



Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations (FAO)

# Newsletter



*FAO and World Vision monitoring vegetable  
garden production demonstration plot in  
Shida Kartli region*

## In this issue

Emergency supply of animal feed	2
Emergency provision of agricultural inputs	3
Agriculture based livelihoods and food security	3
Hydrology and irrigation assessment	4
Food safety capacity building	4
Improving migratory and other locusts management	4
National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF)	5
Control of African Swine Fever (ASF)	5
Strengthening agricultural marketing	5-6
Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) prevention	6

**Plus What's New on Page 3**

## Photo Gallery



*Feed distribution in Tiniskhidi village,  
Gori district*



*Cattle de-worming in Ruisi village,  
Kareli district*



*Newly installed water trough in  
Megvrikisi village, Gori District*

## Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities

### Emergency Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU)

#### Emergency supply of animal feed to conflict affected small-scale farming households and support to the Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster coordination in Georgia

##### Background

The project aims to protect livelihoods of vulnerable livestock holders in conflict-affected area and provides technical assistance and coordination support to ensure that the affected population accrues greater benefits from all related rural households food security intervention.

With this intervention, FAO managed to help most vulnerable small-scale farming households in **127** conflict affected villages to distribute **4 240 MT** of feed to **18 244** households in Shida Kartli region. In an effort to reduce the risk of spread of disease and improve nutritional intake, FAO has completed dosing against endoparasites (de-worming) for **46 905** cattle (almost 78% of the cattle in Shida Kartli region) in the same **127** villages. Furthermore, the project included the provision of 35 water troughs to ensure that cattle have access to water in 17 villages. The intervention seeks to assist the conflict affected area with essential agriculture support until end of this year.

##### Recent and planned activities

- Helminthes research of the de-wormed cows has been random sampled in 34 villages in Shida Kartli region. 112 samples were analyzed at the veterinary laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture. According to the results of the research, animals were found to be free of helminthes, helminthes eggs and larva.
- The FAO has developed a plan to ensure continuity and sustainability of the newly introduced feeding practices through training to beneficiary communities to learn how to produce silage and introduce modern production techniques.
- FAO has further identified 1700 vulnerable households in the area adjacent to South Ossetia who have lost access to pasture land and continue to have no access to arable land, thus needing assistance to maintain their livestock over the upcoming winter. Additional animal feed will be provided to these animals to ensure their survival.
- Furthermore, 25 000 cattle from 51 villages in the same area identified together with the local authorities will be targeted for endoparasitic treatment this fall.

*"The helminthes research helped us to see improvements in health condition of cattle after vaccination of animals. The results indicated that the number of cattle remains uninfected," said Ina Berulava, Livelihoods development & Emergency Response Program Non Food Items Coordinator for World Vision.*

## Emergency provision of agricultural inputs and support to Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster coordination in Georgia

### Background

The project aims to protect livelihoods of vulnerable livestock holders in conflict-affected area and to restart their agricultural production through the provision of vegetable seed varieties, fertilizer and technical assistance in planting and cropping vegetables.

Vegetable seeds and fertilizer were distributed to **7 369** households in **22** villages of Shida Kartli region. Instructions were prepared and disseminated amongst the farmers by which improved cultivation technology, crop production practices and on-farm water management were introduced. Furthermore, training sessions on main principles of optimal sowing time, germination temperature and usage of fertilizer for improvement of the fruit quality were conducted in all targeted villages.

### Recent activities

- FAO and its implementing partner World Vision International have just completed detailed training on vegetable harvesting, storage, conservation and marketing techniques in 22 target villages in Shida Kartli region. The detailed script on the follow up training will be also prepared for production and airing of TV documentary during this fall season.
- Implementing partner World Vision International has continued to work with demonstration plots in nine villages in Shida Kartli region. Farmers have received recommendations on caring for the seedlings/plants.
- The Italian Ambassador, HE Mr. Vittorio Sandalli, and staff from Italian Cooperation and the Embassy of Italy in Georgia paid an official visit to the project in the village of Ditsi. The Italian delegation visited various project sites, including class room training sessions as well as 'hands-on' training at demonstration plots. The event was also attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and local authority representatives from Shida Kartli region.

