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## ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION



THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION HAVE DECIDED TO LINK TOGETHER THEIR KNOW-HOW, RESOURCES AND DESTINIES. TOGETHER, THEY HAVE BUILT A ZONE OF STABILITY, DEMOCRACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WHILST MAINTAINING CULTURAL DIVERSITY, TOLERANCE AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS. THE EUROPEAN UNION IS COMMITTED TO SHARING ITS ACHIEVEMENTS AND ITS VALUES WITH COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BEYOND ITS BORDERS.





## GLOSSARY/LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADA .....	Austrian Development Agency
ADC.....	Austrian Development Co-operation
ANAU.....	Armenian National Agrarian University
B2B .....	Business to Business
BMC.....	Blanche du Massif Central sheep breed
CARC.....	Centre for Agriculture Research and Certification
CEPA .....	Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement
Covid-19 .....	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CSO .....	Civil Society Organisation
DoA.....	Description of the Action
ERDSC.....	Economic Research Development Support Centre
EU .....	European Union
EUD .....	European Union Delegation
GAP.....	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP .....	Gross domestic product
GoA.....	Government of Armenia
HQ .....	Headquarters
ICARE .....	International Centre for Agribusiness Research and Education
IPM .....	Integrated Pest Management
<i>Marz</i> .....	Province/Region
<i>Marzpetaran</i> .....	Governate
MoA.....	Memorandum of Association
MoEc .....	Ministry of Economy
MoU .....	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO.....	Non-governmental organisation
NWGP.....	National Working Group Platform
OASI.....	Organic Agriculture Support Initiative
PPP .....	Public-Private Partnership
RA.....	Republic of Armenia
RfQ .....	Request for Quotation
RWGP .....	Regional Working Group Platform
SAP .....	Support for Agribusiness Programme
SO .....	Specific Objective
ToR .....	Terms of Reference
UNDP.....	United Nations Development Programme
WEcR .....	Wageningen Economic Research
WGP .....	Working Group Platform

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the achievements during the second year of the EU-GAIA project (1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021). 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 second project year, the focus was on implementation of the project activities by both ADA and UNDP.

Various trainings on marketing were provided to beneficiaries as well as the involvement of beneficiaries in trade fairs. The first call of the support for the agribusiness programme, for which the applications were received during the first year of implementation, was evaluated and its procurement started. The second call for the agribusiness programme was closed in March 2021 and the evaluation of the applications took place in August 2021. The procurement plan is elaborated. Furthermore, demonstration sites and post-harvest facilities were selected and for this, the procurement of assets and hand-over have started.

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.

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. A **Stakeholders Capacity Needs Assessment** was executed and serves as the basis for the identification of stakeholder support. Preparations were rounded off for **legal and advisory support** to the department in improving and finalizing the final draft of “**Law on Agriculture Activities**” the MoEc. The assignment will take until February 2022. A first **exchange learning programme** visit was organised to the Slovak Republic in order to support the Centre for Agribusiness Research and Certification. A second visit will be held in the beginning of 2022.

The project has provided 2 agricultural drones for the establishment of a **geospatial technology laboratory** at ANAU. 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 for the Gyumri and the Vanadzor colleges as well as in state Noyemberyan Agri-college in Tavush marz.

In February 2021 a second **call for applications** was launched **from which in total 60 contracts will be awarded**: 30 by ADA and 30 to be implemented by UNDP. Simultaneously, a call for organic agriculture was launched - **which targets 80 agribusinesses across the whole of Armenia**.

Contracts were established with 8 potential **demo-sites**, and 3 of them are functioning whereas the other 5 sites the procurement has started. 8 contracts for **post-harvest facilities** were signed and procurement has commenced.

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.

The project facilitated - in cooperation with the International Trade Centre project (ITC) - the participation of 4 participants from Armenia and 7 producers to be involved in the online organic trade fair **BioFach eSpecial Digital Expo 2021** (17-19 February 2021). With regard to Armenian trade fairs, more than 25 project beneficiaries were involved in the harvest festival organised in Dzoraghbyur and the HayBuys festival 2021.

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

The **Green Agri-Tech Start-Up Clash 2020** took place on 20 February 2020, to select winning ideas from the 10 shortlisted applicants. The event was organized by the Nation in Action NGO, ICARE and ANAU. Out of 90 applications, 10 applications were selected to take part in a pitching battle. 3 winners were selected which presented ideas on integrated irrigation management, bio-degradable materials and agricultural consultancy. **A second green agri-tech start-up clash was initiated** in June 2021 and will be concluded in February 2022.

In the coming project year, apart from the continuation of the activity implementation, there will be a mid-term evaluation conducted, which will focus on lessons learnt and perhaps give directions for the future implementation of the project, including a possible non-cost extension.