

ANNEX VI INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

List of Acronyms Used in the Report

CD	Country Director
AFSP PM	Agriculture and Food Security Policy Programme Manager
RICCs	Regional Information Consultation Centers
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PMB	Project Management Board
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ACDA	Agricultural Cooperatives Development Agency
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
ODT	Organizational Development Toolkit
OCAT	Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, International Humanitarian Organization
MC	Mercy Corps, International Development Organization
PiN	People in Need, International Organization
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
HACCP	Hazard Analyses and Critical Control Points
ECU	ENPARD Communication Unit
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
CI	Capital Investment
BP	Business Planning
EPI/USAID	Economic Prosperity Initiative/ United States Agency for International Development
EC	European Union
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
DRR/CCA	Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation
WEL	Women Economic Leadership
OD&BP	Organization Development & Business Planning
N/A	Non Applicable

List of Annexes:

Annex 1: Consortium Management Structure

Annex 2: MEAL Framework; Monitoring Visit Report

Annex 3: Baseline Survey

Annex 4: Direct Beneficiary Survey Methodology

Annex 5: Organizational Development Tool Kit (ODT) and Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCAT) Training

Annex 6: Data on Demo Plot Component of the Project

Annex 7: Gender Focus Group Guide; Report on Barriers for Women in Agriculture Research

Annex 8: Data on IC Component of the Project

Annex 9: NTFP Market Survey

Annex 10: Schedule of Meetings of Consortium Management Structures

Annex 11: Extract from the consortium agreement - description of consortium management structures

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of Coordinator of the grant contract: Keti Getiashvili / CD / OXFAM
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person: Levan Dadiani / AFSP PM / OXFAM
- 1.3. Name of Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the Action: **Biological Farming Association ELKANA; Fundación Acción Contra el Hambre (ACF)**; Rural Communities' Development Agency (RCDA)
- 1.4. Title of the Action: **“Towards a New Direction: Supporting Agricultural Co-operation in Georgia”**
- 1.5. Contract number: **2013 / 332-266**
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: **FEB/01/14 – JAN/31/15**
- 1.7. Target **municipalities**: **1.Zugdidi, 2.Tzalenjikha, 3. Chkhorotzku.** (*Senaki municipality initially proposed has been replaced by one of the municipalities in Kakheti region*) **4. Gori; 5. Kaspi.** (*Kareli municipality initially proposed has been replaced by one of the municipalities in Kakheti region*) **6. Bolnisi, 7. Dmanisi, 8. Tzalka; 9.Dusheti, 10.Mtskheta, 11. Tianeti. 12. Akhmeta; 13. Telavi** (*last two municipalities have been added in line to request of the donor instead of Kareli and Senaki municipalities*).
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men): (i) Approximately 40 Farmers Groups or Co-operatives with minimum involvement of women at a factor of 30% (approx. 2400 individuals including family members) (ii) Additional small-holder farmers (minimum 18,000 individuals) as recipients of trainings (from RICCs etc) on cooperation / agricultural techniques due to evolving context and low capacity. (iii) 13 Regional Information and Consulting Centres (RICCs) (60 specialists): selected as they represent a key resource for farmers groups, service providers and investors yet have only recently been initiated and would welcome greater collaboration and support with capacity development to support data dissemination, farmer assistance and extension services. (iv) 13 Local Authorities: selected as a key stakeholder that will have increasing access to resources (i.e. Law on Self Government, Regional Support Fund, Village Support programme) to provide complementary services to develop rural services and infrastructure. (v) Between 5-10 private businesses (processors, service providers etc.) including Bioproduct Ltd, KULA Ltd and Ferrero SpA selected as important actors within target sectors/value chains. (vi) Rural communities throughout target regions: (approx 300,000 people) as final beneficiaries who will be affected by improved agricultural services, infrastructure and investment
- 1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): Georgia, Serbia (study tour for policy makers)

¹ “Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. Executive Summary of the Action

The consortium formed by four organizations led by OXFAM and comprised by ELKANA, ACF and RCDA to implement the above action have jointly developed this report. The year one of the project has been explicitly dedicated to all the necessary institutional, managerial, methodological and logistical arrangements for the investment phase that is to be started in the middle of first quarter of year 2. This is the report of the FIRST 12 month's period of actual implementation of the above action and following strategic achievements are in place:

1. Setting Consortium Management structures – The Project Steering Committee (PSC), Project Management Board (PMB) and support committees for: a. Finance & Procurement; b. Monitoring and Evaluation and; c. Beneficiary Selection have been established and relevant segregation of duties and division of authorities and responsibilities have been set, agreed and stipulated into the four partite contract; In addition the special task forces for Gender mainstreaming and Communication & Visibility have been formed. The project is being managed through the above structures. All the necessary recruitments for project staffing throughout consortium member organizations has been conducted and accomplished.

2. Developing Monitoring Evaluation, Accountability and Learning System (MEAL) – a. MEAL Framework, Methodology and Plan have been developed and agreed by the M&E Committee and approved by PMB; b. Six months monitoring and evaluation exercise has been conducted with the purpose to: 1. assess how effective the awareness campaign on cooperative development has been in 13 targeted municipalities among men and women; 2. Assess how effective the collaboration of project partners' has been with Regional Information Consultation Centers on cooperative development and what was their involvement in the awareness campaign on cooperatives conducted in targeted 13 municipalities; 3. Assess how time efficient and clear demo plot selection procedures have been; 4. Get partners' feedback on OXFAM's accountability to partners, identify barriers and problems faced by partners (including municipal focal points) during project implementation and find ways for improving them;

3. Baseline survey including qualitative gender survey conducted and results solicited and analyzed (see annex 3) - Household Survey covering 500 randomly selected respondents in 50 villages of 5 target regions have been implemented; Ten Gender Focus Group Discussions have been conducted (2 p/each target region) involving total 100 people (10 p/group);

4. Direct Beneficiary survey methodology is developed; The survey will be conducted in the Q1 of Y2, during which Almost 600 individuals – members of the selected beneficiary groups of farmers will be surveyed.

5. Awareness raising on cooperatives and project outreach campaign – A. the information campaign in target regions covered 161 village communities of 13 municipalities of five regions of the country involving over 8500 people out of which 3060 women (36%); B. The information Guide on Cooperatives describing the fundamental principles of cooperative organization; the advantages and the benefits it can bring as well as containing information on the existing enabling legislative and regulatory environment (law on coops, tax incentives etc.) has been jointly developed together with other ENPARD consortia and ACDA; C. Three Social TV adverts on the advantages and benefits of cooperation have been produced and agreed with ACDA and MoA. The adverts have been broadcasted through the Public broadcaster (Channel 1) and in 3 regional TV channels in target regions during the period of AUG-NOV/2014. D. Exposure visit of Georgian policy makers to the Republic of Serbia have been conducted involving six senior representatives of ACDA (incl. chairman), four representatives of the Agrarian Committee of the Parliament (incl. Committee chairman) and three representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, accompanied by OXFAM Project Management staff and journalist and camera man from ENPARD Communication Unit (ECU); The information on the above visit has been broadcasted through Rustavi2 TV "Business Courier" program; The documentary video on this visit was produced and uploaded on the ENPARD web-page (www.enpard.ge/media);

6. Developing methodology for Organizational Capacity Assessment, Organizational Development Capacity building and Business Planning– SEEDEV, West Balkan based consulting company, has been contracted to ensure provision of the relevant consultancy and expertise with regard to developing organizational development training and institutional capacity assessment methodology for cooperatives; The trainers' tool-kit (English and Georgian languages) for the organizational development of the cooperatives (ODT) comprised by five training modules have been developed; The special tool for the organizational capacity assessment for the cooperatives (OCAT) has been introduced by SEEDEV, adopted by consortium and included into the MEAL framework of the project. The relevant ToTs on ODT and OCAT for consortium partner organizations staff, RICCs and ACDA, as well as for other three consortia (CARE, MC and PiN) representatives has been conducted jointly by SEEDEV and OXFAM – Total of 70 people (trainers) have been trained in ODT and OCAT.
- 7 Selecting Demo Plots – 13 demo plot farmers have been selected through the open competitive process and contracted; The innovations that will be demonstrated through demo plot component of the project comprise introduction of the advanced production techniques and irrigation systems; introduction of new high value and resilient varieties of crops; demonstration of the cost-effective storage and primary processing technologies and techniques as well as quality planting materials nurseries; The total approved investment (incl. beneficiary cash contribution) for demo plots amounts to approx. GEL 275000; currently the necessary procurement processes are carried out for demo plot component of the project.
8. Selecting direct beneficiary groups; organizational development capacity building (ODT) and business planning - 45 groups of farmers (428 members in total – 201 women (47%) out of which 9 are already registered agricultural cooperatives have been pre-selected through the open competitive process for business idea selection; The preliminary estimation of needed investment (incl. beneficiary cash contribution) based on the pre-selected business ideas amounts approx. GEL 3 961 050 (Approx. EURO 1 686 000) b. Almost 378 individuals (36,5% women) out of 428 have been trained in Organizational Development and Business Planning;
9. Market actors' mapping and consultations – private stakeholder mapping is accomplished in Georgian and is available upon request;
10. Food Safety regulations guide development - Georgian draft version available upon request; The English translation pending accomplishment.
11. ENPARD Inter consortia (OXFAM, CARE, MC, PiN) coordination platforms - Inter consortia coordination working groups have been established and functioning in the following thematic areas: 1) Awareness raising; 2) Visibility and Communication; 3) Capital Investment; 4) Gender Mainstreaming; 5) Baseline Survey Methodology and M&E; 6) Advocacy; 7) Organizational Development Methodology

