



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

AUGUST/2022

Otar Shamugia meets the representatives of the non-governmental sector



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia met with the representatives of the non-governmental sector.

The issues related to the implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agenda, progress made in the environmental protection and agricultural fields, as well as challenges and plans have been discussed by parties during the meeting.

As stated by the Minister, the active involvement of non-governmental organizations and associations is crucial on the path of EU integration of Georgia, which includes the determination of policies for environmental protection and agricultural development.

“The Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Trade Area Agreement set forth an “extensive list” of obligations. Environmental protection, climate change and agriculture take an important place on the list. Georgia has already made tangible progress in the aforementioned area. It is important to continue holding meetings with the representatives of the non-governmental sector, that will enable us to have thematic communication with the civil society, get familiar with their opinions through taking into account result oriented approach”, said Mr. Shamugia.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili presented a thematic report on the implementation of the Association Agreement in the fields of food safety, veterinary medicine and plant protection, rural and agricultural development, environmental protection, combating climate change, improvement of atmospheric air/water quality, she also provided participants with information on the activities and achievements of the Ministry in the water resources management, biodiversity, waste, chemicals and sustainable forest management fields.

The representatives of the environmental and agricultural non-governmental organizations, as well as the officials of the Ministry and relevant Agencies within the system of the Ministry, attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20955/>

The new program provides financial and technical support to women in the Marneuli and Lagodekhi Municipalities

The Rural Development Agency is launching a new program, providing financial and technical support to women willing to set up a greenhouse in the Marneuli and Lagodekhi Municipalities.

The program aims to integrate economically inactive women from Marneuli and Lagodekhi municipalities and help them to become full-fledged members of society, improve their socio-economic status and stimulate women's involvement in agricultural activities.

The pilot program was developed within the UN Women project “ Women’s Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus “. The Swiss and Austrian Development and Cooperation Agencies funded the project.

The total budget of the program amounts to USD 300,000, out of which USD 240,000 is donor financial resources, and USD 60,000 – is the participation of the Rural Development Agency.

According to the program, female beneficiaries will have the opportunity to set up a greenhouse on a small plot of land and produce agricultural products throughout the year for further sale.

The financing of the Agency shall be not more than 90%, not more than GEL 25,000 per beneficiary for setting up a greenhouse. Under the program, a plot of at least 200 square meters will be financed for the arrangement/building of a greenhouse.

The potential beneficiary can be an adult woman, not more than 60 years old, who owns or co-owns a plot of land not exceeding 5,000 square meters.

Within the program, technical assistance will be provided to the beneficiaries - a theoretical course on greenhouse management and maintenance of specific crops, also practical training for particular crops.

The priority will be given to those women who have the status –of being socially vulnerable or having a minor child(ren).

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20971/>

Otar Shamugia “The new program is crucial, as it enables each farmer to deliver the overall amount of non-standard apple to companies”

At the end of the Government session, during the meeting with the representatives of the media, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia made a statement about the new program “Promoting the Sale of Non-standard Apples”.



As stated by the Minister, Georgia received an abundant harvest of apples this year, approximately 120,000 tonnes, therefore, conducting harvest in an organized manner, including post-harvest handling and storage of crops to the greatest extent possible is crucial for farmers.

“The state carries out several programs for financing and promoting the entire value chain in agriculture production, the aforementioned programs include the program “Plant the Future” as well, which enabled planting of new apple orchards on approximately 1700 ha of agricultural land area across the country.

It should be mentioned, that a drip irrigation system is installed in these intensive gardens, thereupon, the respective gardens will give us much more quality crops in the forthcoming years, than the old ones. Moreover, such products have no problems in sales and will be sold for an appropriate price.

The new program implies that we will have to process approximately 40,000 to 50,000 tonnes of non-standard apples this year, depending on the yield.

Each enterprise that receives non-standard apples from a farmer and pays him at least 24 tetri per kilogram will receive 10 tetri as a subsidy from the state. Therefore, it is important to deliver whole non-standard apples for further processing.

