



Ertoba

Samtskhe-Javakheti farmers organization



Farmers Unite for the agricultural development of the Lesser Caucasus

GEORGIA

Context A poorly organized and neglected agricultural sector

- Capitale city, Tbilissi
- Region of Samtskhe-Javakheti

Since the end of the Soviet period, Georgian agriculture has struggled to develop and has not achieved food self-sufficiency. In the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, family farms produce food crops such as potatoes, milk and honey. However, income from these crops is low and yields are not very productive. The lack of access to the knowledge and inputs required for the production, storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products is a major obstacle.



Fert has been working in Georgia since 2011, supporting the GBDC-AO technical team and the Ertoba farmers' organization. Together, they initiated a dairy extension service and proved that it is possible for farmers to organize themselves. Today, Fert and its partners are entering a new phase to provide services to a larger number of producers and to promote the viability of these partner organizations.

428

farmers benefiting from GBDC technical services, including **135** farmers who are members of Ertoba

3

types of productions :



Objectives

To improve the standard of living of the farms in the region through local services that are managed by and for the farmers

Increase production through efficient and environmentally friendly agricultural practices

Add value to products through post-harvest operations and marketing of healthy and high-quality products

Organize into a farmers' collective to manage services and dialogue with partners.

Focus on milk

About **10** dairy cows per farm

Dairy margin of **1728** Georgian Lari / year / cow

70% of milk production processed into cheese on the farm



Actions

Local advisory services to meet farmers' needs

The farmers of Samtskhe-Javakheti organize themselves through the Ertoba Association. The board of the association meets every month to plan and monitor the activities to be carried out in response to the needs of its members:

- Operational diagnostics and technical-economic advice on various topics: animal health and reproduction, fodder production and food, infrastructure, storage, quality and milk processing...
- Group animation: experiments, training, exchange visits
- Group purchases of inputs, joint investments and access to finance
- Support for professional structuring: training of leaders, monitoring and relations with local authorities.

These activities are carried out by the 9 GBDC technicians placed at the disposal of Ertoba. Based in Akhaltsikhe, they operate within a 50 km radius to ensure a close relationship with the farmers.

News

Beekeeping and potato production: new supported productions



In 2020, after 10 years of focusing on dairy farming, Fert began to explore new activities in Georgia. Very quickly, an informal group of 50 professional beekeepers from the Samtskhe-Javakheti region showed interest in the support proposed. The first technical exchanges and joint activities have begun. In February 2023, a mission of a French beekeeper, member of Adapi, made it possible to diagnose the needs of these beekeepers. At the same time, in May 2022, in this region famous for its potatoes, a technician dedicated to this production was recruited in the GBDC-AO team. He supports about forty producers.

BUDGET :

220 000 €

*Average annual budget
(including Fert's accompaniment)*

LOCAL PARTNERS :



TECHNICAL PARTNERS :



FINANCIAL PARTNERS :



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Fert is connected to the French professional grain growers organisations and is a member of the international alliance Agricorn.



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