

January 2016

MODERNIZATION OF THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) SYSTEM RELATED TO AGRICULTURE IN GEORGIA

BACKGROUND

Agriculture plays an important role in the social and economic development of Georgia as it is the major source of income for the rural population. Today there is a mismatch between the farmers' skills and the qualification profiles demanded by the market. A better system of vocational training and extension services in agriculture is therefore important for increasing productivity, creating jobs, and enhancing revenues.



At the VET training in Kachreti college, Kakheti region in Georgia. ©UNDP

FACTS

Country: Georgia

Duration: 1 Jan '13-31 Dec '18

Total Budget: CHF 6'040'000

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the development of a system of high quality vocational training and extension services in agriculture that may lead to increased incomes and employment of the rural population. This goal shall be achieved through the following three interlinked outcomes:

1. Farmers have access to high quality VET extension services in agriculture.
2. Professional and well trained VET teachers, agricultural extension workers and multipliers provide training and extension services to farmers.
3. An institutional set-up is in place that includes public and private stakeholders and ensures the delivery of relevant, efficient and effective training as well as extension services in agriculture.

Taking into consideration specific needs of farmers, a flexible and modular training programme will be developed. Support will be provided to the development of a system that produces high quality vocational teachers and extension workers, as well as other specialists (veterinary nurses, zoo-technicians, food processors, etc.) who provide direct services to farmers. The project will assist the relevant ministries in revising qualification requirements for the trainers of VET teachers, and in elaborating professional standards for extension workers. In this role the project will closely collaborate with the Teachers' Professional Development Centre (TPDC) under the Ministry of Education and Science. Special attention will be paid to the VET teachers' involvement in providing extension works, as it will keep them practice oriented.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

At *micro* level, the project will facilitate the training of vocational teachers and of service providers (e.g. veterinary doctors, input suppliers, buyers of agricultural raw materials) as they convey various technical requirements to farmers and act as multipliers for the vocational skills development. Extension service development will focus on farmers with a potential to grow and to demonstrate a successful model for others. At *meso* level, the project will develop capacities of the public and private organizations involved in the provision of VET and extension services. They will be linked with relevant Swiss VET institutions to foster sharing their experience and transferring advanced practices.

At the *macro level*, the project will facilitate the creation of a national platform that will bring together all public and private stakeholders of vocational training and extension services. It will enhance national capacities for policy planning and coordination in the VET and extension services. The legal form and institutional affiliation of this national platform will be discussed and agreed upon among its members during the project implementation. The proposed project will apply a non-discriminatory approach and ensure proactive participation of women in the proposed activities – training, consultancy and coaching in farming activities. Gender equality will be fostered by offering relevant training and extension opportunities for both groups and factoring necessary flexibility into the system which will allow women to attend their regular household responsibilities. Women headed households will be given priority when appropriate in receiving training or extension services.

PROJECT PARTNER

Implementing partner:
United Nations Development Programme

Institutional partners:
Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia
Regional and Local authorities
Farmers' associations
Buyers of agricultural raw products
Private VET colleges
Extension centres

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Over 4'000 farmers will benefit from participating in improved (re)training courses and approximately 10'000 farmers will get access to the extension services tailored to their needs. This will hopefully lead to an increase of the productivity of their farms and of their incomes by approx. 10% per year. Employability of the trainees will be improved by closing the gap between their vocational skills and market requirements.

Special attention will be paid to developing flexible systems for enabling access to the training and extension services for women and ethnic minorities (e.g. ethnic Azeri and Armenian minorities in Kvemo Kartli with limited Georgian language skills). Direct beneficiaries of the project will be 8 public vocational colleges and 7 municipal information consultancy (extension) centres, as well as other service providers, who will be acting as multipliers of advanced skills for farmers. Qualifications of 300 VET teachers, 400 extension workers and 250 service providers will be enhanced through training, advising and coaching. The residual vocational colleges and extension centres will benefit indirectly through accessing updated vocational standards, training materials and information for agricultural extension.



Farmers participate in retraining courses and get an access to extension services. ©UNDP

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