About 20 enterprises will be involved in the process, which will use the mentioned products as raw materials and will receive concentrated apple juice, apple puree and other products, a large part of which will be exported, including to the European Union. Definitely, the operation of the entire chain is crucial and necessary for the promotion of the industry”, said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

The Minister also mentioned, that from August 30, the coordination headquarters will be operated, which will embrace the employees of the Rural Development Agency, the Ministry and other relevant agencies, so that the process will be coordinated to the greatest degree possible and each farmer will be able to deal with the post-harvest handling and storage of the crop.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20988/>

Nino Tandilashvili meets the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Georgia, Raimund Jehle



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili hosted the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle.

The parties discussed current projects and future cooperation issues during the meeting.

The Deputy Minister stressed the importance of the long-term partnership between FAO and the Ministry and thanked the representative of the UN organization for efficient collaboration.

The sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding old and launching new programs related to climate-smart agriculture, food production, and rural poverty reduction.

According to Mr. Jehle, FAO will continue its support to the country to ensure agricultural development, food safety improvement, food system transformation, and reduction of agriculture’s impact on climate change.

The meeting was attended by Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant FAO Representative in Georgia and heads of respective departments of the Ministry.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20983/>

Nino Tandilashvili meets the Deputy Country Representative for UN Women in Georgia Tamar Sabedashvili



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili held a meeting with the Deputy Country Representative of UN Women in Georgia, Mrs. Tamar Sabedashvili.

The details of the project “Women’s Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus” (WEESC) and future cooperation-related issues between the Ministry and the United Nations Women’s Organization (UN Women) have been discussed by parties during the meeting.

“An additional pilot program for women was developed within the project “Economic empowerment of women in the South Caucasus”, which is funded by the Swiss and Austrian Development and Cooperation Agencies.

The aforementioned pilot program includes co-financing for setting up a greenhouse in the country. The program will be implemented in Marneuli and Lagodekhi municipalities; Co-financing will be ensured by the Rural Development Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

According to Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, the program aims to improve the socio-economic condition of economically inactive women in the pilot municipalities and stimulate the involvement of women in agricultural activities.

The discussion that followed touched upon the issue of gender mainstreaming to promote gender equality and support strengthening the capacities of the Ministry’s employees. The meeting was attended by “Women’s Economic Empowerment” (WEE) program analyst Mrs. Nani Bendeliani and program specialist Mrs. Dion Battersby.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20958/>

The Ratification of Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in Georgia to discuss at the workshop



The working meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture to discuss issues regarding the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in Georgia on Substances Depleting the Ozone Layer and related legislative changes.

The Kigali Amendment is a legally binding agreement created to mitigate climate change and gradually reduce the consumption of substances with high global warming potential (GWP).

137 countries have already ratified the Kigali Amendment, including almost all EU countries and the largest producers of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture plans to submit the proposal for ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Parliament of Georgia shortly.

As stated by Mr. Noe Megrelashvili, Head of Ambient Air Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change, the timely ratification of the Kigali Amendment will significantly facilitate the fulfillment of obligations taken by Georgia under the Montreal Protocol within the specified time frame.

“The demand for cooling energy production and air conditioning is annually increasing due to climate change. Therefore, the consumption of refrigerants with a very high global warming potential (GWP) in this sector may become one of the crucial factors causing climate change. To avoid this risk, the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol will reduce the consumption of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants to approximately 85% by 2045,” said Mr. Noe Megrelashvili.

The largest importers of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, representatives of service centres operating in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector and other representatives of the environmental sector attended the workshop.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20961/>

Otar Shamugia meets the Delegation of the Republic of Korea



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia hosted the Delegation led by the Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Suh Byung-soo and the Deputies of the National Assembly.

The prospects of deepening trade and economic relations between the two countries have been discussed by parties during the meeting.

The Minister provided the delegation with information regarding eco-tourism and agro-tourism opportunities in the country.

Minister Shamugia thanked the Special Representative of the President for the technical assistance provided to the Protected Areas Agency.

It should be mentioned, that a Memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Korea National Park Service and the Agency for Protected Areas in 2021. Moreover, several important measures have already been implemented under bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting, Mr. Otar Shamugia drew attention to the local agricultural products, which have special export potential, and stressed the importance of Georgian wine as the main export product.

