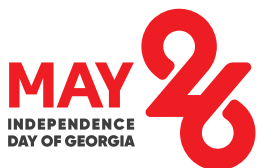




Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

MAY 2025



David Songulashvili: “We fought-and continue to fight-for our independence; this struggle means protecting our national interests; it means the development and economic empowerment.”



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, congratulated the population on Independence Day.

„May 26 is the most important day for each of us! On this day, 107 years ago, the Georgian people boldly declared their independence to the “whole world”. We have fought-and continue to fight-to secure and

defend our independence. This struggle is about safeguarding our sovereignty, protecting our national interests, ensuring development, and strengthening our economy.

Georgia is a small country- but rich in culture and ancient traditions. We are proud to be the cradle of winemaking, with over 8,000 years of continuous history in viticulture.

Today, we can confidently say that we are making tangible progress on the path of development, and we will continue to advance. Georgia deserves a rightful and respected place in the global community“, - Stated the Minister.

As part of the May 26 celebration events, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture hosted guests in three cities: Telavi, Kutaisi, and Akhaltsikhe. The National Wine Agency was represented in Kutaisi with the concept: “Georgia – The Cradle of Wine.” The Agency of Protected Areas offered visitors various educational and recreational activities at the Rabati Fortress in Akhaltsikhe City. The Rural Development Agency hosted citizens at the central square in Telavi, where the Minister, Mr. David Songulashvili, explored locally-produced goods presented by agency beneficiaries.



David Songulashvili Summarized His Working Visit to France



„The crucial part of the working visit to France was participation in the 92nd General Session of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and holding a meeting with the Director General of the Organization. During the discussions, we emphasized the importance of WOAH's long-standing efforts to protect global animal health. As we have mentioned, the organization's strategic objectives align closely with Georgia's national priorities. We remain actively engaged in this collaboration, making a meaningful contribution to the global fight against animal diseases and promoting the One Health approach. The re-election of Mr. Vasil Basiladze, Georgia's Chief Veterinary Officer, for a second term - as Vice-President of WOAH's Regional Commission for Europe, was emphasized by parties. This recognition underscores Georgia's growing role and importance within the organization.

In addition to the WOAH sessions, I have held productive meetings with the Ministers from Spain, Portugal, France, and Kenya. We focused on

exchanging knowledge, experience, and best practices, including exploring new opportunities for trade and economic cooperation.

Georgia's European integration was a key topic of the meetings. As stated, integration into the European Union remains a top priority. Until 2028, we will continue implementing the objectives outlined in the Association Agreement, including the harmonization of legislation. Our roadmap is clear and aims at full readiness by 2030. At the same time, if the European Union has a specific interest in cooperation with Georgia, we are ready for it today.

Since the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement, Georgia has made notable progress in expanding its exports to EU markets. Sustaining this momentum will require increased engagement from the private sector and a focus on attracting investment, thereby ensuring shared economic growth and benefits for all“, - Stated the Minister

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David Songulashvili: “Georgia and Azerbaijan Share an Unwavering Partnership and Common Strategic Goals”



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, recently paid a working visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

“Georgia and Azerbaijan have an unwavering partnership and common strategic goals. Our cooperation in the field of agriculture is intrinsically linked to the broader agenda of regional stability, economic development, and environmental protection.”

The visit featured a full schedule of engagements, beginning with the opening of the Georgian national pavilion at the international agricul-

tural exhibition CASPIAN AGRO 2025, organized with the support and coordination of the Georgian Government. The pavilion was honored by a visit from the President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev—an event that highlighted the strong friendship and strategic cooperation between the two nations. We aim to present Georgia with dignity at international exhibitions of this scale. Such platforms allow us to introduce Georgia's potential to a wider International audience and increase export opportunities. During my visit to Azerbaijan, it was a privilege to meet with Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, the Representative of the President of Azerbaijan on

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climate issues. This meeting marked another significant step in strengthening the existing ties between our countries. We held constructive discussions on national and regional climate policies, shared challenges, and opportunities for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

I also had the honor of participating in the international conference “Agriculture: Mobilizing Countries for Nature,” where parties exchanged views on advancing agricultural development through the lens of nature protection. In my remarks, I highlighted the global urgency of combating climate change and underscored the critical role of sustainable agriculture in this effort. Ultimately, I would like to express my sincere grati-

tude to the Georgian Embassy in Azerbaijan for organizing this visit and for their continued commitment to deepening the partnership between our nations” stated Mr. Songulashvili

As part of the visit, Minister Songulashvili Hosted President Mr. Ilham Aliyev at the Georgian national pavilion at CASPIAN AGRO 2025; Mr. Songulashvili participated in the “Agriculture: Mobilizing Countries for Nature” conference, delivered a keynote speech at a panel discussion on climate change, and held a high-level meeting with the Representative of the President of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues, Mr. Mukhtar Babayev.

