



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

JUNE 2026

David Songulashvili Meets with Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus Yuri Shuleiko as part of his official visit to the Republic of Belarus



During the meeting, the parties discussed opportunities to deepen trade and economic cooperation between Georgia and Belarus, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in the agri-food sector.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, Mr Yuri Gorlov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pavel Utyupin, and other senior officials.

“Georgia and Belarus possess significant potential for further strengthening bilateral cooperation. Agriculture is one of the leading and strategically important sectors of both economies, providing a solid foundation for expanding trade in agricultural products. Considerable opportunities exist for exporting dairy products from Belarus, including increasing exports of Georgian wine and other agricultural products to the Belarusian market. Furthermore, the exchange of experience and expertise in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable forest management is of particular importance,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

The Minister thanked the Belarusian side for the constructive dialogue and empha-

sized that Georgia places great importance on result-oriented cooperation with its partner countries.

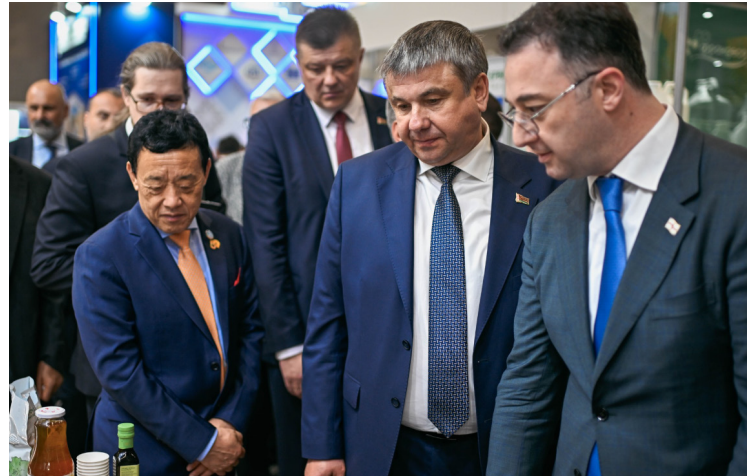
The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Yuri Shuleiko, noted that the resumption of the activities of the Georgia–Belarus Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation represents an important step toward strengthening bilateral relations.

“Georgia is distinguished by its high-quality agricultural products, particularly fruits, vegetables, and its centuries-old winemaking traditions, which significantly enhance the country’s competitiveness in international markets. One of the areas discussed during our meeting concerned the supply and trade of raw materials required for the production of wine and brandy, including grape spirit. At the same time, we attach particular importance to the systematic and transparent management of trade relations. These processes require a coherent and consistent approach that will ensure the stable and predictable development of bilateral economic cooperation. We have also agreed that our next meeting will take place in Belarus next year, where we will review the progress achieved and present tangible results of our joint efforts,” Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Yuri Shuleiko, stated.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26454/>

David Songulashvili Pays a Working Visit to the Republic of Belarus



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

As part of the visit, Minister Songulashvili attended the opening ceremony of the international exhibition Belagro 2026 in Minsk. At the Georgian pavilion, Mr Songulashvili hosted the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, the Minister of Agriculture and Food of Belarus, and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

According to Minister Songulashvili, the debut presentation of Georgian products at the international exhibition attracted considerable interest, which is expected to translate into new partnerships and expanded export opportunities in the future.

Georgia's pavilion at Belagro 2026 was organized with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and coordinated by the Rural Development Agency and the National Wine Agency. The exhibition featured Georgian wine producers and agri-food companies showcasing their products to international audiences.

During the visit, Minister Songulashvili also held meetings with the Minister of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus and the First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, whereby the parties focused on prospects for collaboration in sustainable forest management. Discussions covered forest restoration mechanisms, wildfire

prevention, the application of modern technologies, the development of hunting management systems and ecotourism, as well as professional capacity-building initiatives and the implementation of joint research and educational programs.

According to the Minister, the sharing of successful international experience in forest management and its practical application is crucial for Georgia.

During discussions on natural resources and environmental protection, the parties explored opportunities for cooperation in environmental governance and natural resource management. Particular attention was given to solid waste management, the planning and administration of protected areas, ecotourism development, the restoration and monitoring of rare species, and environmental education.

