAG, Project Implementation Organization - CARITAS Czech Republic

111 people (86 men, 25 women, incl. 18 young people) have joined the Khulo LAG. The sectoral distribution of members is as follows: 24.1% private sector, 49.1% civil sector and 26.8% public sector.

The composition of the management group has been determined by 15 members from which 10 members have been selected by secret ballot. one representative of the City Hall, one of the Sakrebulo and 2 representatives of LAGs are represented in governing body. 99 members of the LAG (88.3% of the total number) participated in the governing body election.

Keda LAG. Project Implementation Organization – CENN

266 people have joined Kada LAG, 40% of them are women. The sectoral distribution of members is as follows: Public sector 36%, civil sector 14%, and private sector - 50%. Representatives of nine communities in Keda municipality are represented in the LAG. The Development Strategy of the Keda Municipality is in the process of development.

Extension Services

Information and consultation services of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia have been working in all municipalities of Georgia since 2013. The purpose of these services is to increase the farmers' knowledge of soil cultivation, agricultural crops harvesting, animal husbandry, modern agricultural technologies and techniques.

Information and consultation services provide timely information to farmers/peasants and all interested persons on the measures taken by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia for the support of agricultural development. They also provide high quality agricultural consultations (at the offices of services, group meetings, under field conditions, through the telephone, through the extension mobile vehicle), distribute thematic printed and video materials.

I. Mobile Extension Project

The Ministry of Agriculture has started implementation of the Mobile Extension Project in 2016. The project has been supervised by the Regional Coordination Department of the Ministry (established in 2017),

Field meetings were held in 300 villages of 54 municipalities, involving the representatives of scientific-research center of the Ministry and Information-Consultation Service Centers. Various Issues s were discussed, sharing qualified advice and recommendations.

II. Farmers boards

Farmers' advisory boards operate in all regional departments and information-consulting service centers of the Ministry of Agriculture. Successful local farmers and ICC staff are involved in the farmers boards. Farmers transmit their views to the regional board through their delegates, and also attend the regional Annual General Meeting, receive a report from the ICC management, approve the annual work.

III. Project to study specific problems in rural area

Within the scope of the project, staff of regional divisions and information-consulting centers have studied problems in agrarian sector in all municipal /administrative units and villages (in total 350). At the next stage, identification and classification of existing problems by regional, municipal and administrative levels is underway.

IV. Weekly price recording

Within the scope of this project, regional and informational-consultation center staff members are conducting monitoring of wholesale and retail prices of agricultural products in the local agricultural marketplaces. The monitoring results are sent to the Department of Policy and Analytics of the Ministry of Agriculture to analyze the price trends.

V. Providing monitors for municipal halls

Monitors have been installed in all Municipal Halls. The project was led by the Coordination department of the Ministry of Agriculture. The monitors are used to provide visual information referred to weekly wholesale/retail prices on agricultural products, as well as information on modern technologies, state programs, local and export markets for specific agricultural products.

VI. Staff online evaluation program

Within the framework of the USAID project "developing Extension and Consulting Services in Georgia", in cooperation with Agrarian University of Georgia and Scientific Research Center of Agriculture, a software has been developed, based on which the professional skills level of all information-consulting centers staff can be evaluated online. The main goal of this program is to create a professional assessment and development mechanism for state extension staff.

VII. Online database project

2012-2017 statistical unified online database have been developed, led by Regional Coordination Department of the Ministry, other regional divisions and ICCs

VII. Provision and dissemination of printed and video materials

Information and extension packages are prepared and delivered to the Regional Divisions and ICCs. Further, materials are handed to farmers and all interested legal / natural persons.

IX. Education and training

Employees of Regional Divisions of the ministry and Information-Consulting centers regularly undergo various training courses on modern technologies, supporting sector development and adopted approaches. The donor organizations, as well as local and international NGOs (UNDP, FAO, USAID-REAP, GIZ, CARE, MercyCorp, "Elkana") provide assistance to facilitate the process. In 2017, all the staff of ICCs attended up 200 trainings on 15 thematic issues both in Georgia and abroad.

X. Elaboration and approval of agricultural extension strategy and action plan

In 2017 the Agricultural Extension Strategy document has been approved. The Strategy addresses to overcome those problems farmers are faced in the process of getting knowledge. These problems hinder competitive development of the agri-food sector.

The goal of the Strategy is to transform existing information-consulting network into a extension system focused on farmers' real requirements in Georgia. The main challenge of the state extension system is to ensure agricultural sector competitiveness, through dissemination of knowledge.

XI. Full Internet provision and unified case management system for information-consulting service network

The full internet connection provision of the Ministry Regional Divisions and Information-Consulting service units Almost fully completed. Therefore, all services will be involved in the unified case management system. The introduction of the novelty Facilitated more efficient functioning of the services within the Ministry and subsidiaries.

Professional education and trainings

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, in cooperation with UNDP and the Swiss Development Agency, has been implementing the project "Modernization of Vocational Education and Retraining Consulting Services Systems in Agricultural Sector of Georgia". The project envisages establishing profession standards in agriculture, piloting modular programs with job-based learning. Within the framework of the project, the Ministry of Agriculture has actively cooperated to promote extension system development. The target regions of the project were Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Samtskhe-Javakheti.

