Mercy Corps Key Findings
ENPARD Baseline Survey 2014

Survey Details

The Key Findings of the survey was prepared within the scope of the ENPARD program "Strengthening Farmers' Cooperatives in Rural Municipalities of Georgia", funded by the European Union. The survey provided baseline information, which, on the one hand, has independent value and on the other hand, informs the programme in two specific directions:

1. Establishing the current state of affairs in the municipality before the commencement of the programme;
2. Supporting decision-making about the distribution / allocation of priorities and resources at the initial stage of the programme;

The survey was conducted in 100 villages with 1,000 respondents in the 16 target municipalities, provide for a sampling error of no more than 3% based at a 95% confidence level.

A two-step cluster selection was used for the survey. The base for selection was the 2002 Census database of the rural population of Georgia. Selection size was determined as 1,000 interviews. The entire volume of the selection was equally distributed within the regions, so that 200 interviews were conducted in each region. At each point of selection (in the village) 8 interviews were conducted; therefore, the value of design effect fluctuates within the range 1.2-2. On the basis of (1) formula above, the number of interviews for each region provides more than 8-10% error with 95% reliability. The total error is within the range of 3-4%. In each village, households were selected by means of the random selection method. In selected families, we interviewed all members who were informed about the issues of the survey.

Key Findings

Production
Crops/ Plants

- The majority of the respondents state that they have an agricultural land plot(s) (94%). 80 % of land plots are arable/agricultural. The average agricultural land plot area is 1.25 hectares.
- Agricultural land plots are generally divided into 3-4 different plots located in different places. Respondents with one land plot = 28%; two land plots = 23%; three land plots = 16% and four and more land plots = 25%. Average individual plot area is 0.5 hectares;
- The average distance between the house and the land plot is 2.64 kilometers.
- In 2013 22% of the land plots were not cultivated. The main reason for not cultivating the land is its infertility (19.4%) and a lack of mechanization (18.4%).
- The majority of respondents (32%) state that the number one need is the provision of **chemicals** for the sake of increasing the harvest. On the one hand, it relates to high price of chemicals, due to which the farmer is not able to purchase the required quantity and quality of chemicals and on the other hand it relates to the need to examine the soil structure, in order to be able to correctly select the chemicals. **Improvement of irrigation systems** is another important problem; its position as a top priority was given by 28% of the respondents. Another reason for failure to cultivate the land, is the problem of **mechanization** (18.4%). The respondents were referring to remotely located mechanization centers, as it makes this service even more expensive for them; they also spoke about discriminative type of service provided by these mechanization centers, when priority is given to those farmers who have large land plots. In addition, the respondents also spoke about the need for micro machinery, which are fewer in number, unlike heavy tractors and machines. In addition, every fifth respondent indicates that second priority is provision of **seeds.** According to the respondents, low productivity seeds are used and therefore the losses are high and low quality products are produced.

Livestock

- 71 percent of the interviewed respondents keep animals, poultry or bees.
- More than two thirds of the respondents (75%) have one or two cows, which is not sufficient for commercial farming purposes and may only serve the household needs.
- 25 % of the respondents state that they have three and more cattle.
- The average milking rate of a cow per day is 6.35 liters. 65 % of the respondents are not content with the milking; almost every third respondent indicates **lack of pastures** as the reason for the milking problem. For 28 % of the respondents **lack of feed** is the reason for low milking rate. Once these are resolved, every fifth respondent names **improvement of the breed** to be the next priority issue.

Marketing Links

- According to the outcomes of the survey, 48 % of the respondents sold some part of last year's produce, which indicates an almost equal share in terms of personal use and sale. However, the products sold by the respondents are quite a low in quantity.
- Insufficient volume of harvest was one of the most important problems mentioned by the respondents. Sales-related problems also include transportation, low price on

products, seasonal price fluctuations and storage. With regards to specific products, the prevalence of these problems varies from one product to the next.

Social and Living Conditions

- 81 % of the population indicate that they have state insurance. During the survey we identified a few cases where families were provided with corporate insurance or individual insurance covered by family income (1.2%).
- 29 % of the respondents state that they have enough resources to access medical services and 42 % say they don't have enough resources; 54% do not have enough resources to access have enough resources to access medication
- The interviewed respondents' biggest problem is hot water and lack of indoor bathroom/toilet (23%). 22 % of the respondents state that their house is not suitable for living.
- With equal frequency, families state that their basic source of income is agricultural products and pension (33.5% of the families). 19% of interviewed families name salary / earned pay as basic source of income.
- The average family income is GEL 378. Almost half of the income is spent on food (49%), 12 % of respondents' monthly income is spent on utilities, and 11 % on medicine. 0.3 % of the monthly income was spent on business development. This data indicates that the living conditions of the respondents is less than desirable.

Gender

- The respondents have quite strong gender stereotypes with regards to the "woman's role in the family and community". As is identified from the data, more than half of the respondents believe that the male and female occupational area is differentiated according to gender; in addition, according to 2/3 of the respondents, the family should be the top priority for women, but for men it's their job. Also half of the respondents believe that women must obey men, despite having a different opinion.
- Some of the outcomes of the survey unveil liberal trends. Key decisions on important matters are made together, by all members of the family. Though, from an agricultural perspective, the man holds the dominant position in decision making; such as managing the household land plots, including their agricultural uses (Male 56%), purchases of inputs for use in agricultural production (Male 57%), selling agricultural products (Male 43%) and visits to the veterinary (Male 49%)

Awareness about Farmer Cooperation

- 29 % state that they have heard about farmers' cooperatives and 17% of the respondents are interested in becoming members of farmers' cooperative;

- 2/3 are not willing to become members of farmers' cooperative at this stage. Among the reasons indicated 28 % of the respondents are passive mode and are waiting for an offer. Other reasons for not being interested is related to a lack of knowledge on different aspects of cooperation, which comprises 17 % of the indicated responses.