



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 2025

David Songulashvili Meets with the UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia, Didier Trebucq



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, hosted the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia, Mr. Didier Trebucq.

During the meeting, Minister Songulashvili expressed his gratitude to the United Nations for its longstanding and effective cooperation, emphasizing the significance of the organization's support for rural and agricultural development and environmental initiatives in Georgia.

The Minister provided an overview of key projects currently being implemented under the European Neighborhood Programme for Rural Development and Agriculture (ENPARD IV), including animal identification, food safety, early warning systems, air quality monitoring, biodiversity conserva-



tion, and advancements in the forestry sector.

Mr. Trebucq commended the productive collaboration between the Ministry and the United Nations in the fields of agriculture and environmental protection, reaffirming the organization's commitment to continued support and coordinated efforts.

Mr Douglas Webb, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Georgia; Mr Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Georgia; and senior officials from the Ministry attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/22894>

Nino Tandilashvili was Re-Elected as the Member of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Governing Board for a Second Term

Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, has been re-elected to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Governing Board for a second term, representing Eastern Europe.

The election took place during the 41st meeting of the GCF Governing Board in Songdo, South Korea. Mrs. Tandilashvili will serve on the Board until the end of 2027.

During the session, Mrs. Tandilashvili chaired the GCF's Human Resources Committee and participated in the Ethics and Audit Committee session.

The Governing Board discussions focused on enhancing the GCF's gover-

nance and establishing regional offices. Additionally, the Board approved the accreditation of implementing organizations, granting them the authority to manage projects funded by the GCF.

The Board also approved several projects- aiming to advance the global fight against climate change and bolster adaptation efforts.

Established in 2010 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Green Climate Fund is an international financial mechanism with 197 parties. It mobilizes funds from governments, the private sector, and international donors to support projects that foster sustainable development.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/22892>

David Songulashvili meets Raimund Jehle, FAO Representative in Georgia



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, hosted Mr. Raimund Jehle, a Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Georgia.

During the meeting, the parties reviewed the priorities of future cooperation, emphasizing the implementation of the European Neighborhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development ENPARD IV in Georgia while focusing on animal identification and registration, inclusive agriculture, sustainable land management, aquaculture, livestock, and dairy sectors-related issues, including the involvement of youth in the mentioned processes.

Mr. Songulashvili thanked the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for its long-standing productive collaboration and stressed the importance of FAO programs promoting agriculture and rural development.

According to Mr. Raymond Jelle, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) continues to promote agriculture and rural development in Georgia.

Mr. Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant FAO Representative in Georgia, representatives of FAO, and relevant Departments of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/22890>

With the support of the state, the Georgian pavilion was presented at the international exhibition “FRUIT LOGISTICA 2025”



With the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and organized by the Rural Development Agency, eight Georgian companies participated in the international exhibition “FRUIT LOGISTICA 2025”, held in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany.

The Rural Development Agency, in cooperation with the German Economic Association, presented companies whose products fully comply with European Union standards.

The Georgian pavilion featured stands of companies producing blueberries, hazelnuts, and spices, including “Agrolein,” “Blue Birdberries,” “Golden Farms,” “Namiani,” “Agroveli,” “Keystone Agro,” “SRTE,” and “Paprika.”

The opening of the exhibition was attended by the Deputy Director of the Rural Development Agency, Natalia Kharatishvili, and the Acting Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Federal Republic of Germany, Ani Abuladze.

The Georgian pavilion was visited by the Director General of Israel’s Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Oren Lavi.

It is noteworthy that Georgian companies attracted significant interest from both exhibitors and visitors. Company representatives held numerous meetings to establish trade connections.

“FRUIT LOGISTICA” is one of the largest exhibitions in the world in the agro-food sector. This year, more than 2,700 companies from 145 countries participated in the exhibition.

<https://rda.gov.ge/en/articles/news/067276>

David Songulashvili: “We will support projects that contribute to the economic growth of Georgia and the Republic of Uzbekistan



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, met with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Kakhramon Yuldashev, to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in trade, economic, and scientific fields.

“The agricultural sector plays a significant role in economic development of the country. In recent years, trade in agricultural products between Georgia and Uzbekistan has increased. However, I believe our cooperation in this direction can deepen even further. We will support projects that enhance the economic growth of both nations,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

As part of the visit, an expanded meeting was held, embracing members of the Uzbek delegation and representatives from various departments and

Agencies of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. The Deputy Minister, Mr. Yuri Nozadze, chaired the meeting.

Discussions focused on key areas of cooperation, including viticulture and winemaking, sericulture, tea cultivation, hazelnut production, and citrus farming. The parties also addressed scientific and educational collaboration, emphasizing the importance of training and retraining personnel in the agricultural sector.

“I believe we have all the necessary resources to foster positive developments in trade turnover. I am aware of Georgia’s interest in reviving sericulture, and Uzbekistan has extensive experience in this field. We are ready to share our expertise. Additionally, we are keen on Georgian wine grape varieties and hope to see them cultivated in Uzbekistan soon,” remarked Mr Kakhramon Yuldashev.

Both sides agreed to develop a roadmap for agricultural cooperation between 2025 and 2027, outlining specific plans and implementation deadlines.

During their visit, the Uzbek delegation will tour the National Wine Agency and the experimental and demonstration base of perennial crops of the Scientific Research Center of Agriculture in Jighaura. They will also hold working meetings with representatives from various industry associations and the business sector.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/22893>

Georgian wine was presented at three events in the French capital of Paris this week



13 Georgian wine companies participated in the large-scale wine and alcoholic beverage exhibition “VinExpo Paris” held in Paris, with the support of the National Wine Agency and the Embassy of Georgia in the French Republic: “Tbilghvino”, “GWS”, “Shumi Winery”, “Khareba Winery”, “Chateau Mukhrani”, “Teliani Veli”, “Askaneli”, “Shilda Winery”, “Chelti Winery”, “BOLERO & COMPANY”, “Dugladze Wine Company”, “Kindzmarauli Wine Cellar” and “Ikalto Winery”.

