



 Austrian
Development
Cooperation



 Austrian
Development
Agency



ANNUAL REPORT #3

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**EU GREEN
AGRICULTURE
INITIATIVE IN
ARMENIA
(EU-GAIA)
PROJECT**

ADC Contract Number 6546-00/2019
EU Identification Number EN/2019/408/058



Project Snapshot

Project Specific Objectives

The Gap We're Filling

01

The policy, legal and institutional environment will be conducive to green, inclusive and rights-based agriculture development.

02

Selected agribusinesses will have better access to infrastructure, green technologies, good agricultural practices and markets creating also better employment conditions.

03

Selected agribusinesses will be more competitive through access to inputs, equipment, infrastructures and services (to be partially implemented by UNDP).

04

Selected organic agribusinesses will be more competitive through access to inputs, equipment, infrastructures and services.

2. Executive Summary

This report presents the achievements during the third year of the EU-GAIA project (1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022). For Armenia, this period was characterized by the ongoing crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the outbreak of the 44-days war over Artsakh. Both crises had and continue to have a great impact on the Armenian society.

Throughout the third project year, the focus was on implementation of the project activities by both ADA and UNDP. Furthermore, an external mid-term evaluation took place, which confirmed high relevance and good progress in implementation. The recommendations will be implemented in the remainder of the project period.

In October 2022, an extension request was submitted. The extension for the UNDP component is proposed to be 6 months – until 30 June 2023 and for the ADA component it is proposed to prolong the project with an additional 10 months until 31 January 2024.

During the implementation year, the advisory board held 2 meetings to discuss the progress of the project and sharing information on ongoing affairs. The advisory board was informed and provided feedback on the implemented activities and the plans of the ADA and UNDP teams. An additional advisory board meeting was held to discuss the findings and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation.

In the domain of **Policy and Advocacy**, the establishment of the **Working Group Platforms** was finalized for the national level as well as for all three marzes. Each of the various marzes elaborated a Regional Agricultural Development Strategy and started elaborating small innovative agricultural demonstration projects in line with their formulated strategies.

Three **exchange learning programme** visits were organised: two to the Slovak Republic in to support the Centre for Agribusiness Research and Certification in February 2022 and for capacity development for beekeepers in September 2022. A third visit was organised in June for 8 staff members of the Food Safety Inspection Body to Germany.

The project has provided 2 agricultural drones for the establishment of a **geospatial technology laboratory** at ANAU. This laboratory was opened with representation of the EU and the MoEc on 6 May 2022.

The opening of the **soil laboratories** for the Gyumri and the Vanadzor colleges as well as in state Noyemberyan Agri-college were respectively done on 25 March and on 21 and 29 April.

The ToR for the development of new curricula on master's programme in precision agriculture as well as for training programmes in green agriculture were developed. Based on a request from ANAU for provision of **soil laboratory facilities**, the project started procurement for the required equipment and furniture

The project has arranged support for 13 **demonstration sites**, and 16 **post-harvest facilities**. Most of them are operational or in the stage of finalisation.

The project facilitated the participation of 8 participants from Armenia in the organic trade fair **BioFach Expo 2022** in Nuremberg, Germany (27-29 July 2022). With regard to Armenian trade fairs, more than 25 project beneficiaries were involved in the harvest festival organised in Dzoraghbyur, the Christmas market, and the Armenian expo 2021.

Various trainings on marketing and on green and organic agriculture were provided to beneficiaries that received support from the Support for Agribusiness Programme.

An **awareness raising campaign** aimed at linking Armenian producers and consumers was planned to start in September 2022. However, it was postponed due to the conflict with Azerbaijan that broke out on 12 September. This awareness raising campaign event is due to start in January 2023.

The **Green Agri-Tech Start-Up Clash 2022** took place on 19 February 2022, to select winning ideas from the 10 shortlisted applicants. The event was organized by the Nation in Action NGO, ICARE and ANAU.



Map of EU-GAIA Project Beneficiaries

This map shows the numbers and types of beneficiaries who have received technical assistance under the EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia (EU-GAIA) implemented by ADA and UNDP. The provided information is classified according to the regions and consolidated communities.

Interactive map is available at <http://gaiaarmenia.am/en/map>

