



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

JANUARY/2021

Launching of the VCA4D Study on Freshwater Aquaculture in Georgia



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) and the EU Delegation to Georgia organized the launching of a value chain analysis on freshwater aquaculture. This study will be performed in the framework of the Value Chain Analysis for Development Project (VCA4D).

Both MEPA and the EU are keen to boost their cooperation on freshwater

aquaculture, as a new strategy and actions are foreseen to its support, with the view of expanding its sustainable growth. The virtual kick off allowed to introduce the VCA4D team of experts to the relevant national institutions and the EU.

The meeting was opened by Ms Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, by Mr Georges Dehoux, from the EU Delegation to Georgia and by Mr Matthew Brooke from the European Commission. During the kick-off meeting, the actors shared their knowledge on the status of the value chain (VC) and on the challenges ahead and discussed on the specific questions and information needed, and on building a platform to collaborate throughout the entire process of the study. The parties underlined the importance of aquaculture and noted the steps already taken and planned by Georgia in this direction, including the Law of Georgia on Aquaculture, which was approved by the Parliament of Georgia in 2020. In addition, it was noted that the Ministry is developing by-laws. It is also planned to develop a strategic document in the field of aquaculture and create a basis for attracting investment. The Deputy Minister thanked the EU for its support over the years and expressed hope that fruitful cooperation would be continued in the future.

Georgia has a high availability of freshwaters, which represent an opportunity for the aquaculture sector, offering options for diversification and local value chain development, in particular for smallholder farmers and cooperatives. Georgia still being a net fish importer, an increase in aquaculture production would be positive for its food security. Moreover, the EU-Georgia Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) provides new export opportunities for aquaculture products.

The kick-off meeting marked the beginning of the VCA4D process. The next steps will be the missions of the VCA4D team to the country in the spring 2021 and then the drafting and presentation of the final report, expected in June/July 2021. The VCA4D study of freshwater aquaculture in Georgia will be performed by a team of four international and national experts.

VCA4D is an EU funded project implemented by Agrinatura, a grouping of European Universities and Research centres specialised in agricultural research for development with more than 35 members across Europe.

VCA4D realizes value chains analyses from the economic, social and environmental point of view, to produce evidence-based knowledge about the growth, inclusiveness and sustainability of agricultural and fisheries value chains. This interdisciplinary and mostly quantitative information is to be used by decision makers in their policies, programmes and dialogue. Up-to-now, 40 studies have been realising or are ongoing across the globe.

For more information on the EUD – MEPA cooperation you can consult the EU page at <https://eu4georgia.ge/>

For more information on the project and the studies already performed by the VCA4D project you can check the VCA4D page or contact the Project Management Unit (PMU) at the VCA4D email address vca4d@agrinatora-eu.eu

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20211/>

Georgia harmonizes quality of fuel with the European standards



Georgia has successfully adopted amendments to the Decree No. 238 of the Government of Georgia on “the Norms of Composition of Diesel Fuel, Methods of Analysis and Implementation Measures”, which demonstrates Georgia’s commitments toward harmonizing quality of fuel with the Euro-

pean standards. By the end of 2020, efforts have been deployed toward the gasoline quality and each and every parameter has been defined through the European Union directive.

Gradual enhancement of fuel quality requirements and environmental parameters has been complying with the Euro 4 of the European emission standards since 2019, which relates to sulfur composition. The diesel quality will attain Euro 5 norm by January 1 of an upcoming year.

Ensuring efforts toward improving the quality of fuel fosters decreased pollution of the atmospheric air, as well as improving the boiling process within the vehicles itself. The latter efforts ensure decreased emission of solid particles and nitrogen dioxide.

In 2020, significant amendments have been made to the Code of Administrative Offenses and Criminal Code of Georgia for increasing sanctions upon violating gasoline quality norms. The Department of Environmental Supervision under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia will ensure regular monitoring of gasoline

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20207/>

Minister Davitashvili meets with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ms Olga Algayerova



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA), Mr Levan Davitashvili had a remote meeting with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Ms Olga Algayerova

to discuss items that foster sustainable management of natural resources and development of circular economy in Georgia.