## Photo Gallery



*Demonstration Plot of Merab Samadashvili in Tirdznisi village, Gori district*



*Soil preparation of Demonstration Plot in Kelktseuli village, Gori district*

## NEW

### Restoration and improvement of agriculture based livelihoods and food security of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in newly established settlements and returnees in the Area Adjacent to South Ossetia (AASO)

#### Background

The main objective of the project is to assure the food security and improve the livelihoods of vulnerable conflict-affected population in Georgia through the recovery and establishment of agricultural production and provision of solutions for improved irrigation sources and supply.

The project will be implemented in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP). WFP will implement Cash for Work / Food for Work incentives linked to FAO's proposed technical activities.

#### Recent activities

The project has recently been launched and is in its inception phase.

## Photo Gallery



*Irrigation canal near Gori – Kareli road;  
June, 2009*



*Food Safety and Food/Focus on Food  
Safety*



*Migratory grasshopper*

## Development and other Programme Activities

### Hydrology and irrigation assessment in Shida Kartli region of Georgia – TCP/GEO/3201 – (D)

#### **Background**

The main objective of the activity is to prepare a problem-oriented description and result-oriented analysis of the hydrology and irrigation situation in the Shida Kartli region promoting reduced dependency on traditional irrigation practices, improved and more efficient use of natural resources to augment agricultural production and promote more sustainable agricultural livelihoods for conflict affected populations.

#### **Recent activities**

The assessment on hydrology and irrigation situation in Shida Kartli region has been reflected in project document aiming to address the water management problems affecting the conflict affected population and their agricultural livelihoods. The document highlights the current status, needs and feasibility of irrigation in Shida Kartli region in order to support returnees and internally displaced populations in resettlement areas.

### Food safety capacity building - TCP/RER/3003 (A)

#### **Background**

Accomplishments of the project in Georgia has included: assessment and guidance on strengthening the management of food control activities, technical support and training on Codex Alimentarius and equipment for the improved operation of the national Codex Contact Point; an assessment and advice on strengthening food control laboratories.

#### **Recent activities**

The FAO international experts on food safety and food quality control came to Georgia at the beginning of August and met with the Ministry of Agriculture assessing final comments on Georgia's Food Safety Draft Strategy that was presented to FAO. The experts discussed main issues and also revised FAO assistance to the Food Safety Strategy. A national workshop on Codex Alimentarius and on Establishment of National Codex Committee was held on 22 September.

### Improving migratory and other locusts management in Caucasus and Central Asia – TCP/INT/3202 (D)

#### **Background**

Locusts and grasshoppers are the most important threat on agriculture in Caucasus and Central Asia. During infestations and outbreaks, the three main locust pests, the Migratory, the Italian and the Moroccan locusts, attack cereal crops, sunflowers, vineyards, vegetable, orchards and rangelands and cause severe damage at agricultural, economic and social levels. They jeopardize food security and livelihood. The strategic long term objective is to reduce the occurrence and intensity of locust outbreaks in Caucasus and Central Asia, thus preventing damage to crops and rangeland as well as related impact on food security and livelihood of the most vulnerable rural communities.

The immediate objective is to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia through regional cooperation and capacity-building.



## Photo Gallery



*NMTF mission is meeting with the representatives of MoA in Tbilisi. August, 2009.*



*Training Participants are using sampling equipment during the workshop in Signagi; June, 2009*

### Development of FAO National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) for Georgia

#### **Background**

National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) is a planning and management tool of FAO assistance to member countries. The NMTPF document outlines how FAO can best assist Georgia in meeting its priorities in the areas of food security, agriculture, rural development and natural resources management. The NMTPF preparation is based on a national consultation process which results in jointly agreed strategic priorities for Georgia – FAO collaboration in the medium run and the related action plan for next 3-5 years. The identified priorities reflect areas of FAO comparative advantages *vis-a-vis* other partners as well as complementarities in terms of expertise, experience and capacity to deliver. NMTPF contributes towards the achievement of national development objectives and is fully aligned with frameworks such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

#### **Recent activities**

The first draft of the NMTPF project outlines has been prepared. It is being reviewed by technical units of the Ministry of Agriculture for the final clearance. FAO Food Safety and Consumer Protection Officer (REU) and FAO Livestock Consultant are on a visit to Georgia to follow up on the proposed projects.