Within the framework of the same cooperation, a new project is planned to be implemented in 2018, which provides significant support for implementation of pilot projects under the National Strategy of Extension in Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti Region.

Training center

At the end of 2017 the Training Center was established facilitated by Agricultural Projects Management Agency of

The Training Center is aimed to provide training for the staff of the subsidiaries of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, upon request of the Ministry headquarters; provision of trainings for state programs and projects beneficiaries

In 2017, the following training courses were conducted at the Training Center:

- Development of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and development of agricultural trade opportunities in Georgia, 7-9 June 2017, number of participants - 25
- Development of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in Georgia and promotion of agricultural trade, 5-7 September 2017, number of participants - 25
- Development of internal rules and procedures on agriculture within the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement, number of participants - 21
- National Training Seminar on Trading Rules and Access to Market for Georgian Production Agro Products, 5-7 December 2017 (Number of Participants - 20)
- Project Management Issues for Heads of the Upper and Middle Ranges, 22-27 December 2017, Number of Participants -16.

Raising awareness of sustainable development of agriculture

Program on raising awareness of sustainable development have been adopted by the Order N2-189 of October 19, 2017. The program covers 2017-2018 and includes the following activities: collecting of materials concerning sustainable agricultural development, publication of materials in the Ministry of Agriculture's monthly newspaper - "Our Village", introducing radio and television programs, elaborating training plans, reference materials and dissemination plans, demonstration of practical activities on exhibition farming areas.

According to program, the first stage consisted of coordination of collecting thematic materials about supporting sustainable development of agriculture. The printed materials present of various modern agricultural technologies, plant and animal diseases and their combat/prevention methods, information about ongoing projects and programs of the Ministry and etc. In the reporting period, a variety of brochures of up to 80 subject areas were printed and distributed. About 15 thematic trainings were conducted for the staff of regional divisions and Information Consultancy Centers.

Through the mobile extension system, 500 farmers and other interested persons were trained in 9 villages of Guria region addressing subtropical cultures and their maintenance. In Zugdidi and Senaki, about 200 farmers have been trained focusing on hazelnut diseases. Up to 50 farmers in Gori Municipality have been trained in the development of the methods of cultivating and cultivating grained crops, certification of seed and planting material, inspection, legislation, field of life and agriculture in the region. In the framework of a joint project "Greenhouse Vegetable Production" with the Chinese company "Hunan Agriculture Group", 35 farmers were trained in Rustavi and Marneuli. A conference on "Racha-Lechkhumi Viticulture – Wine-making Traditions and Development Perspectives" was held in Ambrolauri Municipality where about 70 farmers were consulted.

In order to raise the farmers and other stakeholders' awareness on the importance of access to innovative technologies, as well as about the significance of sustainable development of agriculture, targeted materials are regularly published in the monthly newsletter of the Ministry - "Our Village". In the reporting period, the information about modern agro techniques of kiwi, hoard, bay and berry crops have been published.

Discussions about Access to innovative technologies and sustainable development of agriculture, has been gradually implemented in various TV and radio thematic programs.

In the framework of Agricultural Modernization, Market Access and Flexibility Project (AMMAR) implemented by IFAD and Global Environmental Fund (GEF), training materials were prepared in 2017 about the following themes: "Peach Cultivation and Care", "Biomass", "bay crop", "apple cultivation and care", "seed rotation", "kiwi", "Economic Problems of Agriculture Sector of Georgia", "Farming Systems", "Soil Maintenance", "Soil Erosion Issues", "Pest Control", "Value Chain", "Subtropical Persimmon production Technologies", "Integrated methods for pest control", "soil mulching", "irrigation methods", "organic fertilizers and its efficient use", "fertilizer use and environmental problems". The target groups of these trainings were representatives of local authorities, farmers, representatives of local agribusiness and others. In total, 50 trainers and 1,149 farmers were trained.

Within the framework of FAO project "Development of Capacity of Ministry of Agriculture", the best agricultural practices have been developed on five agricultural crops - apple, persimmon, tangerine, nuts and peaches. Five demonstration areas were established and practical trainings were conducted, educational videos were introduced, 2,000 agricultural practices manuals were distributed, 50 farmers undertook detailed training and about 14,000 interested individuals got acquainted with video materials.

Market information system

Availability of agricultural market information system promotes the competitiveness of farmers, entrepreneurs and exporters.

Since 2015, information on weekly market prices for agricultural products is collected by the employees of Information & Consultation Centres of the territorial agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture

Within the framework of the projects introduced by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD), the methodology of price collection was developed and respective trainings were conducted; A special software was developed for the purpose of creation of a unified data system.

The dissemination of weekly updated information on the market and wholesale prices of agricultural products is carried out through the monitors installed in the municipal halls. In 2017 a special software was developed, in order to place information about agricultural products' prices on the website. Through the website, the information on prices of agricultural products became even more accessible.



Crop harvest forecasting

Economic analysis of supply and demand of food products is one of the most important topics in the elaboration of agricultural sector development policy. For such analysis, availability to timely and reliable data on the yield of agricultural crops in the country is necessary.

In view of the above, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), together with Georgian experts and agricultural specialists, is carrying out studies on yield forecasting. The research is conducted within four-year project "Georgian Agriculture Policy Initiative" and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project includes forecasting the yield of the following crops: maize, wheat, apple and tangerine.

