



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

MAY 2026

David Songulashvili: “The Ministry Advances Environmental Protection and Agricultural Development, Contributing to a Stronger and More Independent Georgia”



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, attended the Independence Day ceremony at Freedom Square.

Mr Songulashvili congratulated the citizens of Georgia on Independence Day and wished the nation unity, peace, and enduring strength.

“I congratulate our country on Independence Day and wish every citizen freedom in a sovereign nation. Freedom means shaping Georgia’s future and living by the values that have guided us here. I wish our people unity through love and fortitude through faith. This year’s 1,700th anniversary of Christianity in Georgia is a remarkable milestone for our nation,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

According to the Minister, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture is one of the country’s major institutions, encompassing a wide range of sectors. The Ministry actively works in both environmental protection and agricultural development, contributing to strengthening the country and consolidating its independence.

Georgia’s Independence Day was celebrated across the country with various events organized by the Government Administration of Georgia. As part of the celebrations, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture hosted visitors at three locations - Poti, Ambrolauri, and Rustavi.

Notably, this year’s Independence Day celebrations are united by the central message: “For 1,700 Years, Faith Has Strengthened Us and Love Has United Us,” marking the 1,700th anniversary of Christianity’s designation as the state religion in Georgia.

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The study has commenced on the unique collection of alcoholic beverages preserved in the enoteca of Wine Factory No. 1



Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr. Irakli Kobakhidze, and the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, attended the opening ceremony of the unique enoteca located on the premises of “Wine Factory No. 1” in Tbilisi and addressed the guests with welcoming remarks.

The Minister thanked the Prime Minister of Georgia for supporting the project, noting that the opening of the unique enoteca is of exceptional importance to Georgian wine history and the country’s cultural heritage.

“This unique space preserves wines and spirits aged for more than two centuries and once again underscores the significance of Georgia as the cradle of wine. It is precisely this ancient tradition of winemaking that has defined our country’s distinguished place on the world map and, for centuries, has been an integral part of Georgia’s trade and cultural relations. Today, we are participating in a process that presents Georgia - a country bearing a unique wine culture - to the international community from an entirely new perspective,” Mr. David Songulashvili stated.

According to preliminary data, the enoteca located on the premises of “Wine Factory No. 1” houses up to 20,000 collectible bottles. The collection includes premium-class Georgian and foreign wines aged for more than two centuries.

The collection also includes specimens associated with the personal collections of Napoleon Bonaparte, Joseph Stalin, and other historical figures.

The wine enoteca has been transferred by the National Agency of State Property to the National Wine Agency for use free of charge and for an indefinite period. Plans are underway to identify the bottles preserved in the enoteca and determine their origins.

The opening of the unique enoteca and the commencement of its study will create an opportunity for Georgian wine to once again attract international attention, while the exhibited specimens may become featured lots at major international auctions.

Notably, the “Wine Factory No. 1” is a distinguished example of 19th-century national architecture, financed by renowned public figure and philanthropist David Sarajishvili. The enoteca, located within this historic complex, preserves a centuries-old legacy and represents an important treasury of Georgian winemaking heritage.

The event was attended by members of the Government of Georgia, President of Château d’Yquem Mr. Pierre Lurton, representatives of international auction houses and media outlets, foreign wine collectors, as well as representatives of Georgia’s wine industry and business sector.

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David Songulashvili Meets with World Bank Representatives



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, held a meeting with Mr Sameh Naguib Wahba, Regional Director for Sustainable Development for Europe and Central Asia at the World Bank, and Ms Roland Pryce, Regional Director for the South Caucasus.

During the meeting, Minister Songulashvili expressed his appreciation to the World Bank for its longstanding and effective cooperation. He briefed the guests on Georgia’s vision for agricultural development and the ongoing large-scale reform aimed at enhancing the agricultural sector. Particular emphasis was placed on advancing key projects, including the construction of the Ilto Reservoir and hazardous waste management initiatives.

The parties also discussed the progress of the “Georgia Resilient Agriculture, Irrigation and Land Project (GRAIL).” The discussion covered the project’s core components, including the development of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, agricultural support measures, grant programs, institutional strengthening of the Rural Development Agency, and land consolidation.

According to Mr Sameh Naguib Wahba, Georgia has established the necessary conditions for the effective implementation of the mentioned projects, and the World Bank will continue to support the development of the agricultural sector.

The Deputies of the Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidze and Mr Solomon Pavliashvili, as well as Heads of relevant Agencies and Departments of the Ministry, attended the meeting.