The Minister confirmed his support for the special representative of the President of Korea and noted that the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, within the scope of its competence, will support Busan's candidacy to host the World Expo 2030.

Mr. Suh Byung-soo expressed his gratitude to Mr. Shamugia for his support. The special representative of the President of the Republic of Korea stated, that Georgian wine is on the rise in popularity in the Republic of Korea, which is an important precondition for deepening bilateral trade relations.

The National Wine Agency has been actively launching strategic marketing activities in the Korean market since 2019. In 2019 and 2022, Georgian wine-producing companies participated in the Korean wine and spirits exhibition "Seoul Wine and Expo". It should also be mentioned, that National Wine Agency supports Georgian wine to be presented at the international event "Daejeon International Wine Festival 2022", which will be held on August 25 - 28 in the city of Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

The First Deputy Minister Mr. George Khanishvili, Deputy Minister Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili and representatives of relevant services attended at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20984>

Nino Tandilashvili hosts the Egyptian Delegation



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili held a meeting with the members of the Egyptian Delegation.

The parties highlighted food security-related issues and reviewed the details of the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), which will be held on November 7-18, 2022 in the city of Sharm El-Sheikh.

According to Mrs. Tandilashvili, climate change, as well as environmental pollution has a great impact on various sectors of the economy, including agricultural sector, in addition, both have a disastrous effect on each resident in their everyday lives.

"We have an essential document "Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Georgia, Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. "Participation in the 27th UN Climate Change Conference is crucial for our country in the global integration process, to rejoining the global fight against climate change. said Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

The non-resident Ambassador of Egypt to Georgia, Mr. Baha Desuki noted, that food security-related issues are of the utmost importance in the Arab Republic of Egypt; European standards have been introduced in the country in the respective area, however, the production of high-quality products remains a challenge for the country.

Mrs. Tandilashvili highlighted challenges facing the grain sector in light of the current processes in the region. According to Deputy, the development of grain crops and wheat production is still an urgent matter in the country.

The Deputy Minister spoke about the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement with the European Union, noting that the EU is one of the largest trade partners of Georgia. Georgian agro-food products, such as Georgian wine, fruits and vegetables, hazelnuts and honey are exported to the European market.

Renewable energy sources and green energy development-related issues have been discussed by parties, who also mentioned the possibility of importing fertilizers and pesticides from the Arab Republic of Egypt to Georgia.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20956/>

The Winners of the National Agricultural Olympiad 2022 have been revealed



Georgia hosted the second National Agricultural Olympiad. The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. George Khanishvili, the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle, and the Head of the Technical Cooperation Coordination Office at the Austrian Embassy, Mr. Alexander Karner awarded the winners of Agro Olympics 2022.

“Agro-Olympics 2022 demonstrates, that agriculture and agrarian sector in Georgia have broad prospects as well as great regional development potential. We all realized that the private sector desperately needs professional and qualified personnel.

We are delighted, that almost all winners were offered a paid internship with the prospect of further growth and rising employment. I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers of the Olympiad, and the donor organizations, who were able to create meaningful motivation for different categories of people interested in the agricultural sector - farmers, pupils, students and specialists.

I would like to thank all partner companies of the Olympics, which gave important prizes to the winners. I congratulate and wish success to all the winners of the National Agricultural Olympiad and firmly believe, that each of them will contribute their knowledge and experience to the development of the country”, said Mr. George Khanishvili.

The National Agricultural Olympiad is the only knowledge-based competition in the agricultural field throughout the country and the region in general. The Olympiad aims to promote agricultural education and professions.

This year, 38 winners were revealed in different nominations and categories among 964 contestants participating in the Agro-Olympics 2022.

“Agricultural Olympiad is crucial, especially for raising awareness and promoting agriculture as an attractive, interesting field. It is important to create new opportunities and attract and engage new forces in the field.

The increased number of participants shows that agricultural area is becoming more and more interesting in the country. We should also underline the involvement of dozens of partners, furthermore, the companies even offered internships and employment to the winners as prizes. This is the new way to attract more people to the field of agriculture”, said the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle.