In 2017, the sampling of maize, wheat, apple and tangerines were conducted to predict the productivity; Field work was carried out in the case of maize - Imereti, Guria, Kakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions, - In case of wheat - Kakheti and Shida Kartli regions; - in case of apples - Shida Kartli region; - in case of tangerine - Adjara region.

In 2017, Kakheti's (Lagodekhi and Dedoplistskaro municipalities), Shida Kartli's (Kareli municipality), Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti's (Zugdidi municipality), Imereti's (Samtredia municipality) and Guria's (Ozurgeti municipality) Regional Information Consulting Centers were equipped by required laboratory equipment.

The software for four (maize, wheat, apple, tangerine) target crops was updated. Data was recorded, processed and analyzed. The dissemination of information about yields of maize, wheat, apple and tangerine is carried out through the website of the Ministry.

Sectoral development

In order to facilitate sectoral development, important activities are undertaken, including:

- According Ministerial orders measures to upgrade analytical documents in the field of: of production of cattle, biofuels, maize, berries, breeding, fisheries, fisheries, pesticides, poultry, beekeeping, pigeons, herbs, sugar beet production
- Assessment of livestock farms in the municipalities of Ozurgeti (Guria), Dedoplistskaro and Akhmeta (Kakheti) and inspection of farms in all municipalities of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara;
- Evaluation of the problem of low productivity in Georgia and the role of artificial fertilization in its elevation;
- Preparing proposals for rational use of pastures;
- According USDA project, yield forecast methodology for corn, wheat, apple, citrus fruits have been introduced;

Assessment of technological processes for Cultures, almonds, plums, truffles, walnut, hives, cultivation / care; Economic assessment of technological processes of agricultural techniques;

- Assessment of technological processes of cattle breeding;
- analyzing information on unproductive areas in Georgia.
- Along with specialists of the Belarusian factory "GSMSELMASH", the technical documentation and work drawings of the modernized potato harvester have been prepared. production test is planned for potato harvest in 2018;
- Analyzing information on high-tech fruit and vegetable storage refrigerated warehouses in the country;

- Works are underway to set up the "Fish Cadaster of Georgia" and the System of Accumulation of Information;
- Meetings and consultations with Georgian and foreign investors / stakeholders;
- Works for improvement of the legal base of the fish industry;
- Works for fisheries training, extension of farmers' and knowledge-raising programs and preparation of appropriate manuals;
- Works for fisheries entrepreneurs to develop a road map for aquaculture production development.
- Notes and proposals have been prepared to create a manual on agricultural practices of apple, tangerine, pea, peach and nectarine within the frame of EU funding FAO project "Capacity Building of the Ministry of Agriculture".

Other activities

- In order to Develop food quality schemes, product promotion and branding targeted approaches, to implement efficient marketing plan, to transfer the best international practices to provide relevant legal/institutional base, to promote Georgian produced food (according to the quality sign), to increase consumer awareness, the marketing council has been established. The rule for granting the right to use the quality marks is in the process of elaboration, by which granting procedures of "protected geographical indication", "protected appellation of origin" "Traditional Product", "Georgian Quality", "Grass fed", "Handmade", "fed in the forest" and other marks, as well as the use of logos/labels will be determined;
- Within the frames of the Food and Agriculture Organization and European Agriculture and Rural Development Neighborhood Program, the project of "Supporting Sustainable Value Chain in the Dairy Sector Through Geographical Indications Development" is ongoing, to ensure "the Legal and Institutional Provision for Geographical Indications, including the description of the certification and control system" (review of the documents and proposals preparation);
- Within the scope of the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture, the report on the implementation of CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear) Activities has been introduced, under the 2017 National Action Plan to implement the EU Association Agreement Agenda;
- Action Plan referred to African Swine fever has been introduced;
- Special activities accomplished to increase awareness of African Swine fever, involving various authority bodies (Ambrolauri, Oni, Gurjaani, Kvareli, Telavi, Sagarejo, Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri, Lanchkhuti, Autonomous Republic of Adjara);
- Trainings were conducted for different target groups on topical issues of agrarian sector.

EU integration

The 2017 National Action Plan for implementation of the agreement and association agenda with the European Union was fully fulfilled.

The legislative approximation program envisaged in the Agreement on Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) was also fully enacted. In particular, the Georgian legislation in the food safety, veterinary and plant protection areas is linked with the 19 European Union Act.

In June 2017, the European Union brought Georgia to the list of third countries from where export of Black Sea fish and fish products to the EU could be possible. Georgia is also allowed to export the local processed animal leather to the EU.



The Minister of Agriculture of Armenia visiting Georgia



The Minister of Agriculture of Armenia visiting Georgia



German official delegation visiting Georgia



Iranian delegation visiting Georgia



Macedonian delegation visiting Georgia



Italian delegation visiting Georgia



The Mayor of Valka (Latvia) visiting Georgia



Austrian delegation visiting Georgia



Meeting with Jeremy Tesanti - Director of Distillerie Tes-sendier & Fils, one of the largest producers of cognac in France



Turkish International Technical Advisory Business Council delegation visiting Georgia



Israeli delegation visiting Georgia



Meeting with Japanese trading company "Agri" president, Tetsuya Sakamoto



Meeting with French Cooperative "AXEREA" representatives Manager, Jean-François Berger Sakomoto

International visits and meetings

In 2017, for the purpose of diversification of agricultural products markets, the investment potential of the agricultural sector and sharing the experience of other countries in fulfillment of obligations under the Association Agreement with the European Union MEPA officials were holding meetings with the foreign colleagues in Georgia as well as in official visits to other countries.