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Minister David Songulashvili Hosts Delegation from the United Arab Emirates



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, hosted the delegation of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates.

During the meeting, the parties explored ways to strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties, emphasising collaboration in the agri-food sector and highlighting Georgia's export capabilities in this field.

“During the meeting with the delegation of the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, we discussed the potential to increase agri-food exports and explored ways to strengthen our presence in global markets. It is important to mention that Georgia has real opportunities in this direction. We agreed to establish a joint working group that will move our cooperation into a practical phase. In addition, a framework memorandum will be defined, enabling us further to intensify bilateral trade and advance relations between our countries,” stated Minister Songulashvili.

According to Mr Mohamed Al Nuaimi, Deputy Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, their country is interested in the potential of Georgia's agri-food sector and its investment opportunities.

“It is important for us that Georgia can fully showcase its capabilities and investment potential. We believe that deeper cooperation between our countries will bring significant benefits to both sides,” noted Mr Mohamed Al Nuaimi.

The Deputies of the Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidze and Mr Lasha Avaliani, as well as heads of relevant agencies and departments of the Ministry, attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Hosts the President of Azerbaijan at the Georgian Pavilion at CASPIAN AGRO 2026 in Baku



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, pays an official visit to Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. As part of the visit, the Minister attended the opening ceremony of the international agricultural exhibition CASPIAN AGRO 2026 and the 31st International Food Industry Exhibition.

The event was officially opened with a welcoming address by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr Majnun Mammadov.

Following the opening ceremony, Minister Songulashvili hosted the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr Ilham Aliyev, at the Georgian pavilion presented at CASPIAN AGRO 2026, organised with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and coordinated by the Rural Development Agency.

“Caspian Agro is one of the largest agri-food exhibitions, and Georgia's participation is of particular importance, as it contributes to strengthening the country's regional positioning and further deepens bilateral relations, while also showcasing Georgia as a producer of agri-food products in the region. Significantly, the President of Azerbaijan visited the Georgian stand today, which once again underlines the importance of our country's participation in the event. The exhibition is distinguished by its effectiveness; in previous years, participating companies have successfully concluded contracts, providing Georgian busi-

nesses with opportunities to expand exports and enhance their presence in the region. Altogether, this contributes to strengthening the national economy,” Mr Songulashvili stated. Such international agri-food exhibitions represent an important opportunity to promote Georgian products, deepen trade relations, and increase the export/import of agri-food products between the two countries. This cooperation contributes to the expansion of business ties and to broader regional economic development.

The Georgian pavilion of CASPIAN AGRO 2026 features wine, natural juices, confectionery, preserved goods, honey, spices, and organic fertilisers produced by the companies Bioplant, Hobby, Vasadze's Bread, Parkoni, Geonaturals, Achinebuli, Chelti, and the winery Vinitori Mukuzani.

The international agricultural exhibition CASPIAN AGRO 2026 opened on May 5 and will run through May 7. In 2026, the event brings together participants from more than 20 countries worldwide.

Mrs Maia Tabagari, Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Azerbaijan; Deputy Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidze; Director of the Rural Development Agency, Mr Zurab Gozalishvili; and Head of the National Food Agency, Mr Giorgi Iakobashvili, accompanied the Minister David Songulashvili.

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David Songulashvili Holds High-Level International Meetings During the Official Visit to Baku



As part of his official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, participated in the International Agricultural Exhibition “CASPIAN AGRO 2026” in Baku and conducted a series of high-level international meetings.

The Minister was among the keynote speakers at the conference “Modern Agricultural Cooperation as a Foundation for Sustainable Development and a Guarantee of Food Security.” The event also brought together the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Majnun Mammadov, the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov, and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Ibrahim Yumaklı.

In his remarks, Minister Songulashvili emphasized the risks posed by climate change, the importance of sustainable agricultural development, and the growing role of regional cooperation. According to the Minister, Georgia’s strategic objective is to develop a modern, efficient, and climate-resilient agricultural sector capable of ensuring food security, strengthening farmers’ resilience, and promoting economic development in rural areas.

“Countries cannot address the challenges of climate change and food security in isolation; therefore, strengthening regional cooperation is essential. Moreover, as a bridge between Europe and Asia, Georgia plays an important role in regional trade and logistics processes,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

As part of his official visit, the Minister held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from the Republics of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. During his meeting with Uzbekistan’s Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov, the parties discussed opportunities

for deepening cooperation in the agricultural sector. Particular emphasis was placed on sharing expertise in viticulture and winemaking, strengthening scientific and research collaboration, and adopting modern technologies.

The Counterpart Ministers also discussed the growing dynamics of trade in agri-food products, as well as the importance of innovation, knowledge exchange, and the advancement of research-based cooperation.

During the meeting with the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Rashad Ismayilov, the parties focused on the cooperation in environmental protection, water resources management, biodiversity conservation, and joint responses to climate-related risks. The parties also reviewed the outcomes of the “COP 2024” Climate Conference held in Baku, while emphasizing that international cooperation remains essential for the effective implementation of climate policy.

As part of the visit, Mr. Songulashvili also met with the Azerbaijani Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Majnun Mammadov. The discussions included existing cooperation and future prospects between Georgia and Azerbaijan in the agri-food sector. Particular attention was paid to modern agricultural policy, value chain development, scientific cooperation, and the strengthening of trade relations.

As mentioned, in 2025, the value of agri-food exports from Georgia to Azerbaijan reached USD 207.6 million, representing a 19% increase compared to the previous year. During the same period, agri-food imports from Azerbaijan to Georgia amounted to USD 98.9 million.



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President of Georgia Awards Merab Gaprindashvili the Medal of Honour for His Contribution to the Field of Geology



President of Georgia, Mr Mikheil Kavelashvili, upon the nomination of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, awarded the State Medal of Honour to Mr Merab Gaprindashvili, Head of the Geology Department of the National Environmental Agency and Doctor of Geology.

The state award was granted to Mr Merab Gaprindashvili for his outstanding contribution to the development of geology in Georgia.

“I would like to thank the President of Georgia for recognising the achievements of Merab Gaprindashvili — a highly respected individual and a distinguished representative of the field of geology in our country.

Mr Gaprindashvili has devoted nearly half a century to this field. His work is associated with numerous important decisions and a significant contribution to the development of the sector. At the same time, it is important to support and encourage such scarce and strategically important fields as geology,” stated the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili.

The award ceremony, held at the Presidential Palace, was attended by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, Head of the National Environmental Agency, Mrs Elene Ghubianuri, and members of Merab Gaprindashvili’s family.

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Georgia Showcases Progress in Environmental Protection at the Ramsar Convention Secretariat Meeting



The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) held a working meeting with the Georgian delegation in Gland, Switzerland.

The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, Dr. Musonda Mumba; Senior Regional Advisor for Europe at the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Mrs Flor Lafaye de Micheaux;

Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, Mr Revaz Lominadze; and Head of the Biodiversity Policy Department of Georgia’s Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs Lika Giorgadze, including Representatives of the Convention Secretariat participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, the parties reviewed ongoing issues of bilateral cooperation and identified future priorities. The Georgian side once again reaffirmed the country’s strong commitment to the protection and sustainable management of wetland ecosystems.

The discussion focused on Georgia’s progress in expanding protected areas, strengthening biodiversity policy, and implementing water management reforms aligned with European Union standards.

The Secretary General positively assessed Georgia’s efforts to develop its biodiversity strategy, strengthen water resource management, and protect wetlands. She also expressed readiness to continue supporting the country in the mentioned areas.

The parties held detailed discussions on the boundaries of wetlands within Kolkheti National Park.

The Georgian side reaffirmed its readiness to ensure, through constructive dialogue and close cooperation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, a mutually acceptable solution regarding the boundaries of wetlands within the Kolkheti National Park.

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An International Conference and Ceremonial Events Held in Celebration of National Wine Day



As part of the celebrations of the National Wine Day, an International Scientific Conference was held in Tbilisi, officially opened by the President of Georgia, Mr. Mikheil Kavelashvili, and the Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr. Irakli Kobakhidze.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, and the Director General of the International Organization of Vine and Wine, Mr. John Barker.

Minister Songulashvili expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for establishing National Wine Day, noting that the initiative would contribute to bringing together wine professionals, tourists, and wine enthusiasts across the globe, while also promoting knowledge exchange and the popularization of wine culture.

“Georgian wine is an inseparable part of the country’s identity, historical memory, and centuries-old tradition. In Georgia, the special reverence for the vine and wine is reflected in the words, daily life, and traditions of the Georgian people. It is precisely this deep-rooted love that has preserved the uninterrupted 8,000-year-old tradition of Qvevri winemaking to the present day,” the Minister stated.

Minister Songulashvili also highlighted the importance of studying and restoring Georgia’s unique indigenous grape varieties, emphasizing that the hundreds of local varieties preserved in the country give Georgian wine its remarkable diversity and distinctive character.

