



With funding from

 Austrian
Development
Cooperation



Implemented by

 Austrian
Development
Agency



1ST ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 OCTOBER 2019 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

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



OCTOBER 2020

ENI/2019/408-058
ADC Contract Number 6546-00/2019



With funding from
 Austrian
Development
Cooperation



Implemented by
 Austrian
Development
Agency



GLOSSARY/LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADA.....	Austrian Development Agency
ADC.....	Austrian Development Co-operation
AMD.....	Armenian Dram
CARD.....	Centre for Agribusiness and Rural Development
CEPA	Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement
Covid-19.....	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DoA	Description of the Action
ERDSC	Economic Research Development Support Center
EU	European Union
EUD.....	Delegation of the European Union
EUR	Euro
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP.....	Gross domestic product
GoA.....	Government of Armenia
HQ.....	Headquarter
ICCT.....	Internal Communication Coordination Tool
ICARE	International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education
ICP.....	Improved Crop Production
IFOAM.....	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISM.....	Improved Soil Management
ITC.....	International Trade Center
<i>Marz</i>	<i>Province/Region</i>
<i>Marzpet</i>	<i>Governor</i>
<i>Marzpetaran....</i>	<i>Governate</i>
MoA	Memorandum of Association
MoEc.....	Ministry of Economy
MoU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NWG	National Working Group
OASI	Organic Agriculture Support Initiative
POM.....	Project Operational Manual
PPP.....	Public-Private Partnership
RA	Republic of Armenia
RfQ.....	Request for Quotation
RWGP.....	Regional Working Group Platform
SAP.....	Support for Agribusiness Programme
SDP.....	Sustainable Development Programme
SO	Specific Objective
ToR.....	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VCs.....	Value Chains
WER	Wageningen Economic Research



With funding from
 Austrian
Development
Cooperation



Implemented by
 Austrian
Development
Agency



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report presents the achievements of the first year of implementation of the EU-Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia (EU-GAIA) project, which started on 1 October 2019 and has a duration of 42 months, until 31 March 2023. This project is financed by the **European Union (EU)** with 9.7 million Euro and the **Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)** with 2 million Euro. It is jointly implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

During the five months inception phase the focus was on laying the foundation for the project by mobilising resources and recruiting the team. The inception phase was concluded by a public launch on 4 March 2020 and an Advisory Board meeting on 10 April 2020. The **Advisory Board** endorsed during its first meeting the following topics: the ToR for its own functioning, the selection of value chains (VCs), the support programme for agribusinesses and the proposed Covid-19 response.

In 2020 two unforeseen crises hit Armenia very hard. These were the **Covid-19** pandemic and the re-ignition of the conflict between **Azerbaijan and Armenia over Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh)**. These crises have and will probably continue to have a huge influence on Armenian society and economy. The total scale of consequences has yet to be assessed. The project designed a quick Covid-19 response which was endorsed by the Advisory Board. Despite the crises, the project could successfully continue to implement the activities according to the time plan and with some minor delays.

In the domain of **Policy and Advocacy, Working Group Platforms** were established at national level and at marz (province) level (1 is functional and 2 are in preparation) that discuss issues on policy development and improvement in the agricultural sector. A strategic review research on the policy and legal framework was executed and legal advisory is provided on the Draft **“Law on Development of Agriculture”** and the Draft law on **“Seeds and plant materials”**. A Stakeholders Capacity Needs Assessment is in the pipeline which will be the basis for stakeholder support.

During the inception phase, a **market and feasibility study** was conducted. Based on this study, the following VCs were selected to be supported: **Fruits & Berries, Vegetables, Legumes, Herbs and Sheep**. The project focuses on the 3 northern marzes of Armenia: **Shirak, Lori and Tavush**.

In June/July a first **call for applications** was launched - **Lot 1 - from which in total 60 contracts will be awarded**: 20 by ADA and 40 to be implemented by UNDP. Simultaneously, a call for organic agriculture was launched - **Lot 2 - which targets 80 agribusinesses across the whole of Armenia**. A second call for applications is foreseen to be launched in April 2021.

Contracts have been established with potential **demo-sites**, and for two of them procurement has started. Six proposals for **post-harvest facilities** were received and are in the final stage of preparation.

For awareness raising on the topic of green and organic agriculture, the project conducted an **Awareness Level Assessment amongst Farmers on Green and Organic Agriculture in the Rural Areas of Armenia**. An awareness-raising campaign implementation plan was developed which includes the design of visibility materials.



With funding from
 Austrian
Development
Cooperation



Implemented by
 Austrian
Development
Agency



The project facilitated - in cooperation with the International Trade Centre project (ITC) - the participation of four participants from Armenia and seven producers to exhibit their products in the organic trade fair **“BioFACH 2020” in Nuremberg from 12 to 15 February 2020.**

In September 2020, EU-GAIA supported the **Green Week / Harvest Festival** organized by Green Lane NGO with visibility items and a lecture on Green Agriculture with participants of the Armenian National Agrarian University, ICARE (International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education) and CARD (Centre for Agribusiness and Rural Development).

As Covid-19 response, the following interventions have been implemented:

