



USAID/REAP Media Advisory

Trainings on Post-harvest and Refrigeration/Cold Storage Facility Design

USAID/Restoring Efficiency to Agriculture Production (REAP) held two trainings on post-harvest best practices and cold storage facility design. Because there is a lack of proper post-harvest handling and cold storage infrastructure in Georgia, it is very difficult for fresh fruit and vegetables consolidators and exporters to diversify to high end international markets without proper practices. It is vital for local stakeholders to develop capacity in this direction and train their technical staff members in proper handling of fresh fruit and vegetables from farm to warehouse. This is the only way to keep quality and freshness of Georgian produce and utilize opportunities related to export to the European Union and other high value markets. USAID REAP invites the media to attend these trainings to learn more about the project, participate in the training and have the opportunity to take photos.

WHAT: First Training on post-harvest best practices and refrigeration/cold storage facility design for citrus and sub-tropic fruit

WHERE: Batumi, Adjara at Batumi State University, Mtsvane Kontskhi

WHEN: 17-21 September, 2014

WHAT: Second Training on post-harvest best practices and refrigeration/cold storage facility design for apple and stone fruit handling

WHERE: Gori, Shida Kartli Region, Gori Vocational College (Gantiadi) 2 Besiki str, Gori

WHEN: 23-27 September, 2014

USAID/Georgia's Restoring Efficiency to Agriculture Production (REAP) is a five-year, \$19.5 million program that is designed to increase income and employment in rural areas by delivering firm-level investment and technical assistance to expand the operation of existing smallholder farmers and rural enterprises. The project facilitates the entry of new agribusinesses and input suppliers, including machinery service providers, storage facilities, sorting/grading centers, and small and medium scale processors to improve the availability of high-quality inputs and services, and strengthens markets for agricultural goods and services. REAP catalyzes increased private investment and commercial finance to the sector, mitigates risk for rural small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, and expands commercially sustainable linkages between service providers, producers, post-harvest enterprises and local consulting firms. To date 34 projects (14 Post-Harvest Handling and Processing, 15 Farm Service/Machinery Service Centers, 4 Primary Production, and 1 Information/Service Provider) have been approved by USAID. Together, the 34 grants are worth nearly \$3.4 million and will leverage more than \$10,5 million in private sector matching investment.

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