



E-Newsletter

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATION IN GEORGIA

VULNERABLE IDP FAMILIES TO RECEIVE CO-INVESTMENT GRANTS



Vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in Georgia have the opportunity to obtain the grant and invest in various types of agricultural activities, including horticulture, fruit growing, rabbit raising, cattle breeding, bee-keeping and the purchase of agricultural equipment/machinery, as well as rural based income diversification activities. The targeted IDP communities, e.g. kindergartens, can also co-invest with the project in relevant social infrastructure.

Based on an agreement between the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories,

Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia (MRA) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Ministry has received a grant of 810,000 dollars.

Grigol Giorgadze, the First Deputy Minister of MRA, has made a statement regarding this project. He stressed that the project aims to increase the incomes of the most vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to improve agricultural production and food security.



Under the grant, the LEPL IDP Livelihoods Agency and the FAO will jointly implement the EU-funded project "Gender sensitive socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable IDPs through co-funding of their livelihood opportunities and promotion of their social mobilisation".

The target categories of the project include: impoverished single parents

with underage children, households with members with disabilities, households headed by youth and elderly-headed households with minors.

At least 700 beneficiaries will be funded under the project. The amount of each grant is 2,500 GEL. Also, it is possible to fund group application, with 5,000 GEL per group. Group applications can be submitted by at least three IDPs, two of which fall under the target group.

The call for applications is open nationwide for a total of six application cycles. The Project is implemented through an Operational partnership with the Government (LEPL on IDP Livelihoods), introducing institutional sustainability and supporting the capacity development for the specialized agencies.



POLICY FORUM DISCUSSES RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF GEORGIA



Representatives of the Government of Georgia, civil society and international organizations got together in Borjomi on 1-2 October to discuss Rural Development Strategy of Georgia which will be finalized and presented to the Government in the coming weeks.

Fifty participants of the Policy Forum reviewed a draft Strategy together with the action plan and looked into the ways of coordinating its implementation across the public, private and civil sectors of Georgia.

FAO experts made the presentation on the work that has been done to support the Ministry of Agriculture in elaborating the strategy paper. Later the Forum participants discussed the mechanisms of integrating rural development policies into the national, regional and local development strategies, as well as the alignment of the Rural Development Strategy of Georgia with the Association Agreement with the European Union and the European Union Policy on Rural Development.



The Policy Forum will be followed by a series of public consultations as well

as capacity building initiatives for rural development stakeholders.

The Policy Forum was hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD).

Co-organizers of the event - The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia and Interagency Working Group brought together representatives of all relevant line ministries engaged in rural development matters.

FAO: GLOBAL WHEAT AND RICE HARVESTS POISED TO SET NEW RECORD



Global food markets will likely remain "generally well balanced" in the year ahead, as prices for most internationally-traded agricultural commodities are relatively low and stable, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said.

The benign outlook, especially for staple grains, is poised to lower the world food import bill to a six-year low, according to FAO's [Food Outlook](#).

Record global production forecasts for this year's wheat and rice harvests, along with rebounding maize output, are helping keep inventories ample and prices low. Worldwide cereal production in 2016 should rise 2.569 billion tonnes, up 1.5% from the previous year and enough to further boost existing inventories, the FAO said.

The value of total food imports is expected to fall 11% in U.S. dollar terms in 2016 to \$1.168 trillion, as lower bills for livestock products and cereal-based foodstuffs more than offset higher bills for fish, fruit and vegetables, oils and particularly sugar. But the FAO said the decline is expected to be slower for economically more vulnerable nations, many of which have depreciating local currencies.



The FAO raised its forecast for global wheat production to 742.4 million tonnes, led by increases in India, the U.S. and Russia, which is poised to overtake the E.U. as the grain's largest exporter. Total wheat utilization is projected to reach 730.5 million tonnes.

Global rice production is predicted to expand for the first time in three years, increasing 1.3% to an all-time high of 497.8 million tonnes, buoyed by abundant monsoon rains over Asia and sizable increases in Africa. Coarse grain output is seen rising 1.8% on the year, buoyed by record crops in the U.S., Argentina and India, according to the FAO.

Cereal prices are drifting lower on the backs of the expected hefty supply. Wheat and maize futures on the Chicago Board of Trade have both dropped more than 16% since the start of the year.

Production of cassava, a dietary mainstay in Africa where per capita consumption is above 100 kilograms annually, is projected to grow 2.6% this year to 288 million tonnes, the FAO said. However, China's shift to drawing down its maize stockpile for domestic industry and feed has

curbed international prices and trade flows for cassava.

Soybeans and other oil crops may reach an all-time production high this year, thanks to record U.S. yields, although demand is expected to grow even faster.

The FAO [Food Price Index](#), released on Oct. 6, averaged 170.9 points in September, up 2.9% from August and up 10% from a year earlier.

The increase was driven by a 13.8% monthly jump in the FAO Dairy Price Index, partly as a result of a sharp jump in butter prices benefiting exporters in the E.U., where dairy output is declining.



Palm oil prices also rose, helped by low stock levels in both exporting and importing countries, as did those of soy and rapeseed oil, lifting the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index by 2.9% for the month.

The FAO Cereal Price Index, meanwhile, slipped 1.9% from the previous month and is 8.9% below its year-earlier level.

The FAO Food Price Index is a trade-weighted index tracking international market prices for the five key commodity groups. Its current level is the highest since March 2015. The sub-index for cereals is now at its lowest in a decade in deflated terms.