### Emergency assistance for the control of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Georgia – TCP/GEO/3103 (E)

#### **Background**

ASF was first confirmed in Georgia at the beginning of June 2007. This was the first report of ASF occurrence in the Caucasus region. The first clinical cases were seen in the port of Poti. Regarding the way of virus introduction into Georgia, all evidence so far is indicating that ASF virus has been introduced into the country by improperly disposed waste from international ships carrying contaminated meat or meat products. The development goal of the project is to enhance the monitoring and disease control surveillance system for ASF which should lead to stop the spread of the disease in non-affected areas of the country or to neighboring countries.

#### **Recent & planned activities**

- The second round of training for trainers workshop for state and private veterinarians on using of sampling equipment in epidemiological sero-surveillance was conducted by International Veterinary Experts, Domenico Rutili and Vitorio Guberti on 19 June 2009. Further workshops have been carried out in different parts of the country.
- Currently, Misha Sokhadze, FAO National Expert in collaboration with the National Veterinary Services of the MOA is collecting some 1000 serum samples across the country to monitor the situation.
- During 1 October to 15 December 2009 a research project conducted by Georgian State Agrarian University on wild boar and pigs will further shed light on the current African Swine Fever situation in Georgia.

### Strengthening the capacity of the Agricultural Marketing Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture - TCP/GEO/3102 (A)

#### **Background**

Government has requested FAO technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the newly established Marketing Research and Strategic Studies Division (MRSSD) of MoA and assist in the preparation of technically sound marketing development

policy proposals and action plans for sustainable investments in infrastructure and services and in creating the necessary conditions for increasing private sector investments in marketing. The following activities have been undertaken so far:

- updating and revising responsibilities and functions of the marketing unit of the MoA.
- traditional and on-the-job training, of unit staff and other selected technical staff in the MoA (in headquarters and in regional departments) in market and marketing research methods; farmers-market linkages; agricultural marketing systems analysis and value chains development; agricultural export marketing; agribusiness and private investment promotion as well as in the formulation of appropriate marketing policy and plans of action;
- leadership by each officer of unit in specific technical issues: undertaking field visits, contacts with farmers and traders, studies and global assessments, action plans and organization/leading thematic workshops;
- (pilot) training activities of farmers and traders in selected areas and for selected products and assistance in the preparation of marketing plans.

#### **Recent Activities**

Internet website for Marketing and Strategic Studies Division of the Ministry of Agriculture is being created.

### **Strengthening Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) prevention and emergency response capacity in the Trans-Caucasian countries**

The project goal is to assist the countries of the South Caucasus to put into place a system to effectively manage the threat of FMD incursion through effective prevention measures including vaccination programs and efficient disease reporting and emergency control plans and procedures. The programme for the Caucasus countries has three main components:

1. Regional Coordination of national FMD prevention actions, policy development and implementation support
2. FMD surveillance, FMD control, incl. vaccination, information management, and emergency planning
3. Laboratory capacity to support FMD surveillance and control programmes

The aim of the project is to re-enforce regional bio-security, especially at the borders between the Transcaucasus, Turkey and Iran.

#### **Planned activities**

1st Annual Progress Meeting of the project is planned to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 7 to 9 October 2009. The objective of this roadmap meeting is to review progress in FMD control in the region, including Georgia, and to improve the planning and impact of current control measures. Furthermore, information on vaccination programmes as well as on FMD surveillance and control activities will be shared at the meeting. Mr Koba Dzamashvili, Head of the Veterinary Surveillance Department is invited to participate as a delegate from Georgia

### **Photo Gallery**



*Seminar on Agricultural Marketing in Tbilisi. January, 2009*

With the generous support of:



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