Both sides underscored the considerable potential for environmental cooperation between Georgia and Belarus and agreed to identify concrete areas of collaboration and promote the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices between the respective institutions.

The international exhibition Belagro is one of the largest platforms in the region, bringing together representatives of the agriculture, food processing, and agri-food sectors and serving as an important venue for fostering international cooperation and business development.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26455/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26456/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26457/>

Georgia Signs the Stockholm Ministerial Declaration



During the tenth Forest Europe Ministerial Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, participating countries signed the Stockholm Ministerial Declaration.

On behalf of Georgia, the Declaration was signed by Mr Carl Amirgulashvili, Head of the Forest Policy Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, alongside representatives of European member states.

The Declaration aims to promote the development of sustainable forest management systems at both national and international levels and facilitate the practical implementation

of relevant principles and approaches. Particular emphasis is placed on climate change adaptation, diversification of forest resources, mobilisation of financial resources, support for forestry education and sector promotion, enhancement of public awareness, and effective communication with stakeholders.

“Participation in the Ministerial Conference is of particular importance for Georgia as a signatory country to the Forest Europe process. It provides an excellent opportunity to enhance the country’s visibility, showcase ongoing reforms in the forestry sector, and exchange best international practices in sustainable forest management. In cooperation with international partners, Georgia will continue to actively advance the implementation of European standards in the environmental protection and forestry sectors,” stated Mr Carl Amirgulashvili.

The tenth Ministerial Conference in Stockholm was held under the slogan “Sustainable Forests for Sustainable Societies.”

“Forest Europe” is a high-level political platform for cooperation on sustainable forest management, established in 1990. The process involves 46 countries and relevant institutions of the European Union, working jointly to develop common visions and strategies for forest protection and sustainable management. Georgia became a member of this process in 2003.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26458/>

Georgia Begins Developing Its First National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change



Under the project “Building Capacity to Advance the National Adaptation Plan Process in Georgia (NAP),” Georgia is launching the development of its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to Climate Change. During a meeting of the Project Steering Committee, the initiative’s objectives and the work plan for the next six months were officially presented.

According to Mrs Nino Tandilashvili, Chair of the Project Steering Committee and the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, strengthening the country’s adaptive capacity and establishing a long-term vision across various sectors are of particular importance in the context of climate change.

“Georgia is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In recent years, the increasing frequency of natural hazards has had a significant impact on both local communities and various sectors of the economy. Therefore, it is essential to establish a clear strategic vision and effective mechanisms that will enable us to adapt to the consequences of climate change,” said Nino Tandilashvili.

The National Adaptation Plan will serve as Georgia’s first comprehensive framework for the long-term planning, coordination, and integration of climate change adaptation measures into national and sectoral policies.

A key outcome of the process will be the development of a 10-year strategic vision for climate change adaptation and a five-year National Adaptation Action Plan. In addition, the project envisages strengthening governance and coordination mechanisms, identifying and analyzing information needs, developing a financing strategy, and establishing monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems.

“Today marks an important milestone in the implementation of this project. We are confident that, through close cooperation among partner institutions, we will be able to effectively integrate climate change adaptation considerations into national and sectoral planning processes, significantly enhancing the country’s capacity to address the impacts of climate change,” said Essey Daniel, Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Environmental Information and Education Centre, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

According to Mrs Tamta Devdariani, Head of the Environmental Information and Education Centre, the development of the National Adaptation Plan is an important process for the country, as it will help strengthen Georgia’s resilience to climate change and establish an effective adaptation policy framework.

The project’s total budget amounts to USD 2.7 million, and its implementation period is 13 months.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26459/>

World Environment Day Marked with Diverse Events Across Georgia



World Environment Day was marked by the official commencement of Georgia's first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to Climate Change.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, and the Chair of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, Mrs Maia Bitadze.

In his remarks, Minister Songulashvili highlighted the increasing impacts of climate change and emphasized the importance of strengthening the country's adaptive capacity, improving climate risk assessment mechanisms, and promoting long-term sustainable development approaches across various sectors.

