



GEORGIA

working for the SDGs



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1. ABOUT SDGs



On 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets and 232 indicators to guide the actions of governments, international agencies, civil society and other institutions to achieve sustainable development by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda sets forth an ambitious transformational plan to guide a global approach to sustainable development by uniting

the efforts of all countries and all stakeholders. The 17 SDGs are universal, integrated and indivisible, capturing all the three dimensions of sustainable development: social development, sustained and inclusive economic growth and environmental protection.

2. THE ROLE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN ACHIEVING 2030 AGENDA

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that we can no longer look at food, livelihoods and the management of natural resources separately. A focus on rural development and investment in agriculture - crops, livestock,

forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – are powerful tools to end poverty and hunger, and bring about sustainable development. Agriculture has a major role to play in combating climate change.

A specialized UN agency, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) already works hand-in-hand with governments, small producers, the private sector and other key actors in food security and sustainable development in projects and programmes across the globe.

FAO's technical capacity, global reach, monitoring expertise, experience in building partnerships and shaping policy can support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

FAO's broad priorities in the 2030 Agenda are to:

- End poverty, hunger and malnutrition;
- Enable sustainable development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry;
- Respond to climate change.

FAO has five strategic objectives (SO):

- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;

- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable;
- Reduce rural poverty;
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems;
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

FAO's priorities in the Europe and Central Asia Region:

- Empower smallholders and family farms for improved rural livelihood and poverty

reduction, mainly contributing to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10;

- Improve agrifood trade and market integration, contributing to SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 12, SDG 15, SDG 17;
- Ensure sustainable natural resource management, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, mainly contributing to SDG 2, SDG 6, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15.

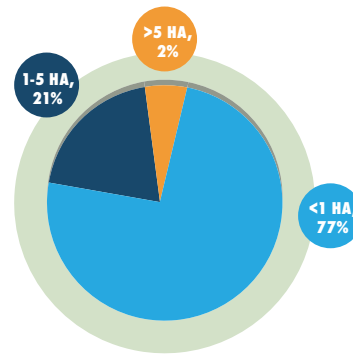
FAO has been proposed as custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators

Table on SDG indicators under FAO Custodianship

2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment
2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of arming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size
2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status
2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture
2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium or long term conservation facilities
2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds, classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or unknown level of risk of extinction
2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures
2.c.1 Indicator of (food) price anomalies
5.a.1 (a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
5.a.2 Percentage of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control
6.4.1 Change in water use efficiency over time
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources
12.3.1 Global food loss index
14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing states, least developed countries and all countries
14.b.1 Progress by countries in adopting and implementing a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries
15.1.1 Forest area as a percentage of total land area
15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management
15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index

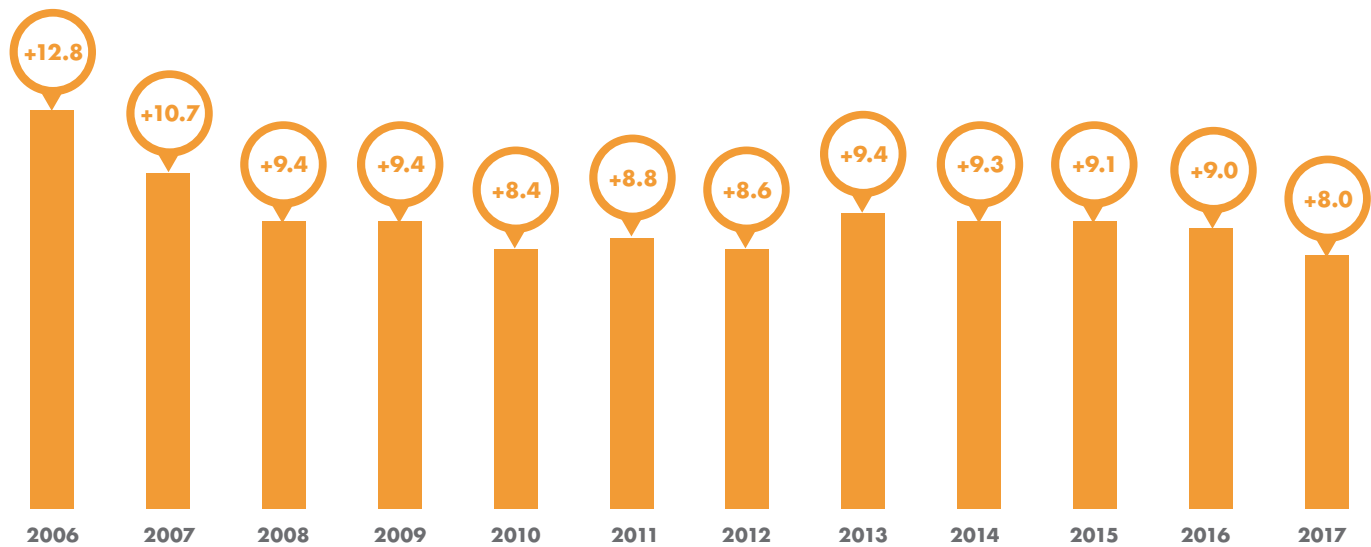
3. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN GEORGIA

Distribution of agricultural holdings by area of agricultural land (%)



SOURCE: GEOSTAT

Share of agriculture, fishery and forest to GDP (%)



SOURCE: GEOSTAT

Out of more than 642 000 agricultural holdings, about 640 000 are family holdings (99.7% of total).

Fifty-eight percent of households in Georgia are agricultural holdings.

Thirty-nine percent of employed in Georgia are engaged in agriculture.

Absolute poverty in Georgia, 2018

Georgia's national	Urban	Rural
20.1%	18%	23.1%

4. SDGs ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The strategy for agricultural development in Georgia 2015–2020 aims to create an environment that will increase competitiveness in agrofood sector, promote stable

growth of high-quality agricultural production, ensure food safety and security, and eliminate rural poverty through sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas.

The rural development strategy of Georgia 2017–2020 covers three priorities areas: economy and

competitiveness, social conditions and living standards and the environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources. SDG-relevant targets and indicators can highly contribute to measuring and monitoring the progress in the implementation of these two main strategies.

Government of Georgia officially approved National SDG Document (action plan). The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) is the lead agency for the implementation of 13 nationalized SDG targets under 5 SDG Goals (SDG 2, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15).

Strategy for agricultural development in Georgia

5 SDG targets under 2 goals

Rural development strategy of Georgia

19 SDG targets under 9 goals

5. FAO'S WORK TO INCREASE SDG AWARENESS IN GEORGIA

FAO's first Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project on SDGs "Support to the MEPA of Georgia in SDGs implementation and monitoring, 2017–2018" aimed to support MEPA in the implementation of SDGs. The following activities were conducted under the project:

- An awareness-raising workshop "Supporting SDGs Implementation and Enabling Stakeholders' Involvement, the Role of Food and Agriculture in the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda" was held for more than 40 participants from government, NGOs, the private sector, international organizations and resource partners.
- A three-day awareness raising/training workshops on FAO-led SDG indicators was held for more than 40 participants from government, NGOs, the private sector and UN agencies
- A Baseline Report and Action Plan for Georgia "Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Components Related to Sustainable Food and Agriculture" was produced.
- Training for more than 100 MEPA staff was held on the role of environment, food and agriculture in achieving 2030 agenda.

- As part of the UN Communication Plan in Georgia, in 2017 the UN organized an **SDG Festival in Rustavi**. One of the main highlights of the event was FAO's Green Corner, an exhibition of agricultural plants, seeds and flowers as well as a workshop in gardening for children and adults. The aim of the FAO Green Corner was to support the **SDGs 2** (No Hunger) and **SDG 15** (Life on Land) by promoting balcony gardening, small agricultural production and the protection of environment by showing that human life depends on the earth for our sustenance and livelihoods.