Visit to Georgia:

- Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia, Ignati Arakeliani

Minister of Agriculture of Georgia Levan Davitashvili met with the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia Ignaty Arakeliani, who was on his first official visit to Georgia.

- State Secretary of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany, Peter Blesser

First Deputy Minister of Agriculture Nodar Kereselidze met with Secretary of State of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany Peter Blazer and members of the official delegation. The sides discussed the issues of cooperation between the two countries. The business forum was also held within the visit.

- Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Rabbi

The Minister of Agriculture, Levan Davitashvili and the Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Rabbi discussed cooperation and investments between Georgia and the Republic of Iran.

- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources, Lupcho Nicholovsky

Minister of Agriculture of Georgia Levan Davitashvili held a meeting with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Minister Lupcho Nikolovski. At the meeting, the parties discussed issues of reforms and sectoral development in the two countries.

- State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia, Alas Cantarut

Minister of Agriculture Levan Davitashvili met with the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technologies of the Republic of Slovenia Aleas Kantarut. Levan Davitashvili informed the delegation members about the government's vision and current state of the agrarian sector in Georgia

- Deputy Minister of Economic Development of Italy, Jan Scalparat

The Minister of Agriculture of Georgia, Levan Davitashvili informed the Deputy Minister of Economic Development of Italy, Jan Scharlot about the current situation in agriculture, including achievements and challenges. It is noteworthy that the Georgian-Italian business forum was held in the framework of the visit of Italian Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Italian businessmen to Georgia.

- Valka Mayor (Republic of Latvia), Vent Armandas Krakli

Minister of Agriculture Levan Davitashvili met with the Valka Mayor from the Republic of Latvia Ventz Armandas Kruklis. At the meeting, the parties discussed issues of enhancement of export of alcoholic beverages, including wine, and other agricultural products in Latvia.

- Director General of Cooperation Development Department of the Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Austria, Peter Launsky Tiefertal

Minister of Agriculture Levan Davitashvili met with Director General of the Cooperation Development Department of the Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Austria, Peter Launsky Tiefertal

- Director of Distillerie Tes-sendier & Fils, one of the largest producers of cognac in France, Jeremy Tesanti

The Minister of Agriculture of Georgia Levan Davitashvili met with French Ambassador to Georgia Pascal Meny and Director of Distillerie Tessendier & Fils, one of the largest producers of cognac in France, Jeremy Tesanide.

- Members of the Turkish International Technical Advisory Business Council Delegation

First Deputy Minister of Agriculture Nodar Kereselidze met with members of the delegation of Turkey's international technical advisory business council. The delegation was headed by Director General of the Free Zone, Foreign Investments and Services Department of Turkish Economy, Ugur Ozturk. At the meeting, the First Deputy Minister discussed the importance of the diversification of markets and the results achieved in the direction of export potential products (nuts, wine, live cattle, meat, water).

- Japanese trading company "Agri" president, Tetsuya Sakomoto

The Minister of Agriculture of Georgia, Levan Davitashvili discussed the growing tendency of export of Georgian Kiwi to Japan at the meeting with Konstantin Vekua, co-founder of Japanese wine company "Agri" Tetsuya Sakomoto and co-founder of Georgian Kiwi producing company "Nergeta".

- French Cooperative "AXEREAL" Agrarian Development Manager, Jean-François Berger

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Giorgi Khanishvili met with the French Cooperative "AXE-REAL" Agrarian Development Manager Jean-François Berger. At the meeting, the parties discussed the possibilities of development of seed production in Georgia and development of biofuels in poultry farming.

MEPA officials visits abroad:

- Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin

The Minister of Agriculture of Georgia, Levan Davitashvili, hosted the ministers of Agriculture, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Moldova and Armenia at the Georgian stand in the Food, Agriculture and Gardening Exhibition "Grüne Woche 2017".

At the exhibition, 17 Georgian companies were represented, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia. The Minister of Agriculture of Georgia, Levan Davitashvili at the meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Germany, Christopher Schmidt, noted that the EU and the experience of the Federal Republic of Denmark in cooperation with the Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA) Adult is important.

The Global Forum of Food and Agriculture was held in Berlin, within the framework of the "Green Week" International Exhibition, which was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Levan Davitashvili. At the end of the forum, the participants adopted a communiqué concerning the effective and sustainable development of agriculture.

- United Arab Emirates, Dubai

Minister of Agriculture Levan Davitashvili attended the opening of the "Gulffood 2017" in Dubai, where the 13 Georgian companies presented Georgian products. Georgian stand was represented by the international consulting company Channel Georgia FZC, which is based in the United Arab Emirates and its main activity is to advocate the business community and introduce the investment potential of Georgia in tourism, agriculture, energy, construction industry and other areas. Levan Davitashvili hosted the Deputy Minister of Economy of Dubai and his Highness Abdul Ahmad on the Georgian stand.

