

**Recommendations elaborated by the Participants of the  
“First Regional Technical Consultation Workshop -  
Smallholders and Family Farms”  
10 June 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia**

The “*First Regional Technical Consultation Workshop - Smallholders and Family Farms*”, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 9 to 10 June 2015, provided an opportunity to review the main technical areas of agriculture and rural development, which are of importance for the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Countries<sup>1</sup>. The specific focus was on smallholders and family farms.

The participants of the technical consultation included representatives of Ministries of Agriculture, academia and technical experts from the EaP countries.

To this effect, the main technical issues affecting smallholders and family farms have been identified and synthesized in a regional report<sup>2</sup>. The main findings were presented during the “*First Regional Technical Consultation Workshop*”.

The participants discussed in details the common characteristics and compared their countries’ situations in this regard, providing additional information and clarifications.

During a round of participatory working group meetings, the workshop participants came up with a priority list of technical issues that are of regional importance and could build the basis for further intensified discussions, exchange of information and regional cooperation.

The workshop participants identified several common priorities as follows:

- **Cooperation (vertical and horizontal, input supply, marketing, services, risk insurance, legislation, etc.)**
- **Quality Assurance Standards (inclusive of food safety) and access to markets**
- **Rural Employment and income diversification**

The workshop participants concluded that a cooperation and exchange of information is required. It will allow them to learn how to apply their best practices across the region, thus fostering the sustainable growth of rural areas through the support to smallholders and family farms.

To this effect, the workshop participants are recommending to

- Continue cooperation focusing on the defined specific technical areas. These meetings could form the beginning of a regional technical platform.
- In addition to Ministry experts, academia, independent technical experts, also civil society should be part of the technical platform.
- There will be need for further support to the organization and hosting of such events in the future.

Tbilisi, 10 June 2015

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<sup>1</sup> The EaP countries are countries where the EU is implementing the European Neighborhood Policy with its support instruments ENPI: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine; see [http://eeas.europa.eu/eastern/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/eastern/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> “Fostering regional economic growth and rural development through smallholders and family farms”. Draft report, FAO, Budapest, June 2015.