About 40 countries from around the world were represented at the three-

day exhibition. Professionals, importers, and experts got acquainted with Georgian wine.

In parallel with the exhibition, Irakli Cholobargia, a representative of the National Wine Agency at the Paris School of Gastronomy and Hospitality Management (Le Cordon Bleu), held a presentation and tasting of Georgian wine for students of the school’s enology and wine management course. The students of this course are future experts, sommeliers, export-import specialists, buyers, and wine writers; therefore, it is important for them to become familiar with Georgian wine.

This week, with the support of the National Wine Agency and the Embassy of Georgia in the French Republic, the Kvevri wine producer Nine Marani presented its products at the international natural wine exhibition “RAW Wine Paris 2025” in Paris.

“The National Wine Agency continues to support wine producers in participating in international events, which gives them the opportunity to find new trading partners and potential importers.” “Presenting Georgian wine at three large-scale and important events in Paris will further increase the awareness of Georgian wine in the strategic European market,” noted David Tkemaladze, Deputy Chairman of the National Wine Agency.

<https://wine.gov.ge/En/News/38190>

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture hosted the Plastic Bag Manufacturers and Importers



The Deputies of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili and Mr. Kakha Kakabadze held a working meeting with the plastic bag manufacturers and importers.

Mr. Pavliashvili addressed the regulations regarding the production and sale of plastic bags, emphasizing that Georgia is well equipped to conduct studies on the degradation of plastic and the presence of metals in plastic materials.

“Implementing a project of this scale without state support would have been unthinkable. Moreover, I would emphasize that a dedicated facility equipped with international-standard equipment has been established for conducting these studies. The methods we use are accredited and internationally recognized.” Mr. Pavliashvili stated.

In 2024, the Polymer Testing Laboratory of the State Laboratory of Agriculture was accredited to conduct studies on the decomposition of plastic material into micro-fragments in plastic and biodegradable bags. Furthermore, the lab also focuses on determining metals such as zinc, copper,

nickel, cadmium, lead, mercury, chromium, molybdenum, selenium, and arsenic in plastic materials.

During the meeting, Mr. Kakabadze underscored the importance of close collaboration with the business sector.

“Minimizing environmental pollution is in the best interest of every citizen, and that is the core goal of the adopted regulations. The state will launch the monitoring compliance with the rules regulating plastic and biodegradable bags in April.

This preparation period is essential to ensure businesses are ready for the changes. We should also mention that fines are not the top objective of the state. What matters is the efficiency of the process, which is greatly enhanced by the availability of laboratory research in Georgia,” Mr. Kakabadze stated.

The representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the State Laboratory of Agriculture, and the Department of Environmental Supervision attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/22891>

In Berlin, at the international exhibition “Green Week,” a Georgian stand was presented





With the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and organized by the Rural Development Agency, at the exhibition “Green Week” in Berlin, Germany, ten Georgian companies introduced visitors to their own agro-food products.

The Georgian stand featured products from companies such as “Khiliani,” “Teliani Valley,” “Georgian Natural Product,” “TMT,” “Achinebuli,” “Chelti,” “Kula,” “Toreli Winery,” “Meisterbrau,” and “Hobby.” These companies presented organic juices, lemonade, hazelnuts, wine, alcoholic beverages, honey, and preserved fruit and vegetable products. Visitors to the Georgian stand also had the opportunity to taste traditional Georgian dishes.

The National Tourism Administration of Georgia also participated in the exhibition, introducing visitors to Georgia’s tourist products and destinations.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by the First Deputy Director of the Rural Development Agency, Giorgi Pantsulaia, Deputy Director Giorgi Jibladze, and the Acting Ambassador of Georgia to the Federal Republic of Germany, Ani Abuladze.

“Green Week” is one of the world’s largest exhibitions, covering the agriculture, food, and horticulture sectors. This year, more than 1,400 local and international companies from over 50 countries participated in the exhibition.

<https://rda.gov.ge/en/articles/news/546008>

It is a priority for the state that the quality of Georgian wine meets international standards



To enhance the competitiveness of alcoholic beverages produced in Georgia, the relevant divisions of the National Wine Agency of Georgia consistently conduct quality assessments of Georgian wine and other alcoholic products.

In 2024, a total of 28 state inspections and 376 additional inspections were performed.

During the state control process, which assesses the adherence of the wine production process in enterprises to the standards outlined in Georgian legislation, violations were identified in 34 samples from 6 companies out of a total of 154 samples collected from 28 inspected enterprises.

Inspection controls were executed in 83 companies, revealing violations in 37 samples from 16 companies out of 1,927 samples collected. Additionally, violations were detected in 11 samples from 4 companies out of 459 samples taken from 74 companies inspected by the Agency’s contracted

firms, Bureau Veritas LLC and SGS LLC. The inspection process aims to verify the compliance of a submitted alcoholic beverage sample with its corresponding lot.

Domestic market oversight was conducted on the products of 78 companies, revealing violations in 73 out of 136 samples collected.

Furthermore, to assess the organoleptic qualities of alcoholic beverages, the tasting commission of the National Wine Agency performed 284 tastings. Of the 13,006 samples submitted, 12,383 received favorable evaluations, while 623 were deemed unsatisfactory.

In 2025, quality control efforts will persist to ensure that tens of millions of liters of Georgian wine adhere to international standards, thereby enhancing its demand further.

<https://wine.gov.ge/En/News/38186>