2.2. The Statement of level of achieving the indicators of the Specific Objectives and Results

Specific Objective	Indicator	Level of Achievement
1: To support the establishment and strengthening of business-oriented farmers groups to promote increased effectiveness and competitiveness of small farmers in the agricultural economy.	1.1 80% of supported business-orientated farmers groups/ co-operatives operating independently at end of the project	N/A for 2014; <i>For the end of reporting period number of business-orientated Farmers Groups identified, pre-selected and trained – 45 against the targeted minimal value of 30. The total number of pre-selected direct beneficiaries is 428 out of which 201 are women.</i>
	1.2 At least 70% of supported farmers groups / co-operatives members have an increase in production, revenues and sales by end of project	N/A for 2014 – this indicator is inter-related to the investment phase of the project that is to be started in the middle of Q1 of Year2; measuring the result will start during the midterm review (2016)
	1.3 At least 70% of women members of farmers groups/ co-operatives have an increase in production, revenues and sales by end of project	N/A for 2014 – this indicator is inter-related to the investment phase of the project that is to be started in the middle of Q1 of Year2; measuring the result will start during the midterm review (2016)
2: To facilitate the creation of a more conducive, sustainable environment for the development of farmers groups in Georgia.	2.1 At least 30% of farmers in target regions have increased equitable access to, and improved quality of services by end of project	N/A for 2014 – Result measuring to be started in the midterm review (2016)
	2.2 At least 30% of women farmers in target regions have increased equitable access to, and improved quality of services by end of project	N/A for 2014 – Result measuring to be started in the midterm review (2016)
	2.3 Number of gender-responsive policy/legislative proposals submitted to state authorities for consideration	N/A for 2014 – OXFAM led consortium made a substantial contribution in elaborating draft amendments to the law on Agricultural Cooperatives initiated by ACDA; consideration of the above draft by Agrarian Committee is scheduled in the period of Spring Sessions of 2015.
	2.4 Number of gender-responsive policy/legislative proposals adopted by state authorities by end of the project	
Result	Indicator	Level of Achievement
R1: Business oriented and sustainable farmers groups developed in the Fruit and Vegetable, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP)	1.1 100% members of at least 30 target farmers groups / co-operatives are aware of co-operative legislation by end of project	Achieved – 45 pre-selected groups of farmers (378 people, 149 women (40%)) have been trained in legislation and regulatory framework for agricultural cooperatives
	1.2 100% members of at least 30 target farmers groups / co-operatives trained in and demonstrate increased knowledge of business /	In progress – 77% of the members of the 45 pre-selected groups of beneficiary farmers (328 people, 125

and Hazelnut sectors	co-operative management by end of project	women (38%)) are trained in business planning and demonstrate very active participation in business planning process.
	1.3 At least 30% of members of farmers groups / co-operatives trained in business/co-operative management are women	Achieved – average 36% of members of farmers groups / co-operatives trained in business/co-operative management are women – a. 149 women (40% of all trainees) are trained in Organizational Development; b. 125 women (38% of all trainees) are trained in business planning
	1.4 At least 30 target farmers groups/co-operatives registered/receive status of agricultural co-operative by end of the project	in progress - expected to be achieved in Q1 of Y2. Out of 45 pre-selected beneficiary groups 9 (30% of the target) are already registered agricultural cooperatives
	1.5 At least 30 target farmers groups/co-operatives have a minimum 30% women's membership by end of the project	Achieved - The total number of pre-selected direct beneficiaries is 428 out of which 201 are women (47%).
	1.6 Number of direct market linkages/contractual agreements established and/or strengthened per value chain by end of project.	N/A for 2014 - this indicator is inter-related to the investment phase of the project that is to be started in the middle of Q1 of Year2; measuring the result will start during the midterm review (2016). Preliminary linkages have been established with the following four private business companies: LTD “Agrigeorgia” (subsidiary of FERRERO SpA), Ltd “Kula”; Ltd. “Bioproduct”; Ltd. “Campa”. The demand has been expressed on annual purchase of following NTFPs: Rosehip (90 t); strawberry (30 t); Raspberry (5 t) Blackberry (20 t); Cornelian cherry (100 t); Plum (100 t); Apple (120 t); “Tkemali” plums (100 t); Buckthorn (20 t);
R2: Competitiveness of farmers groups increased through improved productivity, quality of produce, technical knowledge and enhanced linkages with service providers	2.1 Target farmers groups/co-operatives achieve an average of 30% increase of yield/hectare and harvest (NTFP)	N/A for 2014 – these indicators are inter-related to the investment phase of the project that is to be started in the middle of Q1 of Year2; measuring the results will start during the midterm review (2016).
	2.2 At least 80% of members of target farmers groups/co-operatives are implementing improved production technologies by end of project	
	2.3 Average 20% revenue increase for target farmers groups / co-operative members compared to baseline data by end of project	
	2.4 Average 20% revenue increase for women members of farmers groups / co-operatives compared to baseline data by end of project	