THIS TCP PROJECT CONTRIBUTED TO THE OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS AND ADVOCACY OF THE ROLE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. PROJECT ACTIVITIES COVERED ALL INDICATORS UNDER FAO CUSTODIANSHIP UNDER SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 12, SDG 14 AND SDG 15.

This project was followed by a second FAO TCP project entitled "Support to MEPA in implementation of SDG action plan 2019–2020". The main activities being accomplished are:

- Supported the MEPA in carrying out the the 2018–2020 Action Plan for the implementation and monitoring of SDGs, including capacity building of MEPA staff and other relevant stakeholders, thematic consultations and harmonization of SDG targets into national priorities and strategic framework;
- Strengthened national capacities in SDG monitoring and reporting according to Action Plan;
- Mobilized and engaged relevant state and non-state actors, including Parliamentarians, private sector and local authorities in cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary dialogue around the 18 actions that contribute to food and agriculture-related SDGs;
- Contributed to and facilitated UN Country Team (UNCT) SDG related activities by highlighting and raising an awareness on the role of food and agriculture in achieving SDGs, including Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission activities and contribution to the analytical work, i.e. Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) and Complexity Analysis.

In 2019, the UN in Georgia initiated and organized a large-scale SDG festival in Ambrolauri, Racha Regions. A one-day festival with the slogan

“Leave No One Behind” displayed the various activities by all the UN’s agencies illustrating the country’s efforts to achieve the SDGs, positioning the UN as the leading player in supporting the country to achieve global goals. FAO contributed to the festival with the agricultural market of traditional Georgian food and wine.

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6. FAO’S SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS IN GEORGIA

The Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2016–2020 for Georgia was signed by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia in 2016. It sets out four government priority areas to guide the FAO partnership in support to the Government of Georgia, bringing together innovative international best practices and global standards with national and regional expertise in order to achieve the SDGs. Building on FAO’s experience in the country, the CPF directly supports the implementation of the Strategy for Agriculture Development in Georgia in the following four priority areas, as agreed with the Government:

1. Institutional development;
2. Regional and sectoral development – value chain development;
3. Food safety, veterinary and plant protection;
4. Climate change, environment and biodiversity.

The formulation of the CPF involved an interactive review of national policy priorities for food, agriculture, forestry, fishery and rural development in the context of the SDGs and consultations with the government, public and private national stakeholders. It also benefitted from discussion with the key development partners including the European Union Delegation to Georgia, the Austrian Development Agency, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,

The United States Agency for International Development and other United Nations agencies.

The main achievements of FAO in the implementation of the CPF, and the direct link to the SDGs, are the following:

Institutional development

- FAO supported the MEPA in policy work developing the national strategy for agriculture development of Georgia, the rural development strategy of Georgia, the extension strategy, as well as the development of the legal framework in seed certification, geographic indications and aquaculture (SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 15).
- Since 2016 the MEPA has been collecting weekly prices of over 60 key agricultural products. This Market Information System was established with FAO’s support in all municipalities of Georgia. The information is uploaded to the MEPA website and is available for farmers (SDG 2).
- FAO worked on the implementation of the Data Warehouse, a platform that connects the databases from MEPA and its agencies, as well as GEOSTAT databases relevant for agriculture. The Data Warehouse allows the creation of reports combining the data of different sources for use in policymaking. FAO also facilitated the data collection,

analysis and exchange between the MEPA and GEOSTAT, in order to improve the statistical data at hand of decision-makers (SDG 2, SDG 17).

