

Support to Agriculture and Rural Development

General Information

<u>Sector:</u>	Agricultural development
<u>Duration:</u>	4 years
<u>Implementation period:</u>	2015-2018
<u>Overall Budget:</u>	EUR 25 mln
<u>Budget support:</u>	EUR 20 mln
<u>Complementary support:</u>	EUR 5 mln

Project Description

Objective: To support the Government of Armenia in ensuring an efficient and sustainable agriculture, contributing to better conditions in rural areas of Armenia as well as in the implementation of the “2010-2020 Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy of the Republic of Armenia” overall.

Specific objectives:

Objective I: To support implementation of the Government’s national strategy for sustainable agricultural development and planning, including the capacity development of national and local government structures, developing capacity for coordination and preparation of rural development strategies and policies as well as support to agriculture-related academic institutions.

Objective II: To contribute to the development of rural areas as well as to the development of farmers’ associations and cooperatives, including designing appropriate pilot value adding chains, both agricultural and non-agricultural, in a number of Armenian regions.

Objective III: To support access to affordable food by sustainably increasing productivity and quality of agricultural inputs and practices, strengthening post-harvest handling facilities, as well as a better management of land, taking into account the country’s comparative advantages and disadvantages for production.

Objective IV: To support to the roll-out of a general agricultural census as well as support to better agriculture statistics.

Scope of reforms:

- Improvement of the performance of agriculture-related institutions through preparation of rural development strategies and policies, enhancement of the capacity of national and local government in land and territorial planning and preparation of economic and social development strategies, inclusion of the modern agricultural business models, environment and climate change effects in training curricula;
- Enhancement of the capacity and performance of farmers’ associations and cooperatives through enabling the appropriate legislation, development of innovative financing facilities for farmers, improvement of access to local and international markets for Armenian agriculture and food products and enhancement of capacity of farmers’ associations to participate in policy decision;
- Improvement of accessibility and affordability of food for Armenian citizens, considering environment, climate change and agricultural good practices through enhancement of land usage and capacity for management assessment of natural risks and improvement of practices related to environmental safeguards;
- Improvement of the quality of agricultural statistics, statistical information systems and conduction of a national agricultural census.