Minister David Songulashvili Visited State-Supported Enterprises in Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions and met with local farmers



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, visited the Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions. During the visit, the Minister inspected enterprises developed with state support and met with local farmers and producers.

In the village of Gamarjveba, Gardabani Municipality, Mr. Songulashvili inspected LTD “Smart Feed”, a combined feed enterprise producing 1,400 tonnes of livestock and poultry feed monthly. With an investment of GEL 1.5 million—partially funded through the state’s co-financing programs—the enterprise now employs 20 people and supplies the local market.

“In parallel with the development of the livestock and poultry sectors, the demand for agricultural feed is rapidly increasing. It is crucial that this demand meets with the local production to the fullest extent possible. Expanding production boosts local employment and fosters the creation of domestic products, laying the foundation for a stronger national economy,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

In Sartichala, the Minister visited LTD “Cadel Business”, where he toured apple orchards, a modern pear orchard, and a vineyard established through state support. The company benefited from both the “Plant the Future” program and preferential agrocredit.

“The state has financed the cultivation of new perennial gardens on more than 4,600 hectares in the Kvemo Kartli region, with state funding exceeding GEL 30 million. As a result, local apple production meets most of the domestic demand, with surplus apples actively exported. Over the past ten months, Georgia exported 18,000 tonnes of apples, worth USD 11.3 million”, - noted Mr. Songulashvili.

In Dedoplistskaro Municipality, the Minister visited the grain drying facility of Mr. Nugzar Alughishvili, built with over GEL 1.4 million in investment. The Minister met with wheat farmers and discussed advances in certification, seed quality, and state-funded agricultural equipment.

“The mandatory wheat certification process has been underway in Geor-

gia for several years. A well-structured certification system ensures access to high-quality seeds and planting material, laying the groundwork for increased harvests, enhanced competitiveness, and attracting investments into the sector,” said Mr. Songulashvili.

During the visit in Dedoplistskaro, the Minister visited the canning factory “Geonaturals”, which received over GEL 1 million in funding through grants and agrocredit. In 2024 alone, the factory produced one million canned goods under the “Sadili” brand and provided permanent jobs for 40 people.

„Within the framework of the state program for co-financing processing and storage enterprises, 270 enterprises have been created to date. These enterprises are contributing to the production of high-quality Georgian products that not only compete with imported goods in the domestic market but are also gradually gaining recognition in export markets. The company Geonaturals stands as a successful example of how state support can stimulate enterprise growth and enhance local production,” the Minister stated.

In Kvemo Bodbe, Signaghi Municipality, the Minister toured LTD “White Farm”, a modern livestock farm producing 8.5 tonnes of milk daily. Created with GEL 15 million in total investment, including GEL 3 million in preferential credit, the farm is a leading example of successful private-state partnership.

„The state’s financial assistance through preferential financial resources has attracted private investment and spurred growth in the industry. Three new subcomponents were added to the Preferential Agrocredit program in the previous year, which helped to establish and modernize

cattle breeding farms across the country. Moreover, the private sector has the opportunity to purchase high-yielding varieties, upgrade, and re-equip enterprises. It is important to maintain direct communication with farmers and entrepreneurs. Their feedback and assessment on the Ministry’s programs are crucial for shaping future policies and measures aimed at agricultural development“, - Stated the Minister.

The visit concluded at “Ivris Farms”, an almond orchard covering 350 hectares. Backed by the state’s “Plant the Future” and Agrocredit programs, the company is expected to reach an export volume of 800–900 tonnes of almonds annually.

“It is essential for us to maximally facilitate the utilization of the production potential of nut crops, including almonds. In recent years, with the support of state programs, the intensive cultivation of nut orchards has gained momentum; production of Georgian hazelnuts, almonds, and walnuts continues to grow steadily, resulting in an increasing share of high-quality Georgian products in international markets. The rising demand is reflected in our export figures. Such progress strengthens our economic foundations and highlights the importance of continued government support for these initiatives. Our ultimate goal remains the same: to generate greater national wealth, which is essential for improving the well-being of every Georgian citizen“, said Mr. Songulashvili.