	2.5 Average 20% increase in sales for target farmers groups/co-operatives through enhanced market linkages by end of project	
	2.6 At least 10 farmers' groups / co-operatives have received quality/ecological/food safety certificates (Organic, Fair Trade, Global GAP, HACCP) by end of project	N/A for 2014 – the process is to be started in mid of year2
	2.7 Business plans of at least 30 target farmers groups/co-operatives developed	In progress – 45 business plans for 45 pre-selected direct beneficiary farmers' groups are being developed. They are to be accomplished and finally selected for investment by MARCH/20/2015.
R3: Capacity of women farmers strengthened to enable their active participation and leadership within farmers groups	3.1 At least two women's co-operatives operational with profitable business by end of the project (<i>this indicator has been changed as per donor's prior consent - see revised log frame below</i>)	N/A for 2014 – out of 45 groups of farmers pre-selected one informal group is comprised only by women ("Sadagi"/Telavi municipality/Kakheti Region – strawberry greenhouse farming).
	3.2 In more than 50% of farmers groups / co-operatives at least 30% women are in management roles by end of project	N/A for 2014 – This target has been mainstreamed through the organizational development capacity building processes and it will be preliminary measured during beneficiary cooperative survey to be conducted in APR/2015.
	3.3 At least 30% increase of women members in farmers groups / co-operatives by end of project	N/A for 2014 – to be measured during mid-term review (2016) and end-line survey (2018)
	3.4 Percentage of women and of men showing positive increase attitudes towards gender equitable roles by end of project	N/A for 2014 – to be assessed during mid-term review in 2016
R 4: Enabling legal and policy environment developed and improved public and private services accessed by farmers groups	4.1 Five regional stakeholder fora with representation of Local/ National Authorities established and operational by end of project	In progress – consultations with mapped stakeholders as well as other ENPARD beneficiaries (Mercy Corps, CARE and PiN) is being carried out; preliminary results are expected in Q2 of Y1
	4.2 Percentage increase in budgetary allocation by municipalities for co-operative services (extension/financial services etc) by end of project (<i>this indicator has been changed as per donor's prior consent - see revised log frame below</i>)	N/A for 2014
	4.3 Number of policy and advocacy documents on key identified issues produced and presented to national level stakeholders	The Joint Communiqué of round table on supporting policies for development of agricultural cooperatives (June/30/2015 – Hotel Betsy's/Tbilisi) have been agreed and shared to national level stakeholders.
	4.4 Number of policy recommendations	In progress - OXFAM led consortium

	integrated into legal framework by end of project	made a substantial contribution in elaborating draft amendments to the law on Agricultural Cooperatives initiated by ACDA; consideration of the above draft by Agrarian Committee is scheduled in the period of Spring Sessions of 2015.
	4.5 Number of gender sensitive policy recommendations in agriculture and co-operative development policy adopted and implemented by state authorities (local and national) by end of project	

R.1 Business orientated and sustainable farmers groups developed in the fruit and vegetable, non-timber forest products (NTFP) and hazelnut sectors

Activity 1.1 Conduct a Baseline/End line Survey

- Baseline Survey Questionnaire and Gender Focus Group Discussion Framework have been developed;
- Consultations with other ENPARD consortia and EC on the core indicators and questions have been conducted;
- Enumerators (13) and Data entry staff (2) for primary data collection and processing have been selected, contracted and trained;
- The field staff of consortium member organizations (ACF, ELKANA, RCDA) have been trained in organization and monitoring of primary data collection processes;
- Gender Focus Group Discussion Facilitator have been selected and contracted;
- Household Survey covering 500 randomly selected respondents in 50 villages of 5 target regions have been implemented (see annex 3 for details);
- Ten Gender Focus Group Discussions have been conducted (2 p/each target region) involving 100 people (10 p/group) and a report on gender barriers have been prepared (see annex 7);
- Data entry, cleaning and analysis have been conducted through the “Sphinx” software;
- The draft report has been considered by consortium member organizations and joint recommendations for further analysis and the follow up have been elaborated at the internal consortium workshop.
- The final baseline report has been prepared (see annex 3).

Activity 1.2 Create awareness raising programme and guide on co-operatives

- Consultations with ENPARD consortia, EC and the State Agency for development of agricultural cooperatives (ACDA) have been conducted with regard to defining key and synchronized messages to the public in order to mitigate risks of creating false expectations and confusions in relation to the agricultural cooperatives in general and to the ENPARD project scope and objectives in particular;
- The internal consortium Media and Communication Plan has been developed, adopted and included into the consortium contract pack; The Guide on Cooperatives describing the fundamental principles of cooperative organization; the advantages and the benefits it can bring as well as containing information on the existing enabling legislative and regulatory environment (law on coops, tax incentives etc.) has been jointly developed together with other ENPARD consortia and ACDA;

- 20000 copies of the above cooperative guide have been printed in three languages: Georgian (17500), Azeri (1300), Armenian (1200) and distributed among consortium partners and ACDA for further dissemination in the project target municipalities;
- The information leaflet in Georgian language describing the project scope, objectives, components, priority value chains and implementing partners have been prepared and printed (8000 copies);
- Three Social TV adverts (30 sec./each) on the advantages and benefits of cooperation have been produced and agreed with ACDA and MoA.

Activity 1.3 Awareness rising and sensitization on cooperation

- 290 Awareness raising meetings have been held covering 161 village communities of 13 target municipalities with a total participation of 8621 people out of which 3103 were women (36%). During field visits and meetings consortium partners found that there is still a lack of information about the agriculture cooperatives among the farmers groups. It is recognized that "one-off" meetings will not be adequate for the task of improving farmers groups' understanding of the initiative and motivate their active involvement in the process. Therefore continuous meetings and coaching during the action are essential to reach the project goal to establish successful business oriented farmer groups; For the latter necessary budgetary allocations are already in place and will be utilized right after the initiation of investment phase.
- Exposure visit of Georgian policy makers to the Republic of Serbia have been conducted involving six senior representatives of ACDA (incl. chairman), four representatives of the Agrarian Committee of the Parliament (incl. Committee chairman) and three representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, accompanied by OXFAM Project Management staff and journalist and camera man from ENPARD Communication Unit (ECU); The information on the above visit has been broadcasted through Rustavi2 TV "Business Courier" program; The documentary video on this visit was produced and uploaded on the ENPARD web-page (electronic attachments are annexed to the electronic version of this report);
- The post-visit follow-up round table on the support policies for the agricultural cooperatives' development have been held involving EC, entire ENPARD consortia, ACDA, MoA, Agrarian Committee of the Parliament, SDC, FAO and other stakeholders members of the Donors' Coordination Group on Agriculture. As a result of this meeting the special communiqué containing agricultural cooperatives' support policy implications have been elaborated and circulated; It is to be mentioned with a particular pride that the study visit have definitely facilitated transformational changes in understanding of cooperative system and cooperative organization among the members of the delegation . If before agricultural cooperatives have been mainly envisioned as produces enterprises after the tour the representatives have distinctly highlighted particular importance of the service element and solidarity component as the core ones to ensure sustainability and success of the cooperatives set up. Furthermore, the need of the policy and programme support from the state is relevantly acknowledged and is evidently reflected into the post visit round table communiqué.