The National Adaptation Plan will be developed under the project "Strengthening Capacity for Advancing Georgia's National Adaptation Plan Process," implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Environmental Information and Education Centre with financial support from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The mentioned document will serve as the country's first comprehensive framework for the long-term planning and coordination of climate change adaptation measures.

As part of the World Environment Day celebrations, a wide range of educational and recreational activities were organized throughout the day at Dedaena Park in Tbilisi. The event was attended by the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs Nino Tandilashvili, who awarded the winners of the Agency of Protected Areas' environmental education competition, "I Protect the Nature of My Country."

The Environmental Information and Education Centre organized thematic exhibition spaces, environmental quizzes, educational games, musical performances, and entertainment programs. Agencies operating within the Ministry system presented information stands showcasing their activities. Participants also took part in a tree-planting campaign and left their messages on the interactive installation, the "Green Planet Wall."

The World Environment Day programme concluded with an award ceremony recognizing outstanding educators within the framework of the project "Education for a Green Future." The winners were awarded by Mr David Songulashvili, Chair, Mrs Maia Bitadze, Minister



of Agriculture of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Mr Denis Salukvadze, and the Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Youth, Mrs Tamar Makhharashvili.

In his remarks, Minister Songulashvili emphasized that the education system is central to addressing today's environmental challenges, noting that integrating environmental and agricultural education helps develop a knowledgeable, skilled, and responsible generation capable of effectively tackling environmental issues.

The project "Education for a Green Future" aims to support and encourage preschool and primary-level educators who actively incorporate environmental and agricultural educational resources into the learning process. Nearly 150 teachers and educators participated in the 2026 competition, and 20 outstanding participants were selected from across the country.

World Environment Day has been observed annually since 1972, following an initiative of the United Nations General Assembly, to raise public awareness of environmental issues and encourage active citizen participation in environmental protection efforts. The 2026 global theme is: "Inspired by Nature. For the Climate. For Our Future."



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26460/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26461/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26462/>

David Songulashvili Pays a Working Visit to the Republic of Türkiye



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, paid a working visit to the Republic of Türkiye. During the visit, Minister Songulashvili met with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr Ibrahim Yumaklı.

The parties discussed opportunities to further strengthen cooperation between Georgia and Türkiye in the fields of environmental protection and agriculture. Particular attention was given to promoting trade in agri-food products, advancing cooperation in animal health, pest management, irrigation, and forestry.

Mr Songulashvili expressed his appreciation to the Turkish side for allowing the export of Georgian honey to the Turkish market, noting that this opportunity will contribute to

expanding the export potential of Georgian beekeepers.

The parties also addressed the export of live animals, meat, and meat products from Georgia to Türkiye, including transit arrangements through Turkish territory and cooperation in the field of animal vaccination.

As mentioned, Georgia and Türkiye are actively cooperating towards combating the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. The parties agreed to continue implementing joint measures and applying proven control methods in border areas to prevent the spread of the pest.

As part of the meeting, Minister David Songulashvili and Mr Ibrahim Yumaklı signed two Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation in irrigation infrastructure development and forestry management.

The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in irrigation and drainage management and reclamation infrastructure provides for the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and technologies, aiming to improve irrigation and drainage systems and enhance service quality.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding on forestry cooperation, Georgia and Türkiye will collaborate in sustainable forest management, seedling production technologies, biodiversity conservation, protected area management, combating desertification and erosion, ecotourism development, and forest cadaster systems.

“Cooperation between our two countries continues to grow stronger. Türkiye’s experience is particularly valuable in areas where the country has achieved significant progress. I am confident that the signed Memoranda will contribute to deepening practical cooperation and advancing the implementation of joint projects,” said Mr David Songulashvili.

As part of the visit, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia also attended the Ministerial event “Reducing Post-Harvest Losses: Enhancing Efficiency in the Food Supply Chain.”

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26463/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26464/>

Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, David Songulashvili, participates in the high-level Ministerial meeting as part of the “Zero Waste” Forum in Istanbul



During his working visit to Türkiye, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, participated in the high-level Ministerial meeting held as part of the “Zero Waste” Forum in Istanbul.