During the visit, the Minister was accompanied by Mr. Lasha Dolidze, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; Mr. Levan Kharabadze, State Representative in Kvemo Kartli; Mr. Giorgi Aladashvili, State Representative in Kakheti; and Mr. Gela Samkharauli, Chairman of the Agrarian Issues Committee.

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David Songulashvili: “We Continue Implementing Large-Scale State Projects”



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, visited the Kakheti region to assess the progress of key state initiatives and engage directly with employees and stakeholders.

“Today, we opened the new building of the Kakheti Regional Department of the Environmental Supervision Department in Telavi. The facility is fully equipped with modern technology and meets contemporary operational standards. Professionalism, adequate working conditions, strong social guarantees, and a secure environment significantly enhance the efficiency of our employees. That’s how we achieve tangible results. It’s crucial for me to meet with our staff, listen to their needs directly,

understand their challenges, and identify areas where support is needed. That is why today we held working meetings with employees of the Environmental Supervision Department, forest rangers, and the protected areas personnel,” stated Minister Songulashvili.

During the visit, the Minister underscored the significance of ongoing and completed state projects aimed at advancing the agricultural sector. Mr. Songulashvili highlighted the importance of maintaining open communication with entrepreneurs and farmers to ensure the Ministry’s initiatives are aligned with real needs.

“It is essential to gather feedback from entrepreneurs and farmers re-



garding all the programs we implement. This information will allow us to be more flexible and results-driven in our approach. Georgian agricultural production continues growing, with products successfully reaching domestic and international markets. This contributes directly to our core objective—strengthening the economy and improving the well-being of our citizens. We are committed to implementing large-scale state projects that promote the production of high-quality, safe Georgian products,” the Minister noted.

During his visit to Kakheti, Mr. David Songulashvili opened the new building of the Kakheti Regional Department of the Environmental Supervision Department and held working meetings with employees of the Environmental Supervision Department, Forestry, and Protected Areas Agencies.

In addition to his meetings with agency employees, Minister Songulashvili visited several enterprises in Kakheti that have been established with state support, including Cold Cheese, Vine Ponto Winery, and Baban-euri Marani.

The Minister was accompanied by Giorgi Aladashvili, State Representative of the Kakheti Region; Irakli Kadagishvili, Chairman of the Committee on Regional Policy and Self-Government; and other relevant officials and service representatives.

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Nino Tandilashvili: “We support non-formal education and implement retraining programs, which provide more and more people with employment opportunities yearly

At a joint session of the Parliamentary Committees on Agrarian Issues and Education, Science and Youth Affairs, Mrs Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, presented the Ministry’s initiatives and projects under the 2024 Employment Policy Planning and Implementation Report.

Mrs Tandilashvili emphasized key state programs designed to support rural populations and farmers, promote high-demand professions and encourage non-formal education as a critical pathway to employment.

“The Ministry’s initiatives aim to support farmers and rural communities while fostering employment in agriculture. The development of the sector depends on the availability of qualified personnel. That’s why we support non-formal education and implement retraining programs that increase employment opportunities year after year,” she stated.

As part of the 2024 employment promotion efforts, the Ministry carried out several impactful projects focused on empowering farmers and rural communities:

6,113 loans were issued under the Preferential Agrocredit Project
 The “Plant the Future” program supported 368 unique beneficiaries
 14,182 insurance policies were issued through the Agricultural Insurance Program

48 new enterprises were established through co-financing of processing and storage facilities

128 beneficiaries received co-financing for agricultural machinery

513 agreements were signed under the Dairy Modernization and Market Access Program

In addition, the Ministry advanced vocational and non-formal education through targeted training programs:

15 trainees completed a 12-week course on Forest Inventory and Taxation, three of whom have since been employed within the Ministry.

A 4-week program on Environmental Management was attended by 36 participants.

Training sessions for farmers and individuals interested in agriculture resulted in the retraining of 509 people in 2024

The 2024 Employment Policy Planning and Implementation Report was prepared by the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Protection of Georgia, in cooperation with the Ministries of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Education, Science and Youth, Economy and Sustainable Development, and Regional Development and Infrastructure.

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David Songulashvili Meets with OIV Director General John Barker



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, held a meeting with Mr. John Barker, Director General of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV).

The parties focused on developing the viticulture and wine industry in Georgia, enhancing global awareness of Georgian wine, diversifying export markets, and deepening bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Songulashvili thanked the Director General of the OIV for its longstanding, fruitful cooperation and emphasized the importance of joint projects.

