



# INCREASING FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ARMENIA

Agriculture is the main driver of the economic growth of Armenia. The country is prone to natural disaster, which pose serious threats to food security, rural livelihoods and agricultural development in the country. In an attempt to respond to the multiple challenges in the agricultural and rural sectors, the Government adopted the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of the Republic of Armenia 2010-2020 and its corresponding Action Plan, which place emphasis on both short-term (food security and productivity increase) and long-term goals (sustainable growth and competitiveness). Given the requirement for capacity development at policy, institutional and individual levels (both technical and soft skills), the Government realized the need for external support through the European Union's European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development programme.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The outcome of the project was to promote the sustainable growth of the agriculture, food and rural sectors through improved policies and mechanisms, both at central and decentralized levels, by supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy in the country. The project focused on capacity development within the Government, supporting the development of agriculture, as well as the public and private extension services, the Armenian National Agrarian University, research institutions, farmers and their organizations and other beneficiaries, in order to enable sustainability and maximize impact. Specifically, the technical assistance provided by the project was focused in the following thematic areas: (i) improving the institutional and capacity development of government stakeholders in order to implement a well-structured policy in the agricultural and rural sectors, (ii) supporting access to available and affordable food by sustainably increasing agricultural productivity, including better land management, (iii) supporting the roll-out of a General Agricultural Census and providing support for improving agricultural statistics and (iv) supporting capacity-building on disaster risk reduction and management.

## IMPACT

The project significantly developed the capacities of government institutions, including staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and others in line ministries, public extension services, Regional Marz Administration Centres and other institutions. These factors lay the foundations for long-term development changes and the achievement of the long-term objectives of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy.

The advanced technologies and equipment provided to beneficiaries under pilot Good Agricultural Practices and disaster risk reduction and management projects are now available for demonstration to a wider cohort of farmers, researchers and extension agents. All of the technologies introduced in pilot projects and the good practices disseminated within the project period can be replicated by farmers.

## KEY FACTS

### Contribution

USD 2 201 823

### Duration

December 2014 – November 2018

### Resource Partner

European Union (EU)

### Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia

### Beneficiaries

Farmers, farmers' cooperatives and associations, rural families and stakeholders from the private sector

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- An assessment of Armenia’s e-agricultural environment conducted and a report prepared.
- Review of the Ministry of Agriculture’s existing Monitoring and Evaluation system carried out and a strategy for a sound Monitoring and Evaluation system developed in December 2015.
- Based on the needs assessment carried out, farmers trained in areas such as climate change, disaster risk reduction and adaptive technologies, fruit and berry production, plant protection (including Integrated Pest Management), irrigation fundamentals and animal husbandry.
- Development Cooperation Framework prepared, and the platform designed and programmed.
- Round-table discussion on “The current state of plant protection in the Republic of Armenia, existing problems and the need to develop a national programme on IPM” organized and a working group for the elaboration of the National Programme on Plant Protection established.
- 51 trainings on business-oriented cooperation conducted in 2015 in communities across all *marzer* of Armenia, with 667 participants from 122 communities, of whom 227 were women (34 percent).
- A comprehensive assessment conducted into the state of agricultural machinery in Armenia, both by *marz* and by sector, and recommendations made for improvement in the area.
- A range of educational videos and handbooks prepared, on issues such as Integrated Pest Management, training and pruning of fruit orchards and the principles of agricultural crop irrigation scheduling.
- Technical support provided to the National Statistical Service for the roll-out of a General Agricultural Census, including analysis of the census results. Two-day workshop on the needs of agricultural statistics data users organized, addressing Armenia’s agricultural information data needs.
- 12 demonstration fields established on anti-hail nets, eight on drip irrigation and nine on Conservation Agriculture. Anti-hail nets and advanced irrigation technologies introduced to farmers and representatives of administrative offices of Ararat, Aragatsotn and Armavir *marzer*.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Project Code

FAO: GCP/ARM/006/EC

ID donor: ENPI/2014/354-917

## Project Title

ENPARD Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia

## Contact

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