The Ministerial meeting was dedicated to zero-waste policies, sustainable waste management, including the reduction of post-harvest food losses. Discussions focused on enhancing the efficiency of supply chains, the importance of developing modern logistics infrastructure, strengthening cooperation between the public and private sectors, as well as the role of innovative technologies and investment in establishing sustainable food systems.

“As climate change remains one of the most significant global challenges today, the proper and efficient management of waste is of particular importance. Sustainable waste management is a key component of climate change mitigation and environmental protection

policy. These were the central topics of the Ministerial meeting, where several relevant issues were discussed,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

During the session held within the forum, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Zurab Ezugbaia, delivered a speech addressing the importance of reducing post-harvest losses, the sustainability of agri-food systems, and food security.

Mr Ezugbaia emphasized that reducing food losses in Georgia is closely linked to increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, strengthening food security, supporting rural development, and raising farmers’ incomes. He noted that Georgia has made significant progress in modernizing its agricultural sector and strengthening agri-food value chains, which provide producers with better opportunities to preserve product quality and access higher-value markets.

According to the Deputy Minister, reducing post-harvest losses requires coordinated action across all segments of the agri-food supply chain, while investing in modern infrastructure, innovation, and partnerships will contribute to building more efficient, sustainable, and resilient agri-food systems.

The “Zero Waste” Forum was held under the leadership and patronage of Türkiye’s First Lady, Mrs Emine Erdogan. The opening ceremony was also attended by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Ibrahim Yumaklı.

The forum brought together approximately 1,600 participants from nearly 50 national delegations, including policymakers, United Nations agencies, representatives of the private sector, academia, and civil society.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26465/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26466/>

David Songulashvili Meets with the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Georgia, Mustafa Türker Arı



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Georgia, Mr Mustafa Türker Arı.

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for further strengthening trade and economic relations as part of the strategic partnership between the two countries, with a focus on investment opportunities in Georgia.

Minister Songulashvili highlighted the importance of his recent working visit to the Republic of Türkiye and expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Turan for the excellent organisation of the visit. According to the Minister, regular institutional dialogue and high-level meetings contribute significantly to deepening the existing partnership and creating new avenues for cooperation.

The Minister spoke extensively about Georgia's export-oriented agricultural products, placing particular emphasis on Georgian hazelnuts, honey, and wine, which hold strong

potential in international markets.

The discussion further focused on enhancing cooperation and sharing expertise in agriculture, waste management, forestry, and the mining sector. Both sides underscored the importance of expanding practical collaboration and promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Ambassador Mustafa Turan reaffirmed that Georgia is an important partner for Türkiye and expressed his country's full readiness to support and implement mutually beneficial initiatives and projects.

The Deputy Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidze, and the Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration, Mr David Chitaishvili, also attended the meeting.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26469/>

Nino Tandilashvili Meets with UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Isabella Castrogiovanni



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mrs Nino Tandilashvili, met with the newly appointed UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Isabella Castrogiovanni.

During the introductory meeting, the parties discussed current cooperation and explored opportunities for bilateral collaboration.

Mrs Tandilashvili provided an overview of the activities of the Environmental Information and Education Centre, highlighting its environmental education, awareness-raising, and public information initiatives, as well as key projects currently being implemented and those completed.

“Environmental protection and healthy ecosystems are intrinsically linked to the health and well-being of future generations. We highly value our partnership with UNICEF and stand ready to further strengthen our cooperation through joint initiatives aiming to advance children's rights and promote a healthy and sustainable environment for every child,” stated Mrs Nino Tandilashvili.

The discussion focused on environmental awareness-raising, climate change, and the importance of ensuring a healthy environment. Particular attention was given to Children's Environmental Health and the need to enhance public awareness and engagement in this area.

Mrs Isabella Castrogiovanni noted that environmental protection, climate change, and child health are among the key areas with significant potential for deeper cooperation between UNICEF and the Ministry.

Mrs Tamta Devdariani, Director of the Environmental Information and Education Centre; Mr David Chitaishvili, Head of the Ministry's International Relations Department; and Mrs Nino Dzotsenidze, Health Officer at UNICEF Georgia, also attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26467/>

David Songulashvili reviews the operations of state-supported enterprises and farm holdings established with government assistance in the Kvemo Kartli region



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, visited the Kvemo Kartli region, where he reviewed the operations of state-supported enterprises and farm holdings, opened a new regional office of the National Food Agency, and met with local farmers.