- Saudi Arabia

The delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, headed by Levan Davitashvili, paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia.

Minister of Agriculture, Water and Agriculture, Abdul Rahman Abdul Mohansh Al-Fadi, Minister of Agriculture, Levan Davitashvili spoke about the cooperation - economic relations between the two countries. Levan Davitashvili provided his colleague with the information on the reforms carried out in the agricultural sector of Georgia and focused on the establishment of free trade regimes in the region, which allows Georgia to be a regional hub and promote the improvement of the turnover of agricultural products. At the meeting, Saudi Arabia was interested in importing live animals from Georgia, as well as meat, dry fruit, honey and drinking water.

- Republic of Turkey Istanbul

The Minister of Agriculture of Georgia Levan Davitashvili delivered a speech at the Ministerial of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) held in Istanbul, Turkey. The main topic of the Ministerial was development of agriculture and deepening economic cooperation between member states. The Member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation have adopted a common declaration at the Istanbul Summit, which will further encourage trade relations between the Black Sea countries, eliminate barriers in agriculture and cooperate in sharing experience.

Minister of Agriculture of Georgia held bilateral meetings with the colleagues within the framework of the Ministerial. Levan Davitashvili hosted the Turkish counterpart Faruk Chelx at the Georgian corner of the exhibition space where Georgian products were presented. It is noteworthy that the Turkish side expressed its readiness to support the export of Georgian products to the Turkish market.



- The Republic of France, Bordeaux

Minister of Agriculture Levan Davitashvili attended the opening of the Wine Expo "Vinexpo Bordeaux 2017". In Bordeaux the year 2017 has been declared as the year of Georgia as a country of ancient wine traditions. With the support of LEPL National Wine Agency, 24 Georgian wine producer companies have presented their products at the exhibition.

Minister of Agriculture Levan Davitashvili attended the Georgian wine tasting held in the frames of the exhibition "Georgia - Wine Homeland". In the frames of the Bordeaux exhibition, Citadelles Du Vin four wines received various awards, including one of the highest prizes, one gold medal, two Silver medals.

- People's Republic of China

The Minister of Agriculture of Georgia, Levan Davitashvili opened the Georgian wine museum "Window to Georgia" at Yus Center, Tsejiang Province of the People's Republic of China. The opening of similar Georgian wine museums is planned in the cities of China - Shanghai and Beijing.

- Hungary

The delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, led by Deputy Minister, Revaz Asatiani, paid a visit to Hungary. Within the visit, delegation members discussed issues related to food security and food losses with United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO experts delivered presentations on Georgian food safety, availability and safety and introduced challenges and modern approaches in the field of food.

Within the visit to Hungary, members of the Georgian delegation held meetings with the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office, as well as the representatives of the Ministry.

- Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku

Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Georgia Giorgi Chkheidze attended the opening ceremony of the international exhibition "Caspian Agro 2017" in Baku, Azerbaijan. 11 Georgian products were presented at the Georgian stand. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva and Minister of Agriculture of Azerbaijan Heidar Asadov visited the Georgian stand.

International agreements

In 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia signed two agreements with the aim of developing cooperation at the international level in the field of agriculture:

- On March 22, 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of agriculture;
- On May 4, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and the United States Disease Control and Prevention Center.

Georgian agricultural products promotion

With the support of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, Georgian wine and other products are popularized and exhibited both on local and international markets.

In 2017, the exhibition / tasting of Georgian agricultural products was arranged for such important events as:

- The largest and most prestigious international exhibition of Food, Agriculture and Gardening "Green Week 2017" (Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin);
- United Arab Emirates, City Dubai, Agro-exhibition "Gulfood 2017" (GULFOOD 2017). With the support of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, the Agency "Produce in Georgia" and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID / REAP), the enterprises established by the state supported the Georgian agro products in the exhibition for the first time in 2017;
- In the frames of the spring session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Georgia hosted cultural events; Exhibition / tasting of Georgian agro products was held (France, Strasbourg);
- World Food Azerbaijan / Caspian Agro 2017 (Azerbaijan Republic, Baku), Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, visited the Georgian Agro Industry International Exhibition;
- International exhibition "Belagro 2017" (Belarus, Minski), represented Georgian companies; The official delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia was present at the exhibition;



