



GRAPE GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION IN ARMENIA

Viticulture was the most profitable crop in Armenia during the former Soviet era. However, following land privatization, factors such as increased cultivation costs, uncontrolled market relations and an energy crisis led to deterioration in the development of the sector. In recent years, Armenian grapes have become an important product, both locally and in foreign markets. By taking advantage of trade opportunities and the favourable climatic conditions in Armenia, different varieties of grapes could be produced, grape-growing areas expanded and export volumes increased. The project aimed at improving national capacity with regard to the sustainable management of grape genetic resources in order to ensure a solid grape industry. It contributed to sustainable national agricultural development by establishing a basis for the improvement and modernization of the grape production sector, making a significant contribution to food security, employment opportunities and income generation in the future.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project outcome was the creation of a basis for the proper conservation of a grape variety collection and the establishment of conditions for the implementation of well-planned and coordinated actions aimed at the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, based on a multi-stakeholder approach and cooperation. This was achieved by contributing to the conservation and sustainable utilization of a diversity of grape genetic resources through the establishment of a collection vineyard for local varieties. The project also strengthened the grape production sector by establishing a demonstration vineyard for two grape varieties with the use of modern production technologies for training purposes. Under the project, a mother vineyard containing five different varieties of phylloxera-resistant rootstocks to be used for the production of local phylloxera-resistant grape planting materials was established. Finally, the project provided training to smallholder farmers and technical staff in order to strengthen their knowledge of modern grape production technologies and appropriate management techniques.

IMPACT

Thanks to the project, stakeholders have strengthened their capacities in improved grape production and protection. The newly established collection vineyard containing around 300 local varieties of grape will support the management of grape genetic materials, while the phylloxera-free rootstock contained in the mother vineyard will ensure greater stability in grape production. The proper establishment of new vineyards with phylloxera-resistant planting materials and the application of sustainable production technologies will increase the harvest and quality and safety of products, and will increase the income of farmers.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 485 000

Duration

June 2015 – December 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partner

Ministry of Agriculture

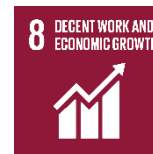
Beneficiaries

Farmers and relevant government staff



ACTIVITIES

- Around 300 grape varieties collected, identified and labelled, and a collection vineyard established from the collected materials.
- Training in improved grape production and protection, and field visits, organized for 25 technical staff members, and groups of between 20 and 30 smallholder farmers.
- Study tour to Hungary organized for two participants.
- One demonstration vineyard (1 ha) established with two grape varieties at Scientific Centre of Agriculture.
- One mother vineyard with five different phylloxera-resistant varieties was established at Scientific Centre of Agriculture.
- Agricultural machinery procured for staff at Scientific Centre of Agriculture.
- Equipment and tools for phylloxera monitoring procured and training provided to 30 technical staff members in their use.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Project Code
TCP/ARM/3503

Project Title
Grape Genetic Resources Conservation
and Sustainable Use

Contacts
FAO Office in Armenia
FAO-AM@fao.org

Avetik Nersisyan (Lead Technical Officer)
Avetik.Nersisyan@fao.org



Resource Mobilization Division
Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Unit
Reporting@fao.org