



E-Newsletter

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## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATION IN GEORGIA

### WORLD FOOD DAY IN GEORGIA

World Food Day together with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FAO and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Georgia's membership in FAO was celebrated on October 13, 2015 in Tbilisi.



The official part of the event was opened with the welcoming speech by Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant FAO Representative in Georgia.

“Political commitment, adequate funding and partnerships would be required to break the bonds of rural poverty,” he said, “Policy and planning frameworks would need to promote the joint role of agriculture and social protection. FAO supports the Georgian Government's initiatives undertaken into these directions.”

Addressing the audience, Otar Danelia, Minister of Agriculture of Georgia, highlighted the importance of contribution of FAO in developing agriculture in Georgia. The minister's speech was followed by the addresses from Gunther Zimmer, Director of the Regional Office of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and Janos Herman, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia.

After the speeches, audience enjoyed the documentary film about FAO–Georgia implementing technical assistance project to develop the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia. The film represented several components of the project: Cooperative Development, Seed Certification, Statistics and Farm Registry



Aforementioned components are implemented within the framework of ENPARD (European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development), funded by EU and ADC.

Link to the video:

<https://youtu.be/3wGqdufFSJQ>

Beka Dzadzamia, FAO National Project Manager made the presentation on the pilot Farm Registry System established with the technical assistance of FAO and financial support of ADC. At the end of the presentation, Otar Danelia, Minister of Agriculture of Georgia awarded the first registered farmer from Racha Region with the Certificate of Registration.



The formal part of the event was finalized with the awarding ceremony of the FAO Commemorative Medals. For their best collaboration and support to FAO's work in Georgia, the medals went to: Otar Danelia, the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Juan-Jose Echanove, Agriculture Attaché, EU Delegation to Georgia and Mr. Gunther Zimmer, Director of the Regional Office of the ADC.

After the Ceremony, the participants of the event were invited to enjoy the side activities: in the FARMERS' CORNER, they could find the information brochures on agricultural topics with some appropriate decoration.

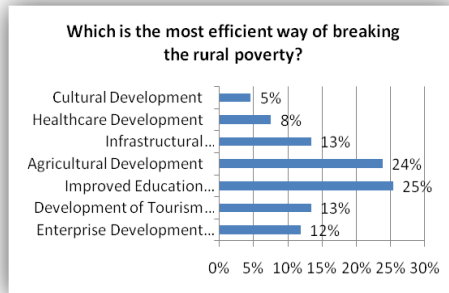


In the FAO GIFT CORNER they could pick up the FAO WFD souvenirs: coffee mugs, notepads, coasters, pens, pencils and chocolates.

In the VOTING CORNER guests had an opportunity to share their opinion on the possible ways of breaking the cycle of the rural poverty.



Out of seven possible ways of defeating the rural poverty, most of the WFD participants voted for Agricultural Development and Improved Education, including technical knowledge of farming.



Meanwhile, the participants could enjoy the agricultural photo exhibition by the famous Georgian photo-artist, Goga Chanadiri.



The event was attended by various Georgian media representatives. World Food Day was covered by five TV news programmes and more than 20 online news additions.

## SEED CERTIFICATION SYSTEM PRESENTATION

**The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia and FAO Representation in Georgia awarded five seed producing companies for producing quality standard consistent seed materials.**

The Scientific-Research Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture together with FAO Representation in Georgia held the presentation of the Seed Certification System on October 6, 2015.



Aforementioned system enhances seed production sector through controlled quality of seed materials. The process aims to increase agricultural production in Georgia.

Support to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), in development and establishment of the seed certification system, was provided through the Programme of Capacity Development of MoA implemented by FAO and funded by Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).

During the implementation of the Seed Certification System, field inspections have been conducted. Seed materials obtained from the plots have been tested at the laboratory. After analysing the varietal purity and other qualities of the samples, scientists revealed the best examples of the seed materials which are in line with the international quality standards.



The producers of the quality seed materials have been awarded with the Quality Certificates from the Scientific-Research Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO at the Seed Certification System Presentation event.

In his welcoming speech Iuri Nozadze, Deputy Minister of Agriculture highlighted the issues concerning the low quality of seeds and low level of harvest in Georgia.

“Implementation of the Seed Certification System is urgently important in our country for increasing the agricultural production and improving the quality of the cereals,” Nozadze said.

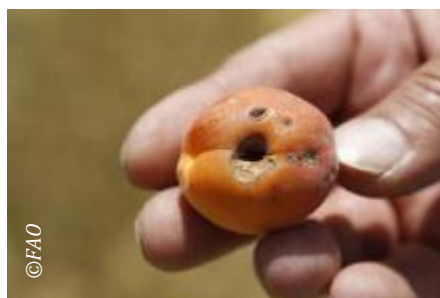
## First Global Food and Agriculture Plant Genetics Data Library Gets Go-ahead

**New gateway provides vital information on global seed pool to develop shock-resistant varieties.**

**9 October 2015, Rome** - Delegates from the 136 member nations of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) have given their approval to set up an international information gateway for the genetic data of food crop seeds.

The agreement to proceed with the proposal for a Global Information System (GLIS) from the FAO-based seed treaty came during a week-long meeting of the 6th biennial Governing Body that ended in Rome on October 9.

As climate change accelerates, it is vital for farmers, scientists, plant breeders, private sector companies to be able to develop new plant varieties resistant to pests, floods and drought, in order to maintain sufficient agricultural production levels.



To do this they need to know what is where, and how to get it, currently no easy task in the myriad number of actors that hold that information.

Information is not just with seed banks and research centres but also in the plants growing in farmers' fields, and uncultivated land, the so-called crop wild relatives.

The system has to be global because no country is self-sufficient in crop germ plasm that has been travelling across borders for centuries.

The potato on a German dinner table originates from the Andes, the wheat in a Pakistani chapati from the Mediterranean and the maize in East African ugali from Mexico.

“GLIS will contain a virtual gene library that will include data from seed banks, research centres and farmers' organisations,” said the Treaty Secretary Shakeel Bhatti.

“It is going to take time to get it fully functional because of the vast array of interests involved, but it will greatly facilitate the work of all the actors along the seed value chain, in developing and developed countries.”

***The Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has made the first contribution to the gateway by placing with it the genome sequences of more than 3,000 rice varieties.***