



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REAP Restoring Efficiency to Agriculture Production
საპარტიკულუს სასოფლო-სამეურნეო
ნარმეთების ეფექტიანების აღმშენის პროექტი

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USIAD/REAP Funded Cold Storage Facility was

Opened by the Minister of Agriculture

On October 28th, in Akhaltsikhe, Village of Tsnisi USAID/REAP funded newly established cold storage facility was opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Otar Danelia. Facility was visited by Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti Region Mr. Akaki Machutadze and Director of Agricultural Projects' Management Agency (APMA) Mariam Morgoshia.

Georgian Business Zone (GBZ), LLC is a company engaged in the production and sale of fresh fruits in Samtskhe -Javakheti Region. The goal of this project is to develop a new business line that integrates *GBZ's* existing production of apples with cold storage operations to increase quality and incomes. The new cold storage facility will purchase and store fresh fruits and vegetables from more than 140 unique farmers.

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GBZ, LLC received **\$98,277** in grant funding from USAID/REAP, which covered the costs of cold storage equipment (4 x 60 MT refrigerators) and marketing.

Co-financing of **\$244,071** by *GBZ LLC* covered the expenses associated with establishing the necessary infrastructure for the cold storage equipment. Additionally, *GBZ LLC* purchased a 40-horse power tractor with implements to improve their nursery and to serve local farmers.

During project implementation, *GBZ LLC's* sales will increase by more than 10% and more than 15 new jobs will be created, including 12 for women.

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About USAID in Georgia: During the past 22 years, the American people, through USAID, have invested about \$1.5 billion in Georgia. USAID projects are designed to support Georgia's transition to a free and prosperous democracy and include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and improve health and education. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information, please visit <http://georgia.usaid.gov>