During the visit, the Minister inspected the operations of several enterprises, including the wine and alcoholic beverages producer “Marnaveli,” the poultry farm “Sabudara,” and the high-tech compound feed production facility “Nutrimax” located in Ponichala. He reviewed their production capacities, export potential, and the results achieved through state support programs.

As part of the visit to Kvemo Kartli, Mr David Songulashvili also officially opened a new regional office of the National Food Agency in the Marneuli municipality. According to the Minister, the infrastructure developed in line with modern standards will enable Agency staff to carry out state control more effectively and provide higher-quality services to the population.

The Minister also visited a greenhouse facility in the village of Damia-Geurarkh, established under state support within the “Georgian Vegetables from Greenhouses” program, which contributes to the growth of local production.

At the end of the visit, the Minister met with local farmers and discussed challenges in the agricultural sector, ongoing state programs, and development prospects.

“The main purpose of regional visits is to observe the ongoing activities of state-supported enterprises and farms, to hear farmers’ needs, and to further improve support mechanisms. Our goal is to promote the development of local production, strengthen the processing sector, create new jobs, and enhance the competitiveness of Georgian products,” said Mr David Songulashvili.



- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26470/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26471/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26472/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26473/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26474/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26475/>

David Songulashvili participates in the 2nd meeting of the Georgia–Kyrgyzstan Intergovernmental Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, participated in the second session of the Georgia–Kyrgyzstan Intergovernmental Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, during his official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic along with the Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr Irakli Kobakhidze and Members of the Georgian Government.

The session addressed the deepening of trade, economic, agricultural, and environmental cooperation between the two countries.

„The meeting of the Intergovernmental Joint Commission serves as an important platform for identifying new opportunities for cooperation and strengthening practical partnership. Agriculture remains one of the key areas of cooperation between Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, particularly in such fields as food safety, the adoption of international standards, organic farming, viticulture, fruit production, and agro-processing,” noted Mr David Songulashvili.

During the visit, Memoranda of Cooperation were signed in the fields of veterinary services and radiation and nuclear safety. The Agreement on radiation and nuclear safety provides for cooperation and information exchange in areas such as regulatory practices, legislation, licensing, supervision, radioactive waste management, nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, and capacity building.

In addition, a Memorandum between the National Food Agency of Georgia and the relevant Kyrgyz authority aims to develop cooperation in veterinary services, prevent infectious and zoonotic diseases, and facilitate trade in animal-origin products. The mentioned Agreement also includes experience sharing, improved disease control mechanisms, joint training programs, seminars, and research initiatives.

Minister Songulashvili stated that relations between Georgia and Kyrgyzstan are entering a new stage, and that the signed Memoranda provide a strong foundation for expanding cooperation and sharing expertise across multiple sectors.

He further noted that the deepening of bilateral relations will contribute both to the strengthening of the partnership and to the achievement of long-term socio-economic and environmental objectives in the region.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26480/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26481/>

Solomon Pavliashvili Participates in International Interagency Meeting on Sustainable Solid Waste Management in Japan



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Solomon Pavliashvili, took part in an international intergovernmental meeting in Japan organised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The meeting focused on sustainable solid waste management solutions in support of circular economy objectives.

During the event, participants discussed modern waste management models and practical approaches that could be adopted with the support and cooperation of the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan.

The Deputy Minister briefed participants on the current state of waste management in Georgia, ongoing reforms in the sector, and the key challenges facing the country.

The meeting brought together representatives of government agencies from ADB partner developing countries, as well as officials responsible for shaping waste management policies. Parties exchanged views on implementing circular economy principles, expanding waste recycling opportunities, and attracting investment in the sector.

The parties expressed their readiness to cooperate in developing and implementing projects to strengthen Georgia’s waste recycling capacity.

As part of the visit, members of the delegation toured waste treatment and disposal facilities operating in Japan, where they gained firsthand insight into advanced technologies and management practices that support efficient waste management and promote resource recovery and reuse.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26482/>

David Songulashvili Meets with the Ambassador of the Republic of India to Georgia, Amit Kumar Mishra



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to Georgia, Mr Amit Kumar Mishra.