- FAO supported the creation of the Agricultural Cooperatives Development Agency (ACDA) as well as the capacity development and coaching of ACDA staff, and provided technical assistance to prepare the main strategic and legal framework for cooperative development in Georgia (SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8).
- FAO supported establishment of the National Wildlife Agency and strengthening its capacities by providing technical assistance to develop the draft Law on Hunting (SDG 15).
- FAO, in partnership with UN Women, supported the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia (MRA) to develop a gender equality strategy for IDPs and a two-year action plan (SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 5).
- Georgia was selected as one of the pilot countries for the implementation of Integrated Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS), a ten-year farm-based survey program that aims to provide cost-effective and timely statistical data for agricultural and rural sectors. The survey will help Geostat to collect data for nationalized SDG indicators under FAO custodianship under SDG 2.

Regional and sectoral development – value chain development

- FAO supported the MEPA in increasing their capacities for value chain assessment and supported the in-depth assessments of several value chains (SDG2, SDG 4, SDG 12).
- FAO has developed a toolkit for Post-Harvest Handling techniques for crop groups such as fruits, vegetables and herbs, to be used by extension officers and the private sector (SDG 2, SDG 12).
- FAO is implementing a matching grant component of over 6 MM USD, providing financing opportunities for farmers, cooperatives and SMEs in the rural areas (SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8).
- FAO implemented pilot projects on Rural Development in two regions of Georgia: Tsalka and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti. FAO supported the establishment of the Local Initiative Groups (LIGs) and supported up to 50 rural development projects in tourism (Tsalka Tourism Development strategy, three touristic routes and training of tourism service providers) and agriculture (Racha Ham production, small family wineries, beekeepers and mushroom production). The focus was on income diversification in rural areas, poverty reduction, and the empowerment of rural population – both women and men – contributing to a number of SDG targets: **SDG 1**, including 1.2 (reduce poverty), **SDG 8**, target 8.9 (promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products) and **SDG 12**, target 12.b (monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture

and products), and to making sure that no one is left behind.

- A gender assessment report - Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Georgia - was written and disseminated within the group of the national stakeholders (SDG 2, SDG 5).
- FAO implemented livelihood support programmes for IDPs. The project design and approach laid the foundation for the improvement of the economic capacity of IDPs by engaging state institutions, as well as local CSOs/NGOs, to tackle the diverse causes of poverty and inequality and to ensure the sustainability of the project results. In total, 1 730 applications were received and 808 co-financing payments nationwide were delivered by the project to IDP households with single parents with minors and households with persons with disabilities. Overall, the programme supported more than 50 percent of the new IDP caseload (from 2008) with investment contributions and 25 percent of the longest-lasting IDP households nationwide (SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 8).

Food safety, veterinary and plant protection

- FAO supported Georgia in establishment of a National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS). The NAITS software has been completed and deployed on the FAO-provided servers and as of December 2019 it has been introduced for the national use. A new legislation for animal identification, registration and traceability has been developed and adopted by the Government. FAO continues to provide TA to the reorganization of the NFA field activities, in order to ensure maximum output from the NAITS (SDG 2,

SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 12).

- FAO supported the National Food Agency in establishment of the national plant pest monitoring and forecast system. National technical documents on pest monitoring and pest forecast were elaborated. National manuals for farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for ten most important crops were developed and printed. Two IPM farmer field schools in Lagodekhi and Gori were arranged (SDG 2).

Climate change, environment and biodiversity

- FAO supported the MEPA in the mainstreaming of Climate Smart Agriculture into its sector development policies (SDG 2, SDG 15).
- FAO supports extension services in Georgia by organizing farmer field schools, theoretical and practical training activities for farmers, Information-Consulting Centres of the MEPA and interns from Agrarian University. FAO experts arrange various types of demonstration plots of potatoes, wheat, maize, cucumber, eggplant and sweet corn, using Climate Smart Agriculture and Good Agriculture Practices (SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 15).
- The sustainable wildlife management plan of the r. Lukhuni valley in Ambrolauri municipality was elaborated within the framework of the project "Capacity Building for Sustainable Wildlife Management" which contributes to the enhancement of national capacities for implementing wildlife resources' assessment, management and monitoring and supports to the evidence-based decision-making on wildlife related issues (SDG 15).

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