



**UNEP/GEF “ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS IN RURAL
COMMUNITIES OF ARMENIA THROUGH
MAINSTREAMING AND STRENGTHENING
AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND
UTILIZATION” PROJECT**



Project Component 1.



- **Activity:** Set up a functioning Intergovernmental Coordination Committee on Agro-biodiversity.

Draft of the charter and responsibilities of institutions are clarified. The paper is under final circulation. The activity will be finalized in 2018 May.

- **Activity:** Organize an Information Day for policy makers and executing agencies in relevant land use sectors (50-100 participants) to provide information about use and usefulness of agro-biodiversity and follow up with capacity building.

The activity was finalized in Aug 2016.

- **Activity:** Organize annual round-table meeting of Coordination Committee.

Second Coordination Committee meeting is now.



- **Activity:** Establish and organize meetings of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to support coordination and provide cleared and scientifically proved documents to Coordination Committee and provide quarterly support for the national project management.
Each quarter we hold one TAC meeting





- **Activity:** Organise at least two training events for regional/local government and non-governmental agencies in relevant land-use sectors to promote the importance of agro-biodiversity and inter-sector collaboration.

About 10 meetings including trainings were organized.





- **Activity:** Run a public awareness campaign
More than 70 PA materials prepared and policy briefing documents were prepared.





- **Activity:** Develop at least 2 policy-briefing documents on use of agro-biodiversity for government.

Policy brief on “Analysis of national policy framework on conservation and use of agro-biodiversity” was developed, based on results of analysis of national legislation and policy on agriculture developed.





- **Activity :** Facilitate the initial meetings towards establishing a cooperative/association institutional body at each pilot District to promote support and organize marketing of local producers.

National consultant was hired to carry out survey in project sites on feasibility of establishment of cooperatives or farmer associations to promote local products at the markets. Survey results showed that there is a need for facilitation of establishment of cooperatives or associations in each project site.





- **Activity:** Provide support to leaders of the Cooperatives in drafting the Establishment Charter.

Consultation with experts is ongoing to develop an Establishment Charter of Cooperatives. Outline of Charter is developed and public awareness materials titled: “Role and importance of establishment of Farmers’ Unions” and “Agricultural Cooperatives” to enhance establishment of cooperatives have been developed to raise awareness of target communities.





- **Activity :** Set up demonstration plots with top ranked species and related best practices.

Sites for establishment of demonstration plots in all three project sites were identified. In Nor Ughi and Surenavan Communities of Ararat Province demonstration orchard with apricot, peach and apple trees will be established. Two local varieties of apple, three varieties of apricot and one variety of peach grow at this demonstration plot, which is located in land under the community property.





- **Activity:** Develop guidelines and standards for sustainable management and harvesting of priority plant species and products and make them available to local communities and extension workers.
- *National project team has developed **the following scientific guidelines and publications:***
 - *“Expected impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change”;*
 - *“Climate change, impact, risk, evaluation, management and recommendations”;*
 - *“Climate of Armenia”;*
 - *“Information on Ararat and Gegharqunik provinces with focus on climate change, risk and adaptation”;*
 - *“Information on Ararat and Gegharqunik provinces with focus on restoration and plant breeding”;*
 - *“Role and importance of establishment of farmers’ unions”;*
 - *“Role and importance of young farmers’ clubs in communities based on European experience”;*
 - *“How to engage young farmers in newly established farmers’ clubs”;*
 - *“How to establish young farmers clubs in communities (international experience)”;*
 - *“Guidelines for trainings”.*





14 manuals on sustainable management of priority plant species for farmers use were developed in the reporting period and provided to extension workers:

- “Technologies on cultivation of beans and vegetables”;
- “Comprehensive training manual for farmers”;
- “Selection of soils for growing fruit trees”;
- “Modern irrigation methods”;
- “Organic fertilizers”;
- “Garden (growing fruit trees);
- “Rights of communities in decision making”;
- “Mitigation and adaptation measures”;
- “Sustainable management and harvesting”;
- “Organic methods in soil fertilization”;
- “Greenhouse and growing local plants”;
- “Main agrobiodiversity species of Armenia”;
- “Organic methods in plant species cultivation”.
- “Climate change”



- **Activity:** Carry out consumer preference testing (gender disaggregated) for shortlisted products and select top priority for further development.

Testing was carried out with consideration of preferences of men and women. Results of the research showed that women were more likely than men to report avoiding high-fat foods, eating fruit and fiber, and limiting salt (to a lesser extent). They were also more likely to be dieting and pay greater attention to healthy food. Gender differences in food choices therefore appear to be partly attributable to women's greater weight control involvement and partly to their stronger beliefs in healthy food.





- **Activity:** Implement participatory Monitoring and Evaluation plan, tools, and methods with targeted communities, including necessary training

Community leaders in project sites participate in monitoring and evaluation process of project implementation. Meetings are organized every six months and so twice a year.



Thank you for your attention