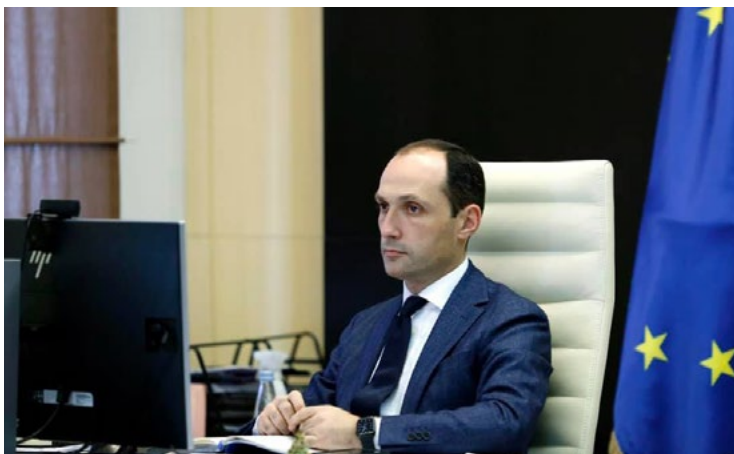
Minister extended gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the UNECE for fruitful cooperation and dwelled on enhancement efforts on legislation and environmental management through an outstanding assistance of the UNECE, as well as future actions. Minister stressed on the importance of citizen engagement into decision-making process on environmental matters, as well as crucial role of enhancing cooperation with the UNECE respectively.

Minister Davitashvili and Executive Secretary Algayerova positively evaluated environmental progress of Georgia and discussed possibilities for UNECE providing support to Georgia. Minister Davitashvili also provided further information on fostering circular economy in the country and implementation of the extended producer responsibility on waste management activities onto producers.

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Ms Olga Algayerova personally extended an invitation to Minister Davitashvili with regard to attending UNECE's Ministerial, which will open up space for attendees to scrutinize possibilities of circular economy development.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20208/>

Minister Davitashvili joins Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference



Minister Levan Davitashvili joined the 13th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) conference hosted by the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference to climate-friendly and crisis-resistant agriculture. At the invitation of the Federal Agriculture Minister, more than 70 agriculture ministers and high-ranking representatives of 13 international organizations came together at a remote session.

In his speech, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Levan Davitashvili briefed attendees on Georgia's Government-deployed response actions to an aftermath of the pandemic.

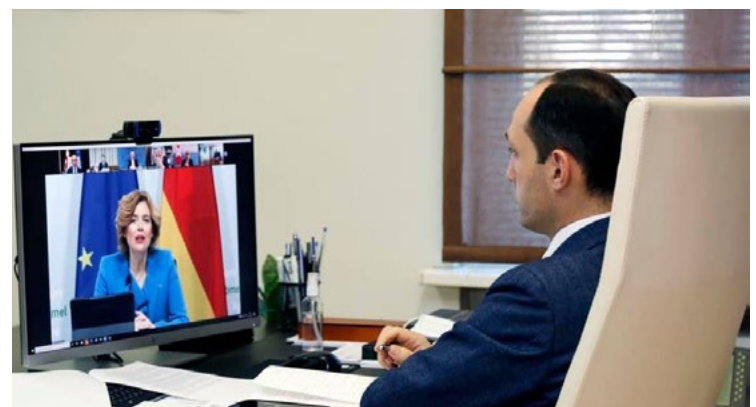
Minister Davitashvili embraced the fact of how Georgia deployed a coordinated strategy, which resulted into an undisrupted supply and safeguarding each and every region from product shortage. Minister also dwelled on an anti-crisis plan on agriculture elaborated and deployed for supporting farmers.

"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each and every state and partner interlocutor, including the private sector, for an outstanding communication. Our success has been harvested from joining efforts" - Minister Davitashvili stated.

Throughout the Forum, attendees have been empowered through being engaged into regional and country-based discussions of climate change mitigation goals and prevention of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a successful commencement of the Forum, the delegates adopted the final communiqué, which reiterates ensuring food supply and prevention of the pandemic amidst the Covid-19 turmoil.