The International Conference addressed the current state of the global wine sector, market trends, and export opportunities across Europe, Asia, and the United States. A panel discussion entitled “Georgia – The Homeland of Wine Civilization” was also held, bringing together Georgian and international experts.

As part of the National Wine Day celebrations, a Georgian wine exhibition and tasting event took place at Gudiashvili Square, featuring products from wine-producing companies, family wineries, and wine bars. Visitors had the opportunity to explore the rich diversity of wines from different regions of Georgia and learn more about the country’s winemaking traditions.

The day concluded with a musical-theatrical performance and gala evening held at the

Tbilisi Opera and Ballet State Theatre, dedicated to the 8,000-year history of Georgian winemaking. The performance symbolically united themes of the birth of wine, the blossoming of the vine, and the evolution of Georgian wine culture, showcasing the continuity of the country’s ancient winemaking tradition.

During the ceremonial event, the Minister once again emphasized that National Wine Day plays a crucial role in promoting Georgian wine and strengthening the country’s international positioning.

“Today, once again demonstrated that wine is an inseparable part of Georgian identity - wine is Georgian,” Mr. David Songulashvili stated.

Under the decision of the Government of Georgia and upon the initiative of the National Wine Agency of Georgia, May 8 was officially established as National Wine Day in Georgia. The initiative aims to promote the centuries-old history and cultural heritage of Georgian wine both domestically and internationally.



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David Songulashvili Meets with the Chairman of the International Blueberry Organisation (IBO), Mario Steta



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, met with the Chairman of the International Blueberry Organisation (IBO), Mr Mario Steta, President of the Georgian Blueberry Growers Association, Mr Tornike Panjavidze, and representatives of the sector.

During the meeting, the parties focused on the opportunities and challenges facing the sector, including the development of supply chains, enhancement of quality standards, adoption of innovative technologies, and diversification of export markets.

Particular attention was given to the importance of expanding access to knowledge and modern practices, which is critical to the sector's long-term development.

“Georgia’s economy continues to demonstrate dynamic growth. The country’s geographical location, as part of a key transit corridor, is gaining increasing significance in the context of regional and global trade. This potential is further strengthened by free trade agreements providing us with access to a market of approximately 2.3 billion consumers. In this context, the development of agriculture, including the blueberry sector, is particularly important. Blueberries are increasingly emerging as one of Georgia’s significant export products. The state is actively supporting this direction through various programs aimed at expanding production and increasing competitiveness,” Mr David Songulashvili stated.

The parties also emphasised the importance of cooperation between the private sector and the state, noting that agricultural development requires a shared vision, coordinated policies, and targeted state support for private initiatives.

“Georgia has the potential to become a regional hub, and it is essential that existing opportunities are fully utilised through the joint efforts of the state and the private sector. We believe that, with the right policies and investments, the country’s existing potential will significantly strengthen Georgia’s position in both regional and global agri-food markets,” Mr Mario Steta noted.

Notably, Georgia’s blueberry sector is experiencing rapid growth. In 2025, Georgian blueberry exports reached USD 46.4 million, marking a 64.5% increase compared to 2024. Export volumes totalled 6,913 tonnes, representing a 38.5% increase compared to the previous year. The main export markets are Russia, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Poland, and Germany.

Mr Mario Steta, Chairman of the International Blueberry Organisation, is visiting Georgia at the invitation of the Georgian Blueberry Growers Association. During the visit, he will tour farming operations and will be better acquainted with the sector’s development prospects on site.

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David Songulashvili Meets with the Head of BP Georgia Office



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with the Director of BP Georgia, Mrs Aytan Hajiyeva.

During the meeting, the parties reviewed the outcomes of their enduring cooperation and addressed current and upcoming projects. Discussions focused on advancing Georgia’s energy infrastructure, upholding environmental standards, and deepening collaboration.

Minister Songulashvili emphasised the importance of cooperation between the state and

the private sector, noting that such partnerships are particularly significant for environmental protection in the country.

“Our collaboration with BP has been effective and results-driven over the years. The Ministry and BP maintain a close partnership, ensuring adherence to environmental standards and efficient project execution. Strengthening this partnership is vital for our future,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

According to the company representative, BP is marking 30 years of operations in Georgia, during which numerous important projects have been implemented in cooperation with the Government of Georgia.

“Georgia is an important strategic partner for us. BP is not leaving the region; on the contrary, we continue to expand our operations in Georgia and across the region. We remain partners in the Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan and South Caucasus Pipeline systems and continue to manage critical energy infrastructure,” stated Mrs Aytan Hajiyeva.