Ambassador Mishra is the first resident Ambassador of the Republic of India to Georgia. According to Minister Songulashvili, the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of India in Georgia represents an important milestone and creates favourable conditions for deepening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The parties discussed sharing expertise and best practices in the agricultural sector. Particular attention was given to mutually beneficial sectoral programs and expanding cooperation in trade, including import and export activities.

The discussion also highlighted climate change as a common challenge for both countries. In this context, the parties explored cooperation in developing climate-resilient agriculture, implementing adaptation measures, and advancing environmental protection initiatives across various fields.

Both sides underscored the importance of developing appropriate framework agreements and practical cooperation mechanisms that would further strengthen sectoral partnerships and enhance bilateral collaboration.

The Deputy Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidzev, and the Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration, Mr David Chitashvili, attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26484/>

David Songulashvili participates in official meetings held with the Delegation of the Republic of Serbia



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, participated in an expanded-format meeting with the delegation of the President of the Republic of Serbia, held at the Administration of the Government of Georgia under the leadership of Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze.

The parties focused on deepening bilateral cooperation and expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries. Mr David Songulashvili noted that the official visit of the President of Serbia to Georgia is of historic significance and will contribute to a new stage in relations between the two countries.

Minister Songulashvili held a separate meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Mr Dragan Glamocic. The discussions focused on opportunities for cooperation in agriculture, water resource management, forestry, food safety, and veterinary sectors.

The Minister emphasized that cooperation between Georgia and Serbia holds significant potential to increase exports of Georgian agri-food products and to exchange knowledge and best practices.

“The official visit of the delegation of the President of the Republic of Serbia creates an important opportunity to deepen bilateral relations and expand cooperation between our two countries. Active collaboration will contribute to improving the quality of Georgian agri-food products, enhancing their competitiveness, and expanding exports to European markets,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

The sides also highlighted the importance of sharing Serbia’s experience in water resource management and agriculture and expressed readiness to establish a joint working group to coordinate cooperation and implement new initiatives in the respective fields.

The Serbian Delegation visited Georgia as part of the official visit of Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26486/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26485/>

Georgia and Tajikistan Sign Memoranda on Cooperation in Agriculture and Climate Change



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, paid an official visit to the Republic of Tajikistan along with the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Kobakhidze, and Members of the Government.

As part of the visit, Mr David Songulashvili met with Tajikistan's Minister of Agriculture, Mr Qurbon Hakimzoda. The parties discussed prospects for deepening cooperation in agriculture, farmer support programs, climate-smart agriculture, efficient water resource management, rural development policies, and strengthening collaboration between research institutions.

According to the Minister, Georgia and Tajikistan have significant potential for agricultural cooperation, while the exchange of experience will facilitate the implementation of joint projects and sectoral development.

During the visit, the relevant authorities of Georgia and Tajikistan signed Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation in agriculture and climate change.

The Memorandum on agricultural cooperation envisages collaboration in grain production, livestock and poultry farming, plant protection, scientific research, professional development, knowledge exchange among specialists, and information sharing. The Agreement will also support the growth of agricultural exports and strengthen cooperation in eco-tourism and agritourism.

In addition, Minister Songulashvili and Tajikistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Sirojiddin Muhridin, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in climate change vulnerability and risk assessment, adaptation, and mitigation.

The Memorandum aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation in addressing climate change through the exchange of expertise and the implementation of joint projects in areas including climate impact assessment, implementation and monitoring of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), sustainable use of natural resources, energy efficiency, renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and the development of early warning systems.

The parties noted that the signed Memoranda will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices, strengthen institutional capacities, and advance bilateral cooperation to a new level.

Notably, the agri-food trade between Georgia and Tajikistan has been experiencing steady growth. Georgia exports a range of products to Tajikistan, including non-alcoholic carbonated beverages, mineral and spring waters, food additives, natural grape wines, and other agri-food products.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26496/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26495/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26494/>

Two New Agencies Established Within the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

Two new Legal Entities of Public Law (LEPLs) have been established within the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia system: the National Gastronomy Agency and the Agency for Information Technologies, Environmental and Agro Services. The relevant government decrees will enter into force on July 20, 2026.