TV adverts have been broadcasted through the public broadcaster (Channel 1); Agricultural cooperation promotion campaign has been conducted in local media: TV advertisements broadcasted through Gori local TV - Trialeti and one TV advertisement broadcasted through Kakheti local TV; total 6 newspaper articles have been published, among them 3 articles were published in municipal newspapers of Dusheti, Mtskheta and Tianeti on the issues of cooperatives development and economic and social benefits of NTFPs; one article in Kaspi municipal newspaper "Gantiadi" on announcement for Capital Investment Proposals for Cooperatives/Farmers groups, and 2 articles in Gori municipal newspapers "Khalkhis Gazeti" and "Goris Matsne" on announcement for Capital Investment Proposals for

Cooperatives/Farmers groups. Impact of the TV adverts in collaboration with ACDA and ENPARD consortia is being analyzed. **Below are provided links of Media Publications /TV coverage:**

ADVERTISEMENTS : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58vzq1H4Ewo>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6bnAbhuL1g&feature=youtu.be>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LVR65OCDXI&feature=youtu.be>

ENPARD NEWSLETTER

http://issuu.com/actionglobalcommunicationsltd/docs/ft122_enpard_en_euneighbourhood_72ab7968a8fab5/4?e=6346130/8129089

STUDY TOUR IN SERBIA

<http://youtube/mycELgAE2Rc>

NEWEURASIA BLOG

<http://www.neweurasia.net/business-and-economics/how-foraging-for-fruit-is-changing-lives-in-georgia/>

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=12475>

www.enpard.ge

FACEBOOK PAGE – “Enpard-Georgia”

Activity 1.4 Identify and select groups to be supported

- The methodology and procedures for selection of the Capital investment proposals and the related background documentation, such as: a) The CI component implementation guidelines; b) ToR; c) The mandatory procedures and selection criteria for the investment fund; d) The grant application form and instruction for soliciting the best business ideas is developed and agreed among consortium partners;
- The beneficiary co-financing schemes have been developed and agreed and relevant consultations have been held with entire ENPARD consortia and EC;
- The grant competition scheme was announced through information meetings and media for business-oriented smallholder farmers groups and agricultural cooperatives in order to select the best business ideas from the project target municipalities. The program staff provided detailed information and answers to all questions, giving clear and comprehensive feedback related to the Capital Investment procedures and requirements. At the end of each meeting application forms and instructions were distributed to the participants. The information posters have been placed in each village of the municipalities. Electronic version of application forms were shared with the RICCs and to all interested applicant’s via email in order to ensure access of the application forms. Below table shows detailed gender segregated data on the public outreach campaign on the Capital Investment component of the project:

Partner	Number of Info meetings on CI	# of Participants			
		Women	Men	% of Women	Total
ACF	7	40	196	17%	236
RCDA	33	287	240	55%	527
ELKANA	19	133	45	74%	178
Totals	59	460	481	47	941

- Solicitation and the initial screening of the expression of interests has been conducted; Total of 126 expression of interests from 13 target municipalities have been solicited out of which 74 have been pre-selected for the field assessments;
- In the period of July - October 2014, 74 field assessment visits to the pre-selected applicant groups have been accomplished;
- As a result of the above processes 45 groups have been selected for the Organizational Development capacity building and Business Planning process (see annex 8);

Activity 1.5 Develop Toolkit for Capacity Building and Organizational Development for farmers groups /coops

- SEEDEV Consulting company has been contracted to ensure provision of the relevant consultancy and expertise with regard to developing organizational development training and institutional capacity assessment methodology for cooperatives;
- The trainers' tool-kit (English and Georgian languages) for the organizational development of the cooperatives (ODT) comprised by five training modules have been developed covering the following aspects: a. Problem Identification, Objective Setting and activity planning; b. Operational principles; c. Organizational Structure; d. Statute Development and; e. Business Planning. In addition the Cooperative Guide developed and printed under the Activity 1.2 forms an integral part of the ODT;
- The special tool for the organizational capacity assessment for the cooperatives (OCAT) has been introduced by SEEDEV; adopted by consortium and included into the MEAL framework of the project.
- The introductory training on ODT and OCAT (in English) has been conducted by SEEDEV for the program staff of the consortium member organizations;
- The introductory training on ODT and OCAT in Georgian (one 2 days' training p/each tool) has been conducted by OXFAM Agriculture and Food Security Policy Program Manager for the program staff (incl. field facilitators) of the consortium member organizations; municipal focal points and five representatives of ACDA;
- 36 representatives of 13 RICCs of project target municipalities have been trained in ODT by OXFAM Agriculture and Food Security Policy Program Manager (3 one day trainings);