A remote ministerial enjoyed presence of Deputy Minister of MEPA, Ms Nino Tandilashvili and Ambassador of Georgia to the Federal Republic of Germany.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20210/>



U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food for Progress program delivers 13, 000 tons of American wheat to Georgia



U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food for Progress program delivered 13,000 metric tons of wheat and 4,000 metric tons of soybean meal (food to be utilized in livestock and poultry) to the Port of Poti. The first Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture

of Georgia (MEPA), Mr Giorgi Khanishvili personally observed delivery of the shipment to Georgia. The American wheat will be sold on the Georgian commercial market, with the proceeds to be invested into developing an agricultural programming, as well beef value chains.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food for Progress program supports food safety and production of topnotch quality dairy and meat, through deploying assistance for strengthening and empowering companies. We thank the United States Government for providing assistance and we express hope for continuing the assistance in the future” – Deputy Minister Khanishvili stated.

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Minister Davitashvili: “Harmonizing the new regulations with the European standards will boost extended producer responsibility”



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA), Mr Levan Davitashvili joined members of the Business Association of Georgia to scrutinize the draft law on extended producer responsibility.

“Harmonizing regulations with the European standards will boost ex-

tended producer responsibility, which will positively impact Georgia’s atmospheric stance. There are two key polluters of atmospheric air: transport and enterprises. As an effort to diminish air pollution from an industrial enterprises, the Ministry has drafted a vital legislative initiative, which aims at deployment of filtration systems at enterprises, as well as ensuring constant monitoring of hazardous emissions into air. Deployment of the new regulations will complement efforts of minimizing negative affect of industrial enterprises on an environment” - Minister Davitashvili stated.

In the course of the meeting, the Minister and the respective proxies of the MEPA familiarized representatives of the Business Association on those denominations, which will be imposed on with the new regulations. Moreover, attendees were briefed on hardened sanctions which will be an aftermath of failure to comply with the filtration system requirements. The new regulations will be enacted in June of an incumbent year.

Mr Soso Pkhakade, chairperson of the Business Association of Georgia stressed out an active liaison and cooperation ensured by the MEPA with the Association, upon drafting the law on extended producer responsibility.

The meeting enjoyed meaningful participation of the MEPA’s proxies, as well as representatives of nearly 60 large enterprises.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20212/>

A remote session discusses possibilities for deploying areas of circular economy



Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Solomon Pavliashvili joined other attendees of a remote meeting on scrutinizing possibilities for deploying circular economic areas in Georgia. Mr Dariusz Edward Prasek, an independent expert and mem-

ber of the United Nations Advisory Board on Circular Economy, Ms Khatuna Zaldastanishvili, environmental program manager at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Ms Mariam Kimeridze, chairperson of the Georgian Society of Nature Explorers “Orchis” attended the meeting and scrutinized matters related to objectives and goals for elaborating circular economy roadmap.

“The Government of Georgia has undertaken meaningful efforts for environmental protection, which strives toward cultivation of circular economy principles, among other objectives. Each and every effort complements successful fulfillment of obligations undertaken by Georgia within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Association Agreement. Georgia has embarked on an accelerated path toward circular economy. Through support from the Embassy of Sweden, Georgia will be empowered to utilize experience of the leading European countries and position Georgia as a regional leader in adhering to circular economic principles” - Deputy Minister Solomon Pavliashvili stated.

In the course of the meeting, attendees dwelled on determining priority denominations for deploying circular economy, as well as matters toward elaboration of circular economy roadmap and strategic recommendations.

The Swedish Embassy-supported project on fostering circular economy in Georgia is implemented by the Georgian Society of Nature Explorers “Orchis”.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20205/>

By January 24 Georgia has exported tangerines worth of 17, 9 million USD

During the period of August 1 – January 24, 2020, Georgia has exported 36, 7 tonnes of tangerines,

which has amounted to 17, 9 million USD. As a comparison to an incumbent momentum of 2019/2020 – export scale of tangerines has boosted in 6, 5 tonnes (22 %), while cost of export to 2, 3 million USD (15 %).

Throughout 2020, the core export destinations for the Georgian tangerines were the Russian Federation

(21, 2 tonnes), Armenia (8, 0 tonnes) and Ukraine (5, 3 tonnes). Moldova, Turkmenistan, Belarus,

Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, USA and Germany have also received

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20209/>