The target audience of the Agro Olympiad included 4 main categories - specialist, student, farmer and school student, and the competition areas embrace agronomy, veterinary medicine, wine technology, food technology, mechanization, forestry, moreover, combined issues such as agriculture, biodiversity, environmental protection and ecology were suggested and offered to school student contestants.

This year, the interest and involvement of private companies in the Agro Olympics were unprecedentedly high. The following companies became the partners of AgroOlympics 2022: LTD Nutsge; TBC for business; Beko, Farmers Association; Kerk LLC; Kula LLC; Achinebuli Ltd. (Alali); Investfeed; Agromotors LLC; Agrolane LLC; Protected Areas Agency;

GeoNaturals LLC; Agrokozikh LLC; Tserti LLC Agrosphere LLC; Agronomist LLC; Aldag LLC; Baraka LLC and Winery Shumi, which set important prizes for winners - a paid internship considering employment, cash prizes, a set of manufactured products, household appliances and others.

“On behalf of the Austrian Development Cooperation, we are happy and proud to support the Agricultural Olympiad and today’s ceremony for the second time. The event was successful, which is evidenced by the almost doubled number of participants in the Olympics this year.

The Olympics is one of the best ways to advocate and promote the agricultural sector, to support agricultural sustainability in the country.

It will contribute to the increase of (agricultural) productivity in Georgia in the long run. It was very pleasant to see so many supporting companies involved in the project, and we expect that next year Agro Olympics will be a more large-scale event to take place in Georgia” said Mr. Alexander Karner, Head of the Technical Cooperation Coordination Office of the Austrian Embassy.

The representatives of the USAID Agriculture Program and the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) awarded special prizes to winners of the National Agricultural Olympiad.

The award ceremony was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, international donor organizations, partners and supporting companies of the Olympics.

The National Agricultural Olympiad has been held under the patronage of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), the “Association for the Development of Agriculture” (ADA), the USAID Agriculture Program and the Caucasus Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations Network (CENN) are organizers of the event.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20982/>

New hazelnut processing and drying enterprise opens in Chokhatauri municipality



A new hazelnut processing and drying plant was opened in Chokhatauri municipality through state support.

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia along with Mr. Giorgi Urushadze, State Representative of Guria region paid a visit to the new hazelnut processing enterprise “Megagro in the village of Chokhatauri”.

“Hazelnuts are important agricultural products for us. The market is fully diversified and the products are almost entirely exported to the European Union. Last year, approximately USD 114 million worth of Georgian hazelnuts were exported, which is several times higher than in the previous year, and we must maintain this trend”, Mr. Otar Shamugia said.

According to the Minister, the fight against the Asian stink bug is a big challenge for the hazelnut industry.

“Over the years, the state has been taking measures together with the farmers to

combat the invasive pest; We have achieved concrete results, which are reflected in the increase of crop yield. We will get a more abundant harvest this year than we had in 2018-2019, although, challenges remain regarding the quality of the crop.

We still have a lot to do to improve the quality of hazelnuts to the greatest extent possible and make the product competitive on the world market. We will actively continue to work with the farmers to improve the quality and steadily increase farmers’ income. This is our goal,” said Mr. Shamugia.

“Megagro” is a hazelnut processing enterprise equipped with modern standards, where 300-500 tonnes of hazelnuts can be processed annually. 20 people are employed in the enterprise. The company is a beneficiary of the project “Co-financing of Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises”.

The company received GEL 300,000 within the framework of the “Pilot Regions Integrated Development Program”. Totally, Gel 680,440 was invested in the enterprise, out of which GEL 250,000 is a grant.

Moreover, the company introduced the international food safety standard ISO 22000 with the support of the “Technical Assistance Program”, where co-financing from the state amounted to GEL 30,000. The company plans to sell its products in both local and international markets.

The Mayor of Chokhatauri Mr. Davit Sharashidze and Chairperson of a Municipal Council, Mr. Irakli Kuchava accompanied the Minister at the new hazelnut processing enterprise in Chokhatauri Municipality.

It should be mentioned, that with the support of the state, 196 enterprises have been co-financed within the framework of the project “Co-financing of Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises” across Georgia, where state grants amounted to GEL 95,823,868. 13 enterprises are co-financed in the Guria region, and the state grant amounts to GEL 5,791,509.

