FAO assistance is shaped by the 2021-2025 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) and derived from the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Georgia (UNSDCF). FAO will bring expertise and international experience to assist Georgian government in reaching development priorities by:

- Reducing the disparities between urban and rural areas through maximization of agriculture potential and diversification of the economy in the rural areas.
- Supporting small holders by enhancing productive employment, strengthened livelihoods and agri-food systems, and enabling policies.
- Supporting private sector competitiveness particularly Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises involved in agriculture and food processing.
- Providing policy support to enable food safety standards, traceability of agriculture products and better consumers’ protection and enhanced export opportunities.
- Supporting the government of Georgia in implementing the agricultural extension strategy and strengthening the capacities to improve agricultural extension services, with a focus on gender related issues.
- Enhancing resilience, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change of the agri-food sector by strengthening natural resource management of soil, reducing land degradation, protection of biodiversity including forestry and fisheries.
Establishment of a fully functional National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS) is one of the most important achievements of the on-going FAO assistance in Georgia. The system which records information regarding large and small ruminants and their keepers all around the country, is now fully operational. It significantly saves time and efforts to collect and store data on animals, holdings, keepers and animal health activities. Paper forms used earlier are being replaced with the electronic forms, 600 veterinarians have been trained to work with the system already managing over a million registered bovines in Georgia. FAO also supported The National Food Agency (NFA) to organize a help desk to support the system users. North Macedonia and Pakistan have formally asked that FAO and Georgia share the NAITs, which will be tested and eventually adapted and introduced for their own use. Two more countries have also shown interest, confirming the robustness and quality of the system provided to the NFA.

The NAITs is an important part in the food safety chain puzzle, as it guarantees traceability of animals and animal origin products in a prompt and timely manner, thus, delivering safe food to the consumers, and leading to the improved food system in Georgia, which facilities trade and contributes to effective implementation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) agreement.

Georgia is the first country in the region which has introduced NAITs. The FAO project is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). The second phase of the FAO project starts in 2022 aiming to involve non-state stakeholders as data users, such as the commercial sector and consumers.

With almost half of Georgians involved in agriculture, any improvements in farming will have a big impact. Since 2019, FAO together with the European Union has been working under the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agricultural and Rural Development (ENPARD) to bring modern and environmentally friendly agriculture techniques to Georgia. FAO trained over 1500 farmers in modern agricultural techniques, established more than 80 demonstration plots in Georgia and created 10 farmer field schools.

FAO agronomists set up the first no-till demonstration plots in Kakheti region, and after the successful harvest and increased yields farmers in Shida Kartli region also decided to try and replicate the method. As a result, with the European Union and FAO support, up to 300 hectares of land all over Georgia have been planted using the innovative no-till method. The farmers who switched to this new technique can reduce direct production costs by 37 percent. As of the fuel, it is decreased by two and a half times when no-till technique is used. Moreover, the method significantly reduces labour costs, protects soil from erosion, keeps the soil moisturized and rich with minerals, thus reducing the risk and impact from short droughts, which are becoming more common in various Georgian regions due to climate change.
FAO provided complex emergency support in response to increased locust infestations in Georgia and promoted prevention, early warning, and early action for strengthening national capacities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) and the National Food Agency (NFA) on locust management.

As a part of the multi-funded and interregional FAO Programme to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA), FAO supported ten CCA countries including Georgia, through USAID funded project, to reduce the locust disaster risk and enhance capacities to respond to locust infestations through up-to-date control methods and technologies with the particular attention to human health and environment. Through FAO’s support, Automated System for Data Collection (ASDC) and Caucasus and Central Asia Locust Management System (CCALM) are fully available now in Georgia.

Under the emergency Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) ‘Preparedness and Emergency Response to Locust Infestations in Georgia’, FAO supported NFA in comprehensive control measures and treatments to over 100 000 ha targeted land. Number of courses and trainings in locust management were conducted for the respective personnel. In addition, educational materials and visibility tools, in particular, practical guidelines and posters on Locust Management and Pesticides Risk Reduction were developed for knowledge and awareness raising.

To support the most vulnerable groups of rural women in Georgia, FAO implemented programme to invest in labour-saving agricultural machinery and equipment for women living in the Ateni, Plevi, Tvishi and Sori communities of Georgia.

The main goal of the programme was to alleviate the weight of the unpaid, hard work in family farming and often invisible care work that put an extreme burden on rural women in Georgia. Through community mobilization, women living in Shida Kartli and Racha-lechkumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions identified their needs thus the programme reflected women’s wishes accurately. 29 rural women who were supported represented the group categories of single mothers, women with disabilities, women with 3 and more children and women taking care of the sick or disabled family members. The equipment requested by the women ranged from planters and weeders to bread baking machines, covering all stages of rural women’s work from land preparation/cultivation to harvest, post-harvest and processing.

The initiative was part of the Agricultural and Rural Development project in Georgia supported by FAO and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). One of the objectives of the project is to empower women in Georgia by awareness raising campaigns and small-scale investments.
“FAO, as the leading agency working on food and agriculture, has developed a toolbox which we are confident can enable us to make an impact on many of these complex systemic problems. We have a clear sense of where we are going, framed in the objectives: Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life. And our work is underpinned by a new Strategic Framework 2022-2031 for the next ten years that defines the concrete actions and inputs needed to make the Four Betters a reality and leave no one behind,”

Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General states