Tbilisi, Tea Festival Tbilisi, Cheese Festival



Tbilisi, Tea Festival Tbilisi, Cheese Festival



Tbilisi 26 May



Baku (Azerbaijan) „World Food Azerbaijan/Caspian Agro 2017“



Berlin, Germany
Green Week 2017



Dubai, GULFOOD 2017



Tbilisi, Tea Festival

- Riga Food 2017 (Republic of Latvia, Riga), Georgian Corner President of the Republic of Latvia, Raymonds Weyon and Minister of Agriculture Jani Duklavs visited the Agro Industry International Exhibition "Riga Food 2017". For the successful participation in the exhibition, Georgian stands have been awarded with certificates. Georgian companies took part in the competition organized in the exhibition (packaging / branding competition); Some of them were rewarded;
- Tea International Festival named "Tbilisi Tea Festival" was held in Mtatsminda Park in Tbilisi. Georgian and international tea producing companies have been participating in the festival. Tbilisi Tea Festival was organized by Mtatsminda Park and Georgian tea producers association and supported by the Ministry of Agriculture;
- May 26 - In the frames of the Independence Day of Georgia, the Ministry of Agriculture presented the stand in Tbilisi Rustaveli Avenue, as well as in the city of Mtskheta, introducing products produced by the agricultural enterprises financed within the state projects;
- Cheese Festival 2017 (Tbilisi Square, Rose Square). The festival is organized annually by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia and the Cheese Producers Guild of Georgia. The cheese festival serves to popularize Georgian cheese and restore the lost species for centuries. About 50 companies and the agricultural cooperative (from all regions of Georgia) have presented their products at the festival. In 2017, cheese production masters introduced the method of cheese harvesting, as well as the process of producing various types of cheese. Within the event, Georgian wine and honey producing companies presented their products.

International and donor organizations

In October 2017, organized by the Department of International Relations, the third meeting of the Coordination Council of Donors was held, where the main topic was to identify measures to be carried out in Georgia, including against Asian stink bug. Within the framework of the meeting, representatives of international organizations/donors have been presented with all information referred to the Ministry needs.

Within the frames of technical assistance projects of donor organizations, staff qualification, training courses and workshops plans are introduced.

In 2016, the ENPARD II Agreement was signed by the European Neighborhood Program for Rural Development, which envisages investing of additional 50 million euros for financing rural development initiatives. Within the ENPARD II, pilot projects have already been launched in Lagodekhi, Kazbegi, Borjomi, Keda, Khulo, Tianeti Dedoplistskaro and Tetrtskaro municipalities. The local Action Groups have been established in these municipalities, which include the representatives of the municipality, private sector and local community. These groups are actively involved in determining local needs and implementing planned activities aimed at elaborating new projects, initiatives and programs in rural areas involving local population.

The ENPARD III Agreement was signed by the European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development in 2017, which envisages investing of additional 77.5 million euros for financing rural development initiatives. The main goal of the program is improved competitiveness and rural development

With the co-ordination of the Ministry and the active cooperation and support of international and donor organizations, on December 25, 2017, by order of the Minister, the Agricultural Extension Strategy for 2018-2019 was approved.

In 2017, the Czech Agricultural Research Supervision and Research Institute (ÚKZÚZ) launched a 4-year project aimed at strengthening capacity of the National Food Agency's Plant Protection Department with a budget of \$ 1,000,000; While in the field of veterinary, 3-year project is being carried out in Georgia to strengthen facilities for zoonotic infections identification.

In 2017, Asian Stink bug fight Action Plan was revealed.

Implemented Activities:

In 2017, the Memorandum of Understanding on establishing "National phytosanitary control system in Georgia" has been signed by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Czech Development Agency and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Within the framework of document, plant health monitoring and identification system will be developed and implemented, EU standards and methods for laboratory phytosanitary analysis and regulation for pesticides and fertilizers will be implemented.

Besides, since 2012, several projects have been funded and supported by the following international organizations to support the development of agrarian sector:

- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO)
- Agriculture and Rural Development European Neighborhood Program (ENPARD)
- Comprehensive Institutional Development Program (CIB Program)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID / ZRDA).

■ Project "Growth"

Start date and end date: March 2016 - March 2021

Project Budget: 14,747,479 USD

Project review:

In 2016, the Memorandum was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) project "Growth", which envisages development of small and medium-sized farms, creation of jobs and increased income in rural areas.

"Growth" is a five-year program aimed at economic growth with small and medium-sized farms in border villages. Within the project, farmers will be provided with grants, training programs and technical assistance.

The "growth" program, carried out by the Human Resources Development, which provides agriculture and other sectors in the production of new and improved technologies to access. The program provides technical assistance and practical course. Improved agricultural production methods and the use of technology, increase productivity, while the market demanded professions matching skills will contribute to the diversification of sources of income for families in rural areas and increase their employment opportunities.

The main activities of the program include development of small and medium enterprises in the priority sectors such as fruits/berries production, vegetable production, beekeeping, tourism and service provision (including information technologies). Universal support of entrepreneurship and new enterprises will facilitate the multilateral opportunities for vulnerable families.

■ United States Agency for International Development (USAID / REAP) – project of Restoring Efficiency to Agriculture Production

Start date and end date: September 2013 - September 2018

Project Budget: 19.5 million USD

Project review:

The USAID Restoring Efficiency to Agriculture Production (REAP) is an integrated enterprise development program designed to identify promising entrepreneurs and promote increased investment. FSC/MSCs, primary producers, information and support service providers, post-harvest facilities, and processing enterprises are target categories for REAP investment through its competitive grants program that provides funding equal to a maximum of 30% of the total project value.

REAP envisages to support the above investment with improved business and technical skills to assist REAP's grant recipients to compete both locally and internationally.

Project components: grant component and technical assistance component

Project Mission:

Increase competitiveness of Georgia's agricultural sector; Increase incomes of farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs and creation of new jobs through financial and technical assistance.

Expected outcome:

Farmers' services and mechanization centers, primary producers, services / information suppliers, processing and packaging enterprises, including 15% women entrepreneurs will receive 6 million USD grants. Within the co-financing, the private sector will attract 14 million dollars.