226 preferential agro-credits amounting to GEL 40,088,824 were issued across the country, including 11 preferential loans of GEL 3,546,597 in the Guria region for the development of the hazelnut sector.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20976/>

State co-financing enables the planting of perennial gardens on more than 1200 ha in the Imereti region



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, together with the State Representative in the Imereti Region, Mr. Zviad Shalamberidze, and Majoritarian MP, Mr. Bezhan Tsakadze visited the walnut garden in the village of Pirveli Sviri, Zestafoni municipality.

“The state project “Plant the future” is particularly popular among other agricultural support projects. It should be mentioned, that state financial support for farmers exceeds Gel 133 million under the project “Plant the Future”.

New gardens have already been planted on more than 17.6 thousand hectares of agricultural land area across the country and planted areas will be further extended within the program. Accordingly, the number of locally produced food products is increasing and gaining a competitive advantage, thus enabling more quality Georgian products to appear on our market, and increasing secondary production as well. At the same time, market diversification enables us to export even more Georgian products”, stated Mr. Otar Shamugia.

The Farmer Koba Chulukhadze planted a walnut garden on 9 hectares of agricultural land area within the program “Plant the Future”; The co-financing of the Rural Development Agency is Gel 48,550.

Within the framework of the “Plant the Future” program, a new perennial orchard was planted on more than 17.6 thousand hectares of agricultural land area, where state co-financing is exceeding Gel 133 million. As for walnut crops, the orchards are planted on 8,455 ha across the country. The state co-financing is amounting to GEL 39,166,940.

The new perennial orchard was planted on more than 1.2 thousand hectares of agricultural land area in the Imereti region, where state co-financing is more than Gel 15 million, out of which walnut crops are planted on 207 ha, and co-financing amounting to GEL 863,839.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20966/>

Otar Shamugia visited experimental tea plantation in the village of Kvemo Bakhvi, Ozurgeti Municipality



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia together with Mr. Giorgi Urushadze, the State Representative in the Guria region visited the tea plantation grown experimentally in the village of Kvemo Bakhvi, Ozurgeti municipality.

“Tea is a traditional crop culture in Georgia and has a development potential if we improve its quality. Therefore, we are implementing tea plantations rehabilitation program and have already rehabilitated more than 1,600 hectares of tea plantations within the program.

We also provide support to the processing sector and met with the farmers in the village of Bakhvi, Guria region to discuss issues related to the additional types of support that sector needs for further development. We are ready to provide more support to farmers and help them in producing high-quality, competitive tea products,” said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

It should be mentioned that Georgian tea farmers introduced modern technology for tea leaf production, which led to the flat-surface formation of a tea bush. Subsequently, the introduction of modern technology has significantly improved the complex mechanization process in tea cultivation; it also improved the quality of tea and expanded the tea picking surface area.

Davit Teneishvili is one of the first tea growers living in the village of Kvemo Bakhvi, who applied the aforementioned technology for the formation of a tea bush with a wide and flat top surface and cultivated tea plantations on a 5 ha of land area.

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture visited Davit Teneishvili’s plantation, where he got familiar with the formation process of tea plants - from oval-shaped to flat-shaped ones. Mr. Shamugia attended the testing of new tea equipment as well, embracing Japanese, Chinese, Turkish and Georgian hand grinders, pickers, angle grinders, surface grinders etc.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20977/>

Otar Shamugia pays a visit to the tea processing enterprise created through state co-financing in Ozurgeti Municipality



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia together with the State Representative of the Guria region, Mr. Giorgi Urushadze paid a visit to the tea processing plant of the “Laituri Tea Company” in the city of Ozurgeti, where state officials got acquainted with the tea manufacturing process.

“Tea manufacturing has a long-standing tradition in Georgia. Georgian tea was the popular and most demanded product, which indicates, that the industry has potential, due to which, the Government launched the “Tea Plantation Rehabilitation Program” in 2016, whereupon, the tea plantations have been rehabilitated on 1,676 ha of agricultural land area across Georgia (241 ha in the Guria region), and the state co-financing exceeded GEL 3 million.

We offer financial support to farmers and entrepreneurs to increase

Georgian tea production within the framework of the preferential agro-credit project. Currently, preferential agro-credit worth of GEL 4,395,112,524 was issued for that purpose.

Our programs include a grant component, technical assistance etc.. to increase tea production. Thus, we are providing support, which is an incentive and at the same time a guarantee to make the tea sector competitive, and make Georgian tea a demanded product, which will take its place in the international market among a wide variety of teas produced by New Zealand, China, Japan, India and other countries,” said Mr. Shamugia.

“Laituri Tea Company” made an investment of GEL 500,000 to create the enterprise, out of which, Gel 155,000 is a preferential agro-credit. The company is a beneficiary of the “Tea Plantation Rehabilitation Program” and has received a state grant worth Gel 52,000 for the rehabilitation of 28 hectares of tea plantations.

The enterprise processes 65 tonnes of tea leaves per season. Products are sold both on local and international markets. The processing plant employs 10 people seasonally. This year, the international standard of food safety - HACCP was introduced in the company.

The Mayor of Ozurgeti municipality Mr. Avtandil Talakvadze and members of the local self-government accompanied the Minister at the Laituri Tea Company.

Through state support, 42 loans worth GEL 8,555,127 has been issued across Georgia, including 22 loans worth GEL 6,083,890 in the Guria region. The state’s financial support gave the entrepreneurs an extra push for the development and expansion of tea production.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20978/>

The exhibition stand of Georgia wins a gold medal at the 47th International Apimondia 2022 Congress in Istanbul, Turkey



During the international festival, the participants were awarded in 10 different nominations. It is worth mentioning, that the Rural Development Agency won a gold medal for making the best exhibition stand.

8 Georgian honey producer companies displayed different types of honey bee products including "Jara honey" at the exhibition stand. The latter was presented at the International Exhibition Congress APIMONDIA 2022 in Istanbul, Turkey through the joint support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Rural Development Agency.

The Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Turkey and Consulate of Georgia in Istanbul ensured the participation of the Georgian side in the International Exhibition Congress APIMONDIA 2022 in Istanbul, Turkey.

This year, 50 countries and about 150 local and international companies operating in the beekeeping sector are taking part in the exhibition.

The 47th APIMONDIA is being held on 24 – 28 August in Istanbul, Turkey.

<http://www.rda.gov.ge/articles/news/apimondia2022>

Georgia presents an exhibition stand at the International Exhibition-Congress APIMONDIA 2022



The exhibition stand was presented at the International Exhibition Congress APIMONDIA 2022 in Istanbul, Turkey, through the joint support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Rural Development Agency. Georgian companies are providing visitors with various beekeeping products.

Mr. George Khanishvili, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and Mr. Giorgi Phantsulaia, First Deputy Director of Rural Development Agency attended the event.

The APIMONDIA 2022 is a combination of science, practice, and business. By participating in the exhibition congress, Georgian honey producers had the opportunity

not only to sell their products but also to learn about new technologies and new directions in the beekeeping sector. The decision of the Georgian Government to encourage business-oriented agriculture, including beekeeping, is effective and successful," said Mr. George Khanishvili, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

8 honey-producing companies namely: "Rukhi Dedofali" LLC, "Geonatural" LLC, "Apigeo" LLC, "Tafli Saxlshi" LLC, agricultural cooperative "Natural Products from Racha", agricultural cooperative "Ska" ; "Ska-Kodala" LLC, "KTW Agro-Keda" LLC presented their products at the APIMONDIA 2022.

The aforementioned companies provide visitors with different types of Georgian honey, including "Jara honey".

According to the honey producers participating in APIMONDIA 2022, the state support for Georgian manufacturers is crucial in diversifying and entering new markets and boosting exports of Georgian agri-food products.

This year, 50 countries and about 150 local and international companies operating in the beekeeping sector are taking part in the exhibition.

The 47th APIMONDIA is being held on 24 – 28 August in Istanbul, Turkey.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20977/>

The First Deputy Minister meets the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture at the 47th APIMONDIA International Apicultural Congress

The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. George Khanishvili held a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Hungary Mr. Istvan Nagy at the biggest beekeeping international exhibition APIMONDIA 2022 - in Istanbul, Turkey.