Particular attention was given to environmental and investment projects, including forest restoration and the protection of natural resources. As mentioned, BP actively cooperates with the Agencies within the Ministry system on licensing and permitting processes, including the implementation of environmental protection and natural resource conservation initiatives.

The Deputies of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Giorgi Tskrialashvili and Mr Zurab Ezugbaia, as well as BP External Relations Manager, Mrs Rusudan Medzmariashvili, attended the meeting.

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Within the Framework of the FAO Regional Conference, Lasha Dolidze Emphasizes the Importance of Strengthening Cooperation with International Partners



As part of the 35th Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in Dushanbe, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, conducted a series of high-level bilateral meetings with representatives of the FAO Italian and Turkish Delegations.

The Deputy Minister met with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr. Qu Dongyu.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the key areas of cooperation between Georgia and the FAO, as well as ongoing processes related to the development and transformation of agri-food systems. Particular attention was paid to food security, rural development, climate-resilient agriculture, and enhancing the competitiveness of Georgian agri-food products.

Mr. Dolidze spoke about the ongoing reforms in Georgia's agricultural sector, emphasizing the importance of climate-smart agriculture, the adoption of modern technologies, and the strengthening of institutional capacities. The discussion also covered prospects for cooperation in land consolidation, aquaculture development, the implementation of digital systems, and rural development initiatives.

The FAO Director-General positively assessed the agri-food reforms underway in Georgia, while outlining the significant potential of Georgian winemaking and agritourism as key drivers for rural development, value creation, and increasing international recognition.

During the FAO Regional Conference, Mr. Lasha Dolidze also met with the Italian delegation, including the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Guido De Sanctis, and the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Italian Republic to the FAO, Mr. Filippo Lonardo.

The parties reviewed current and future areas of cooperation between Georgia and Italy in agriculture and the agri-food sector. Particular emphasis was placed on the development of sustainable agri-food systems, the introduction of modern technologies and innovative approaches, as well as support for sectoral adaptation and resilience-building in response to climate change.

The discussion also covered issues regarding the exchange of experience and the strengthening of cooperation in irrigation and water resource management, as well as the importance of sharing practical knowledge, technical expertise, and information.

The Italian side positively assessed the existing cooperation with Georgia and expressed readiness to continue active dialogue both in bilateral formats and within the framework of the FAO.



The Deputy Dolidze also held meetings with the representatives of the Turkish delegation, including the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Ahmet Bağcı, and former Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Türkiye and candidate for the position of FAO Director-General, Mr. Mehmet Mehdi Eker.

The parties discussed current cooperation and future prospects between Georgia and Türkiye in the agri-food sector. Particular attention was given to the irrigation and drainage systems management, the efficient use of water resources, and cooperation in the adoption of modern irrigation technologies.

The discussions also covered the export potential of Georgian agri-food products on the Turkish market.

As mentioned, the deepening of trade and economic relations and the expansion of sectoral cooperation between the two countries create significant opportunities to increase Georgian exports and enhance regional economic cooperation.

The parties reaffirmed their readiness to continue active cooperation in bilateral and international formats, which will further support the implementation of joint initiatives in agriculture, food security, and sustainable development across the region.



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The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, David Songulashvili, participates in the 93rd General Session of the World Organization for Animal Health in Paris and conducts a series of High-level Bilateral Meetings with International Partners



During the Ministerial Meeting, Mr. David Songulashvili underscored the importance of strong veterinary systems, noting that in today's interconnected world, effective veterinary services are a key pillar of food security, public health, and international trade.

According to the Minister, Georgia is investing significant resources in disease prevention, surveillance, and the strengthening of laboratory capacities, thereby contributing not only to epidemic prevention but also to the country's economic resilience and international competitiveness.

Mr. Songulashvili also highlighted the importance of veterinary education and professional development, as well as the initiatives implemented in Georgia with the support of the WOA.

During the panel discussion "Financing Animal Health: A Strategic Investment," held within the framework of the 93rd General Session of the World Organization for Animal Health, the Minister outlined Georgia's key reforms and achievements in the veterinary sector, emphasizing that officially recognized disease-free status is a key indicator of the strength and reliability of the system.

Minister Songulashvili noted that such recognition enhances the confidence of trading partners and significantly facilitates access to international markets.

The Minister also focused on the results of Georgia's national rabies prevention and control program, noting that since 2013, rabies cases among animals in Georgia have decreased by approximately 93%.