Activity 1.6 Deliver Capacity Building and Organizational Development for farmers groups/coops

The table below shows types and numbers of trainings planned and accomplished and number of beneficiaries trained segregated by gender:

Partner	Number of Planned Trainings		Number of Trainings accomplished		# of Participants							
	ODT	BP	ODT	BP	ODT / women	ODT / Men	BP / Women	BP / Men	% of women / ODT	% of Women BP	Total / ODT	Total / BP
ACF	12	11	12	8	83	133	86	143	38	38%	216	229
RCDA	7	7	7	0	21	37	0	0	36	0	58	0
ELKANA	5	5	5	5	45	59	39	60	72	66	104	99
Totals	24	23	24	13	149	229	125	203	35	38	378	328

Activity 1.7 Support Establishment and Registration of Cooperatives

Out of 45 preselected groups of farmers 9 are already registered as agricultural cooperatives and 36 represent the informal groups that are to be transformed into the legal entities – cooperatives and officially registered. The organizational development trainings (see activity 1.6 above) incorporate the specific modules to facilitate agreements among beneficiaries on operational principles, governance structure and statute development. In the reporting period the above modules have been successfully rolled out and basic agreement among the beneficiaries on the operation principles, governance structure and statutes has been reached. The project has outsourced legal advice services to the panel of lawyers that have been selected through the open competition process and currently due diligence of drafted statutes are being carried out. The registration of the remaining 36 informal groups is expected to be accomplished upon the final selection of business plans in the beginning of April 2015.

Activity 1.8 Facilitate Market Promotion and Linkages

- Mapping of value chain actors in line to project priority value chains (hazelnuts, Fruits & Vegetables, NTFP) have been conducted by partners;
- The NTFP market survey have been completed by RCDA over viewing the local and international markets and the local market players (see annex 9);
- Consultations with numerous private sector actors have been held and as a result preliminary linkages have been established with the following four private business companies: LTD “Agrigeorgia” (subsidiary of FERRERO SpA), Ltd “Kula”; Ltd. “Bioproduct”; Ltd. “Campa”. The demand has been expressed on annual purchase of following NTFPs: rosehip (90 t); strawberry (30 t); Raspberry (5 t) Blackberry (20 t); Cornelian cherry (100 t); Plum (100 t); Apple (120 t); “Tkemali” plums (100 t); Buckthorn (20 t).
- The coordination working group comprised by the representatives of Ferrero SpA, EPI/USAID, Hazelnut Producers Association of Samegrelo, OXFAM, ACF and ELKANA has been established and functioning with the primary aim to: a) define the ways and means of collaboration between ENPARD and EPI

projects and Corporate Social responsibility component of Ferrero in Georgia and plan relevant joint actions; b) exchange necessary information and the expertise.

R2. Competitiveness of farmers groups increased through improved productivity, quality of produce, technical knowledge and enhanced linkages with service providers

Activity 2.1 Design and deliver sector specific trainings

- ELKANA developed the training module on the **basics of the organic farming** covering following areas: a) “Introduction to the organic farming”; b) “Crop rotation, cover cropping, sedation”; c) “Soil fertility and basic rules of the soil science”; d) “Compost preparation, mulching and planting living fences”; e) “Plant protection in the organic farming”;
- RCDA developed the introductory training module on the **basics of NTFP collection and businesses** comprised by the seven following parts: a) Introduction to harvesting and marketing of NTFPs; b) Commercial use of NTFPs; c) Compatible management of forest products; d) Harvesting NTFPs in protected areas; e) Analyses and the economic viability of NTFPs – income generation opportunities; self-help suggestions for rural entrepreneurs; f) Key steps in starting up NTFP business;
- The above NTFP training module test training has been conducted by RCDA for the existing informal groups in Gremiskhevi (Dusheti district) and Choporti (Mtskheta district) communities involving 23 persons (17 women – 74%);
- RCDA developed an introductory training module on the usage of ozone technology for agricultural production, primary processing and storage. The module has been introduced to consortium partner organizations for its further rolling out.

Activity 2.2. Establish and manage Demonstration Plots

- The methodology and procedures for selection of the demo plots; beneficiary co-financing schemes and the related background documentation (incl. contract template) was developed and agreed;
- The announcement on the call for proposals for the demo plots has been posted in district municipalities and RICCs and the information seminars have been conducted in target municipalities;
- Particular challenge have been encountered at the first phase of the call for proposals: The beneficiary cash co-financing requirement initially set (40%) revealed to be too high for this particular undertaking and that’s why the majority of proposals solicited contained more the element of the business rather than the one of demonstration of the advanced production and quality assurance practices and opportunities for replication by small holder farmers. In addition in case of financing such proposals the project would face the risk of the conflict between the general ENPARD scope to invest in farmers groups vis-a-vis support to individual business idea;
- To mitigate the above risk the relevant consultations with the EC has been conducted in order to review technical justification for the establishment of demo plots; consequently the grant scheme and requirements have been reviewed by the selection committee and approved by PMB applying the following changes: 1) The beneficiary cash co-financing proportion have been reduced from 40% to 20%; 2) the maximum amount of grant p/proposal for the individual farmer/s have been set; 3) the scoring and the selection criteria reviewed and adjusted to the above changes;