■ **US Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Animal Health Program**

Start and end dates: 2008 - The date of completion is not specified

Project Budget: 345,000 USD per year

Project review:

The National Animal Health Program provides for continuous improvement of animal health and well-being, which meets the needs of all stakeholders, promotes safe food production, improves public health and sustains agricultural sustainability.

The main goal of the program is to support the development of private veterinary sector. The main goal of the program is to develop a private veterinary sector in the regions, which is one of the six strategic tasks of the National Animal Health Program.

Six strategic tasks:

- Stimulated and strong private veterinary sector;
- Veterinary service provider, professional, competent work force;
- Accessibility of appropriate infrastructure including slaughterhouses;

Identified and tracked animals in the farm;

- Effective system of diseases control;
- Long-term plans for elimination / control of diseases, which include the surveillance strategy and alternative control Plan.

An important result of the National Animal Health Program is the formation of veterinary regional associations that have united more than 200 private veterinary doctors.

The agricultural statistics development project is also being implemented with the financing of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

■ **The ADA / SDC is supported by the Austrian Development Agency and the Swiss Development Agency, with several projects, including support for the implementation of animal identification, registration and traceability systems.**

Start date and end date: December 2016 - November 2020

Project Budget: 5,410,750 USD

Project review:

The main goal of the project is to establish an EU standard compliant animal identification, registration and traceability system in Georgia, resulting in improving food safety and animal health in the country and promoting exports of live animals and animal products to the international and regional markets

- **World Bank (WB) - Georgia's Irrigation and Land Market Development Project**

Start date and end date: March 2014 - March 2019

Project Budget: \$ 50 million

Program Review:

The goal of the project is to improve the delivery of irrigation services in selected areas. Within the framework of the project 26 thousand hectares of agricultural land will be ameliorated for 31 000 farmers.

The first component - development of irrigation and drainage systems.

Rehabilitation of irrigation systems and institutional support for the melioration of Georgia is planned within the project.

In the first phase, three irrigation units will be rehabilitated: Kvemo Samgori, Upper Ruisi and Tbsi-Kumisi irrigation systems.

The international tender was announced to accomplish relevant works.

Within the framework of the project, the Strategy for Irrigation Development was prepared.

- **International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Agricultural Modernization, Market Access and Sustainability Project (AMMAR)**

Start date and end date: April 2015 - April 2019

Project Budget: \$ 19 million (5.8 million in grants)

Program Review:

The main objective of the project is to promote investments in the development of adaptable agricultural value chain, which will increase farmers' incomes and facilitate small farmers.

The project envisages improvement of the existing infrastructure of agriculture, which mainly means rehabilitation of irrigation / drainage systems in Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti, Imereti, Racha and Adjara regions.

The project also provides grants for small farmers and farmers groups. Within the framework of the project, max grant amount is defined as: 1,500 USD for the farmer, and for the farmers group - 15,000 USD.

Other important partners:

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);
- Care International, Mercy Corps, People in Need, Oxfam UK (OXFAM GB);
- German International Cooperation Society (GIZ);
- German Development Bank (KFW);
- AFD - French Development Agency;
- Caucasian Environmental NGO Network (CENN).



Social Support

- Employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and its subordinated agencies transfer the certain sum to the Solidarity Fund on a monthly basis. This Fund was set up in 2014 under the resolution adopted by the Government of Georgia. The purpose of the Fund is to provide the assistance to the children suffering from severe diseases or children with disabilities and their families;
- The Ministry of Agriculture has been intensely collaborating with Tbilisi Blood Transfusion Center. Employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and its subordinated agencies have been involved in disinterested blood donation.

Infrastructure projects

- With the support of donor organizations, in 2017, 3 veterinary surveillance stations (biosafety point) were established and launched on the seasonal animal migration roots in the Kakheti region (Signaghi, Dedoplistskaro and Telavi municipalities). There are 5 biosafety stations in the country (3 Kakheti (Signaghi, Dedoplistskaro and Telavi municipalities) and 2 Kvemo Kartli (Rustavi and Marneuli municipalities).

Completed in 2017:

- Repair works of beekeeping breeding plant in the village of Mukhuri (Chkhorotsku municipality) equipped with modern laboratory and other necessary equipment;
- equipped the certification and standards laboratory of seeds and planting materials in Tsilkani village (Mtskheta municipality);
- The first phase of the Georgia-China Technical Cooperation project in the village of Shulaveri (Marneuli municipality), within which the scientific-research center has been given 32 greenhouses.

Ongoing projects:

- Construction works of cattle breeding station are underway in the village of Gantiadi (Dmanisi municipality). Quality studies will be carried out in order to restore local genetic pool at the Seeking-Breeding Station;
- The last phase of repair and rehabilitation works for restoration of soil and food diagnostic center is underway in Anaureli (Ozurgeti municipality).