As part of the working visit, Mr. Songulashvili met with the Minister of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Mr. Saeb Khreisat. During the meeting, the parties discussed the potential for cooperation between Georgia and Jordan in the agri-food sector, as



well as opportunities for expanding trade relations and diversifying markets.

According to the Ministers, a Memorandum of Understanding is currently being prepared between the two countries, aiming to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and food safety. The discussions also covered the promotion of investments in agribusiness, including prospects for cooperation in modern technologies, smart agriculture, and information systems. As mentioned, there is a high demand in the Jordanian market for Georgian livestock products, including sheep.

Mr. Songulashvili also held a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Kingdom of Spain, Mr. Luis Planas Puchades. The parties discussed prospects for advancing Georgia-Spain cooperation and opportunities for deepening partnership in the agri-food sector.

Particular attention was devoted to enhancing the international visibility of Georgian wine, marketing strategies, quality systems, and the exchange of experience in the field of gastronomy. The Ministers also discussed expanding scientific and research cooperation, including the implementation of joint projects in livestock and crop production.

As mentioned, trade and economic relations between Georgia and Spain continue to demonstrate positive growth dynamics. In 2025, exports from Georgia to Spain amounted to USD 27.7 million, with hazelnuts, wine, and mineral water representing the main export products.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Lasha Avaliani, Head of the National Food Agency of Georgia, Mr. Giorgi Iakobashvili, and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the French Republic, Mr. Irakli Kurashvili, also attended the 93rd General Session of the WOA.



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Lasha Avaliani Holds Meetings within the Framework of the 93rd General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Chief Veterinary Officer of the country, and Georgia's Delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health, Mr Lasha Avaliani, held a meeting with the Head of the Animal Development and Health Department and Chief Veterinary Officer of the United Arab Emirates, Dr Kaltham Kayaf, within the framework of the 93rd General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister spoke about ongoing efforts undertaken in Georgia towards animal health protection, while focusing on the country's achievements in maintaining a favourable epizootic status.

The parties agreed on the format of the veterinary certificate for the export of sheep and goats from Georgia to the United Arab Emirates. Notably, the interest was also expressed in increasing sheep exports from Georgia.

Within the General Session, a working meeting was also held with representatives of the Status Department of the World Organisation for Animal Health. The parties discussed Georgia's current plans to obtain disease-free status for certain animal diseases. Particular attention was paid to the need to increase international awareness of the country's favourable epizootic status.

Representatives of the WOAH Status Department positively assessed the work carried out in Georgia in the field of animal health and assured the Deputy Minister of their full support in obtaining disease-free status for the country.

It is important to mention that obtaining disease-free status will help strengthen Georgia's position as a reliable trading partner at the international level.

The 93rd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health is being held in Paris from 18 to 22 May.

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Georgia Marks an International Day for Biological Diversity with a Special Event



On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, an event was held at the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, with support from the Environmental Information and Education Centre and the international biodiversity partnership, NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.

The event aimed to showcase the state's efforts in biodiversity conservation and promote greater public engagement in environmental protection processes.

The event brought together sector specialists, young people, and representatives of environmental organisations. Participants received information about the measures undertaken by Georgia in biodiversity conservation, including species restoration initiatives, the policy

of expanding protected areas, and international cooperation in environmental protection.

As part of the event, the winners of the photo contest "Georgia's Biodiversity Through My Lens" were awarded. The winners received special prizes from Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Zurab Ezugbaia.

"This is a valuable opportunity for the Ministry to present its work to the society engaged and interested in this field. Through our joint efforts, we can achieve the key objective of preserving Georgia's biodiversity. Today's message is directly linked to this goal — from local action to global impact. It is important for Georgia to make a valuable contribution to the protection and preservation of the world's natural heritage," stated Mr Zurab Ezugbaia. As part of the photo contest, the jury selected 18 winning photographs.

"The photo contest dedicated to the International Day for Biological Diversity received significant interest and engagement. As a result of the competition, 18 winning photographs were selected, each showcasing Georgia's unique nature and biodiversity in the best possible way," stated Director of the Environmental Information and Education Centre, Mrs Tamta Devdariani.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on 22 May by decision of the United Nations General Assembly. The purpose of the day is to raise public awareness about the importance of biodiversity, highlight the need to protect natural resources, and encourage active public participation in environmental processes.

The 2026 theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity is "Act Locally for Global Impact," once again emphasising every individual's responsibility to protect the environment and preserve natural resources.

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