- The above circumstances have caused a delay in implementation of this activity that includes not only organizing demo plots but also organizing demonstration days. Consequently a budget under spending (Budget lines 6.9.1.& 6.9.2.) have been encountered at a factor of 93%.
- At the initial stage selection of proposals in Dmanisi and Chkhorotzku municipalities failed due to the poor quality of the presented proposals and it was agreed by PMB that ACF will act proactively and suggest innovative ideas to farmers with the help of the outsourced agricultural experts. As a result two demo plot applicant farmers (one in Dmanisi and one in Chkhorotzku) have been additionally identified and supported in developing DP proposal.
- Total of 154 proposals from 13 target municipalities have been solicited and 14 have been selected and approved by PMB out of which: a) Zugdidi – 1; b) Tzalenjikha – 2; c) Tzalka – 1; d) Telavi – 1; e) Gori – 3; f) Kaspi – 2; Akhmeta – 1; g) Bolnisi – 1; h) Dmanisi - 1; I) Chkhorotzku - 1.
- Contracting of the selected applicants is accomplished and implementation process is currently on-going;

Activity 2.3 Support the introduction of new, cost effective technologies, techniques and equipment

This activity represents a major element of the investment phase of the project. It is to be started upon completion of the final selection of the business plans to be presented by the pre-selected beneficiary groups. The implementation of this activity is planned to be started in the middle of first quarter of the second year of the project

In the reporting period the panel of experts have been selected by the project through an open competitive process with an aim to ensure: 1. Supporting pre-selected beneficiary groups in their further institutionalization and business planning; 2. Provide relevant coaching and mentoring during the life of the project.

The panel is comprised by the following groups of specialists: 1. Experts in Financial Management and Accounting, marketing and business planning (5 experts); 2. Legal Experts (4); 3. Experts in organic agriculture, fruit and vegetable growing incl. hazelnuts and NTFP (8); 4. Experts in food safety standards for primary production, processing and certification systems (5); 5. Experts in agricultural mechanization (2); 6. Experts in fruit and vegetable storage technologies incl. mycologist (3)

Activity 2.4 Facilitate access to extension services

- The mapping of the extension service providers in target municipalities and on the regional and national level is in progress;
- The capacity building needs' assessment for 13 RICCs in target municipalities has been conducted.

Activity 2.5 Raise Awareness on Food Safety standards

- ELKANA in the capacity of a lead partner for this component developed ToR on development of the food safety guide for smallholder farmers that consists of following parts: a) requirements for primary production/good agricultural practices in accordance with principles of the Georgian legislation and the Global-GAP for fruit and vegetable production; and b) basic requirements for primary processing enterprises according to Georgian legislation and HACCP standards;
- The NGO “Grow Development & Continual Improvement” (GDCI) has been selected and contracted through an open bidding procedure and first draft of the guide prepared; Draft documents have been sent to partners for revision and finalised accordingly; The consortium draft has been communicated to the National Food Agency for their inputs and feed back;
- Regrettably publication of the guide as planned for the year 1 has been failed as the official feedback and comments from National Food Agency has been delayed and still pending. **The very first request on feedback was made by ELKANA to NFA through an e-mail communication in Georgian, on 11 December, 2014. The reminder has been sent on January, 22, 2015. In line to the commitment verbally expressed by NFA It is expected to have a feedback from NFA and consequently to finalise the guide in the end of March/2015.**

Activity 2.6 Develop understanding on DRR/CCA risks and vulnerabilities

RCDA in the capacity of the lead partner for this component is currently finalising the relevant training modules on DRR/CCA covering the following areas: a) Vulnerability and risk assessment methodology; b) Risk mitigation and adaptation measures in agricultural development; c) Eco-sustainable livelihoods; d) Natural resource management; e) Mitigation of Adverse Impacts of Climate Change; f) Alternative technologies to reduce deforestation; g) Technologies and techniques to combat soil degradation and soil erosion.

R3. Capacity of women farmers strengthened to enable their active participation and leadership within farmers groups