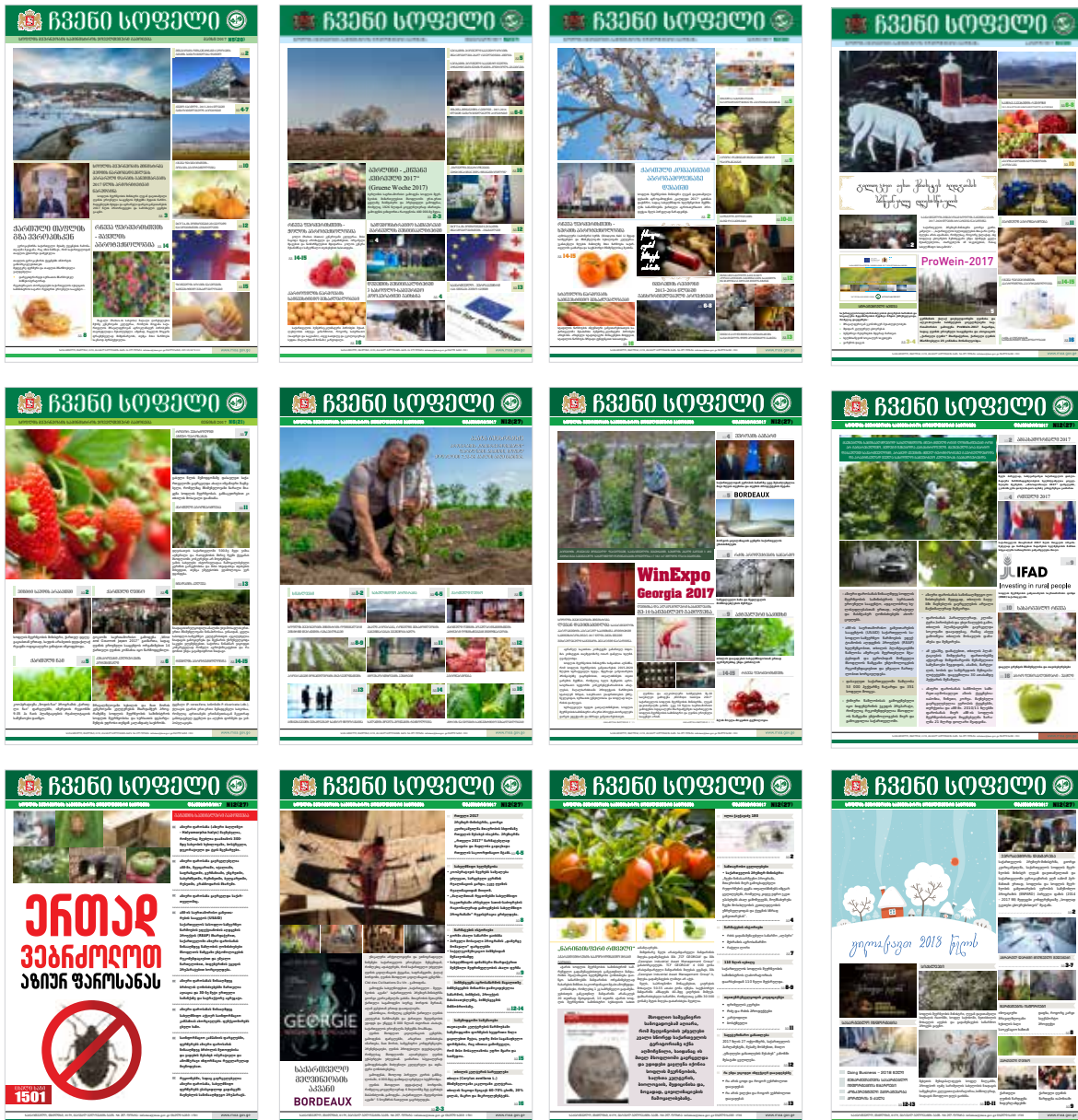
Newspaper “Chveni Sopeli” (Our Village)

Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia ensures the timely publication of the newspaper “Chveni Sopeli” from 2015.

The newspaper includes information on planned agricultural projects, support measures, agricultural news, advice for agricultural entrepreneurs, farmers, peasants and interested persons, legislative initiatives in agrarian sector, interviews taken from the heads of the Ministry, reports on the work done by the Ministry and its subordinated agencies and etc.

In 2017, Ministry of Agriculture published 12 issues of the newspaper.

From the beginning until 2017, 27 newspapers were published in all.



Legislative activities

According to the DCFTA, Georgian legislation addressing sanitary and phytosanitary shall be approximated to relevant EU legislation. Consequently, after enactment of the DCFTA, the Georgian party has submitted a list of the regulations and guidelines in order to facilitate legislation approximation process.

Due to the above mentioned and for the purpose of improving the legal base regulating agriculture:

The draft law of Georgia was prepared:

1. Law of Georgia on Approval and Methodology for Distribution of Agricultural Cultivation Varieties Subject to Compulsory Certification N1646- RS 07/12/2017;
2. Law of Georgia on Vine and Wine "On Changes to the Law of Georgia on Vine and Wine" N972-II's 15/06/2017;
3. Law of Georgia on Vine and Wine "On Changes to the Law of Georgia on Vine and Wine" N1642-RS 07/12/2017;
4. Law of Georgia on Amendment to the Code of Administrative Violation of Law No. 1755-I 15/12/2017;
5. Law of Georgia on Amendment to the Code of Administrative Violation of Law 973-II's 15/06/2017.

Also prepared:

- ✓ 61 Resolution of the Government of Georgia
- ✓ 47 orders of the Government of Georgia
- ✓ 14 ministerial secondary legislation documents of the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia
- ✓ 53 ministerial decrees

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