The National Gastronomy Agency will be responsible for safeguarding, developing, promoting, and enhancing the international visibility of Georgia's gastronomic heritage. Its mandate includes researching gastronomic traditions, improving legal mechanisms for their protection, strengthening coordination among public institutions and stakeholders, and supporting the competitiveness of local products in both domestic and international markets.

The establishment of the Agency is particularly significant given Georgia's rich gastronomic traditions and unique cultural heritage.

The traditional production technologies of several distinguished products—such as Dambalkhacho, Qvevri wine, Mtskhuri Tenili cheese, and Churchkhela—are inscribed on Georgia's national list of intangible cultural heritage. Georgia is also internationally recognized as the cradle of wine, with an uninterrupted winemaking tradition spanning approximately 8,000 years.

The Agency is expected to contribute to regional development, agricultural diversification, the commercialization of traditional products, increased incomes for rural communities, and the advancement of gastronomic tourism. It will also strengthen the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin.

In addition, the Agency for Information Technologies, Environmental and Agro Services will be established to provide integrated management of digital services, information technologies, and customer service functions across the Ministry and its affiliated institutions.

The new Agency was formed through the consolidation of the Ministry's centralized information technology management, call center, and service development functions. The existing infrastructure currently serves 17 institutions within the Ministry system and manages data for more than 250 services and software platforms.

The creation of a unified Agency aims to establish a coordinated framework for digital service development, reduce duplication of functions, accelerate decision-making processes, optimize costs, and improve user-oriented services. The new structure will serve as a central information hub, ensuring integrated management of data, technological infrastructure, digital services, and customer needs.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26493/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26492/>

David Songulashvili gets familiar with state-supported projects in the Imereti region



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, conducted a working visit to the Imereti region, where he inspected agricultural, processing, and winemaking enterprises and farms operating in the municipalities of Tskaltubo, Kutaisi, and Baghdati.

The Minister visited the village of Maghlaki in Tskaltubo Municipality, the blueberry plantation established with state support, where he observed harvesting and preparation processes. He noted that Georgian blueberries have become a competitive and export-oriented product, and that the state supports producers across all stages of the value chain. More than GEL 12 million has been invested in blueberry cultivation in the Imereti region.

The Minister also visited Herbia, a greenhouse farm supplying greens and vegetables to the local market, along with plant processing company Farkoni in Kutaisi, whose products are sold both domestically and internationally, and semi-finished food producer Kulinari, which employs around 100 people.

As part of his visit, Mr Songulashvili also opened a new regional office of the National Agency for Mineral Resources in Kutaisi. He stated that the office will improve access

to services and ensure faster, more efficient delivery of public services for citizens and businesses.

Moreover, the Minister visited a fish farming facility in the village of Geguti, Tskaltubo Municipality, highlighting Georgia's significant potential for aquaculture development and the need to fully utilize it to increase the production and export of high-quality, competitive products.

Ultimately, Mr Songulashvili visited the "Labara" wine cellar in the village of Vartsikhe, Baghdati Municipality, where he highlighted the ongoing reforms in the viticulture and winemaking sector. He emphasized the government's commitment to further strengthening the reputation of Georgian wine for its exceptional quality while supporting small and medium-sized wineries in expanding their production capacity, developing wine tourism, and increasing access to international export markets.

Representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the Rural Development Agency, the National Food Agency, and local authorities accompanied the Minister throughout the visit.

- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26497/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26498/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26499/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26500/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26501/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26502/>
- <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26503/>

World Food Safety Day Celebrated with a Large-Scale Event in Tbilisi



With the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and organized by the National Food Agency, a large-scale event dedicated to World Food Safety Day was held in Tbilisi.

In his opening remarks, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, underscored the reforms implemented and the significant achievements made in food safety.

According to the Minister, the Government aims to ensure high standards of consumer protection, improve the quality of Georgian products, and enhance their competitiveness in domestic and international markets.