According to the Minister, the development of viticulture and winemaking is a strategic priority for Georgia, while also adding that the current and future active cooperation with the International Organization of Wine is therefore crucial.

“At today’s meeting, we explored avenues for further collaboration and initiatives to increase international recognition of Georgian wine. With

continued support from the OIV, I am confident we will launch impactful projects to promote Georgian wine and expand its presence in global markets,” the Minister stated.

Mr. Barker emphasized the significance of the close partnership, noting that Georgia is making its best efforts to increase wine quality, expand vineyard areas, and boost exports.

“Georgia is the cradle of wine; this is a country where wine is not only an economic resource but also a part of its history and culture. Your active participation in the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) is essential to us. You are working very well on improving wine quality, increasing vineyard area, and international recognition of Georgian wine,” said Mr. Barker.

The OIV is an intergovernmental organization comprising 51 member states, including Georgia. It is vital in setting global standards for the vine and wine sector and supporting member countries in sectoral development.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, the Chairman of the National Wine Agency, Mr. Levan Mekhuzla, and the Chairman of the Degustation Commission of the National Wine Agency, Ms. Ana Godabrelidze, attended the meeting.

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Minister David Songulashvili Meets with Israeli Ambassador Hadas Meitzad



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, hosted Mr. Hadas Meitzad, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel to Georgia.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ongoing joint projects and explored avenues for future cooperation.

Minister Songulashvili thanked the Government of Israel for its longstanding and productive partnership, highlighting the deep historical ties between the two nations.

The Minister emphasised the importance of applying modern agricultural knowledge and highlighted the success of projects implemented in Georgia with the support of the Israel Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV).



Key topics included the introduction of advanced technologies in agriculture, expert knowledge exchange, strengthening trade relations, enhancing laboratory capacities, and expanding cooperation in agrometeorology.

Minister Songulashvili also noted Israel’s significant potential to support the expansion of Georgian agri-food exports.

Ambassador Meitzad reaffirmed Israel’s strong friendship with Georgia and emphasised that support for Georgia’s agricultural sector will continue.

The Deputy Minister Lasha Dolidze and the heads of relevant departments attended the meeting.

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Minister David Songulashvili Meets with Tajikistan's Ambassador Ilhom Abdurakhmon



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, hosted Mr. Ilhom Abdurakhmon, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan, accredited to Georgia (residing in Azerbaijan). During the meeting, Minister Songulashvili emphasised the significance of the friendly relations between Georgia and Tajikistan, highlighting the export potential of Georgian agricultural products. The discussion also focused on the importance of bilateral cooperation in addressing climate change. Ambassador Abdurakhmon reiterated Tajikistan's friendly stance toward Georgia and expressed interest in enhancing collaboration in the agricul-



tural and environmental protection fields. He proposed the signing of a memorandum of cooperation to deepen the partnership.

Additionally, the Ambassador invited the Minister and employees of the relevant Departments of the Ministry to a climate change conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The Deputy Minister, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, and Heads of the relevant departments attended the meeting at the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture.

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David Songulashvili: "The Jighaura National Base is a Strategic Asset - a true National Treasure."



The Jighaura Perennial Crops Experimental and Demonstration Base of the Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture recently hosted interns from the Parliamentary Staff and members of the Youth Parliament.

The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Mr Shalva Papuashvili, the First Deputy Chairman, Mr Giorgi Volski, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, the Chairman of the Agrarian Issues Committee, Mr Gela Samkharauli, other committee members, and guests attended the event.

"The Jighaura Perennial Crops Experimental and Demonstration Base of the Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture is an object of strategic importance — a true treasure of our country. Its establishment began in 2007, thanks to the direct involvement and initiative of Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili. In 2014, Mr Ivanishvili transferred the base to the state.

Today, young people visiting the base have the opportunity to explore a unique

collection of grape varieties and other perennial crops. These young people are currently interning at the Parliament of Georgia. Every single day and every minute they spend is an opportunity, especially during field visits like this, to see more, learn more, and move forward with greater confidence and consistency. Thank you for your interest and your patriotic spirit. We, on our part, are always ready to stand by your side in any situation and at any time.

These young people represent the future of our public service. It is only through such dedication and attitude toward public work that our country can grow stronger and continue to develop," said the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili.

As part of the visit, the Agrarian Issues Committee held an external session at the Jighaura Base. Mr. Levan Ujmajuridze, the Director of the Agricultural Scientific Research Center, delivered an informative presentation to the young participants, outlining the ongoing activities and research efforts at the facility.

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