During the meeting, the parties discussed their visions, approaches, putting focus on mechanisms for the development of the beekeeping sector. The importance of improving productivity and competitiveness in the manufacturing industry was also stressed by parties.

Mr. Khanishvili emphasized, that support for the beekeeping sector to exploit its great potential, also sharing experiences of bee honey producer countries and introducing modern approaches in the beekeeping field are of the utmost importance.

The Minister of Agriculture of Hungary expressed his interest towards state support programs being implemented in Georgia to support the development of the agricultural sector, he also paid an attention to the issues regarding the demand for Georgian honey in the European Union market.

Mr. Khanishvili invited the Minister of Agriculture of Hungary to Georgia to further deepen bilateral cooperation.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20986>

Taking water samples and exploring the collected material in the Gonio-Anaklia Black Sea aquatory



The Minister participated in the process of taking water samples and exploring the collected material in the Gonio-Anaklia Black Sea Aquatory.

The specialists of the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Biodiversity Department of the National Environmental Agency have taken water samples in the Gonio-Anaklia Black Sea Aquatory. The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Mr. Otar Shamugia and the Minister of Agriculture of Adjara region, Mr. Zaza Shavadze went down to the sea in vessels belonging to the Department of Environmental Supervision.

“Our environmental protection policy covers several issues, specifically, water quality research is conducted by using methods in accordance with the European Union Water Framework Directive, and we have already embraced the technical capacity in the respective area.

It should be mentioned, that experienced specialists of the National Environmental Agency are conducting research in the following areas: water ecology, hydrobiology, water biodiversity, fisheries and aquaculture. Moreover, we are actively working towards upgrading the infrastructure of the National Environmental Agency and strengthening institutional capacity in the environmental field, which is reflected in the fulfillment of obligations under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement in the environmental protection field.

Respective obligations include the implementation of the principles of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), with the main goal to protect the Black Sea from pollution, and preserve the marine ecosystem and biodiversity, which also entails the sustainable use of marine biological resources “ said Minister Shamugia.

Black Sea water samples were collected to determine various qualitative parameters in the depth of water. The specialists are using the multi-parameter water quality probes for conducting research, which enables them to obtain the highest quality data and determine the physical-chemical parameters of water (temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, transparency etc.) at a depth of 100 meters.

The obtained results allow environmental specialists to get more accurate data and information about the environmental state of the sea, and the natural inhabitants of the marine environment, which also enables timely detection, evaluation and forecasting of the current ecological changes in the marine environment, resulting from natural and anthropogenic factors.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20973/>

The hunting season opened on 27th August 2022 and will last until March 1, 2023



A person willing to hunt the migratory birds shall acquire the following:

Pay the respective fee concerning hunting migratory birds as set forth by the Law of Georgia on Fees for the Use of Natural Resources of Georgia (10 GEL); within seven days (including the payment date), a person shall have a document confirming payment or fee whether in a physical or electronic form.

During hunting, the respective person shall have a license issued by the relevant agency under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia for keeping and

storing that particular hunting weapon.

If all these requirements are met, a person is allowed to hunt migratory birds from the fourth Saturday of August of the current year till the first of March of the following year, since the fee imposed on the removal of migratory birds from the environment is paid, furthermore, if the fee is paid at the beginning of the year (January / February), the person is allowed to hunt until the first March of the year after its due date.

Payment of the fee can be handled at any bank of Georgia, to the State Treasury, the code of the Bank: 220 101 222; account information: N200122900, the budget income treasury code: 3033.

The Department of Environmental Supervision under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia ensures an intensified 24/7 monitoring of illegal hunting and violation of hunting rules during the season.

Upon detecting a violation, citizens shall dial the hotline of the Ministry – 153 (without an index, the call is free of charge and is anonymous), to enable the Department of Environmental Supervision under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and their regional agency to instantly respond.

More information on illegal means of travelling and list, dates and daily limits on migratory birds permitted for hunting, as well as a description of fees, can be accessed at

https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/PublicInformation/34043?fbclid=IwAR1-SnQQJuBBwL-J4o-Z6XXgWpiP84tldD-GWctAj7DQWAGTbKngR8j_fDr0

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20957/>