“Food safety remains one of the key priorities for Georgia. The Government continues to strengthen control mechanisms, expand laboratory capacities, and adopt international standards. Our goal is to ensure that Georgian products are associated with high quality, reliability, and competitiveness in domestic and international markets. In this regard, cooperation among the Government, businesses, and society is of particular importance, as it serves as a vital foundation for safeguarding consumer interests and strengthening confidence in Georgian products,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

Participants were also addressed by the FAO Representative in Georgia, Mr Raimund Jehle, who emphasized the importance of the productive cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture in strengthening Georgia’s food safety system.

“Over the past two decades, Georgia has achieved significant progress in strengthening the food safety system. FAO is proud to have been a longstanding partner in this process, supporting the implementation of these reforms over the years. Georgia has already established a solid foundation for aligning its food safety systems with international standards,

including the Codex Alimentarius. Continued investments in inspection and oversight mechanisms, risk analysis, and laboratory capacities will further strengthen consumer protection and enhance the competitiveness of Georgian agri-food products and the agro-food sector as a whole,” noted Mr Raimund Jehle.

The event brought together representatives of the executive and legislative branches of government, international organizations, academia, and the private sector. Discussions focused on the importance of food safety, the progress achieved in this area, and the remaining challenges.

As part of the World Food Safety Day celebrations, an award ceremony was held. Minister Mr David Songulashvili, FAO Representative in Georgia, Mr Raimund Jehle, Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Mrs Nino Tsilosani, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Mr Gela Samkharauli, and the Head of the National Food Agency, Mr Giorgi Iakobashvili, presented awards to sector representatives for “Outstanding Contribution” and “Long-standing Successful Service.”

A variety of activities for different age groups were organized in Ilia Garden to raise public awareness. Visitors had the opportunity to explore agricultural and entrepreneurial exhibition spaces, attend local farmers’ and producers’ product fairs, participate in educational activities and masterclasses, and engage with interactive displays. Particular interest was generated by renowned chefs who prepared and presented signature dishes for tasting.

World Food Safety Day is observed annually on June 7 at the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), aiming to raise public awareness of the importance of safe food and its role in safeguarding human health. This year’s message is: “From Challenges to Solutions – Safe Food for Everyone.”

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26509>

David Songulashvili: “We Have Signed a Country Programming Framework to Enhance UN Support for the Agricultural Sector”



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, and the FAO Representative in Georgia, Mr Raimund Jehle, signed the Country Programming Framework (CPF) for 2026–2030.

The document defines FAO’s five-year engagement in supporting the agri-food sector and is fully aligned with Georgia’s national development priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

Developed through extensive consultations with national and international stakeholders, the CPF reflects a strategic vision to transform Georgia’s agri-food systems into a more competitive, inclusive, and climate-resilient sector, while strengthening coordinated UN support.

Through the CPF, FAO will provide technical expertise, policy support, and targeted assistance to promote green and inclusive development.

“We have a long-standing and successful partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Numerous projects aimed at supporting the high-standard development of the agricultural sector have been implemented and are currently underway. By signing the Country Programming Framework (CPF), we reaffirm our commitment to building a more competitive and inclusive agri-food system that delivers tangible benefits to our rural population,” said Mr David Songulashvili.

FAO Representative Mr Raimund Jehle emphasized the organization’s role in strengthening national capacities and promoting inclusive approaches.

“The Country Programming Framework (CPF 2026–2030) is an agreement based on shared priorities, aimed at leveraging global expertise to bridge the urban–rural divide, empower women and youth, and ensure that Georgia’s agricultural sector is prepared to address the challenges of climate change,” said Mr Jehle.

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia, Mr Didier Trebucq, also welcomed the agreement, highlighting its significance.

“I am pleased with the signing of the Country Programming Framework between the Ministry and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This document contributes significantly to the development of agri-food systems in the country, the increase of agricultural productivity, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the framework of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). I congratulate both parties on the signing of this important document,” Mr Didier Trebucq stated.

The Country Programming Framework (2026–2030) serves as a practical roadmap for addressing development gaps, ensuring green economic growth, and improving the well-being of rural populations.

The signing ceremony at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture was attended by the Deputy Head of the Government Administration, Mr Zviad Barkaia; Deputy Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidze; representatives of FAO; and the heads of relevant departments within the Ministry system.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26508>