Activity 3.1 Design and implement WEL campaign and educational programme

- The internal consortium working group on gender led by OXFAM Gender Justice Program Manager has been established and functional with the primary aim to ensure gender mainstreaming alongside all the activities planned by the project;
- The ENPARD consortia coordination working group on gender led by ACF has been established and functional comprised by the entire ENPARD consortia, ACDA and EC representatives and gender focal point of MoA;
- The proposal was made by the internal consortium working group on gender and approved by PMB to separate the campaign and educational program and carry them out over the different periods of time based on the requirements described in the project proposal;
- The ToR for the call of proposals to design and implement WEL campaign have been developed by the working group and approved by the PMB; The call for proposals to design and implement WEL campaign has been announced through www.jobs.ge network and local specialized NGOs were invited to apply;
- NGO Georgian Association “Women in Business” has been selected and contracted; The contracting process has brought up substantial need to review the initial plan as well as approaches that has caused two weeks delay in signing the contract; Furthermore, the holiday season, new year eve and Christmas holiday by the end of December and beginning of January has also postponed the process. In addition, local self governance bodies were identified as hosting agencies for information session events; the process of substituting the staff of local municipalities have coincided with potential dates of the planned information sessions that has also caused certain delays.
- Despite of the experienced delays the following progress in implementing the WEL campaign is observed: a) Awareness raising modules for planned workshops have been prepared; b) relevant questionnaires are developed; c) agenda for awareness raising campaigns for schools have been developed; d) introductory information session for women and men over 18 and needs assessments through developed questionnaire and discussions have been conducted in Tsalenjikha (December 24, 2014, 58 people attended, of which 23 were women); e) on 15th December, the face book page under the brand of “Empowered Rural Women” was launched; f) 2100 copies of leaflets and 50 posters were published for visibility of campaign; g) both prior and post TV and Radio broadcasts by local Television Jikha, Radio Atinati and Online News article at website news.ge supported media coverage of pilot information session in Tsalenjikha. Also TV Palitra and Radio Star FM Tbilisi invited project director and coordinator and PR specialist at TV and Radio Show with 1 hour timeframe to highlight project goals and expected results. All online links to aforementioned media coverage are located on Face Book page “Empowered Rural Women”. The Face Book is at pilot stage with only 200 Likes, but project expects increased number of visitors after conduction of all information sessions in the remaining 12 municipalities and broadcasting of promotion video at public TV; The development of

promotion video clip for awareness raising of Women Economic Leadership Campaign under brand “Empowered Rural Women” is in process, the trial version of video is prepared.

Activity 3.2 Support establishment of women farmers’ groups

Out of 45 groups of farmers pre-selected, one informal group is comprised of only by women. This group (6 women) is located in village Ruispiri of Telavi municipality/Kakheti region and it will be oriented towards the joint greenhouse production of strawberries. The business idea represents a very promising example of women collective action that project aims to support. The group has been already trained in organizational development and business planning and awaits for investment upon the completion of business plan in the beginning of April, 2015.

As a result of the awareness raising campaign in Mtskheta-Mtianeti conducted by RCDA the informal group of women NTFP collectors in village Sharakhevi/Dusheti Municipality decided to form a cooperative. The project supported the group to set up a preparatory committee, to pool human and other resources together, to convene meetings to discuss the organizational structure of the proposed co-operative, to draft and agree on the statute, find suitable premises for the society and undergo registration. The group was registered under the name “Cooperative Sharakhevi-1”. The members of cooperative are 15 persons among them 11 women. The above cooperative recently obtained the status of “agricultural cooperative” from ACDA. This group has been pre-selected for OD&BP and currently is undergoing a thorough business planning process.

As a result of the first round of selecting the direct beneficiary groups, out of 45 groups that have been pre-selected, 1 group is the only women and 10 groups are represented by women by over 60% (including the above one that has been already registered).

The implementation of this activity revealed that only-women groups are less likely to be emerged unless artificially imposed by the project that is not appropriate in principal. The emerging of the above only-women group could be treated as a fortunate exception and therefore in order to mitigate the risk of fail to meet project target, relevant change in the log frame is proposed (see revised log frame below)

R4. Enabling legal/policy environment developed & improved public/private services accessed by farmer's groups

Activity 4.1 Establish and/or strengthen regional co-operative stakeholder fora

- Stakeholder mapping and consultation processes are being carried out on the municipal and regional levels;
- The ENPARD consortia working group on the advocacy have been established and functioning and the integrated structure of the advocacy mechanisms have been planned and agreed;
- The agreement was reached with Mercy Corps and CARE consortia to jointly support establishment and strengthening of the stakeholder fora in the regions where the agencies are jointly present (e.g. in Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli with Mercy Corps and in Samegrelo with CARE);
- The risk of overlaps with the on-going EC funded Food Security Strategy Development project (DCI-FOOD/2013/317-984) has been appropriately addressed through conducting the analysis of the advocacy components of two projects through the lens of their attribution to the envisioned results of both and the comparative table and the related action plan have been developed.

Activity 4.2 Support strong engagement of local authorities in co-operative and agricultural development processes

In the period of February – June, 2014 the following developments have taken place with regard to the above activity:

- The ToR and the contract for the municipal focal points have been developed and approved;
- The consultations with local administrations in project target municipalities on nominating the relevant candidates have been conducted;
- 13 focal points (FPs) in 13 target municipalities have been selected and the appropriate induction processes were carried out;
- The focal points have been trained by OXFAM in organizational development of agricultural cooperatives;

The FPs have been successfully integrated in the project team. They provide significant support in organizing relevant activities within the project (such as selection of DPs, awareness raising campaign, stakeholder mapping etc.); the FPs submit monthly activity reports to the implementing partners of the consortium;

2.3 Revised Logframe (changes are highlighted in red)

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROJECT				
	Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objectives	To contribute to increased productivity in Georgian agriculture and a reduction in rural poverty	Statistical reports show a steady annual increase in agricultural production in target sectors	- Geostat - World Bank Country Report - UNDP Human Development Index for Georgia - Annual sectoral reports published by FAO & EU	- Overall political situation remains stable - Macro-economic and fiscal policies are stable and support local actions for economic development. - Conducive regulatory and legislation base
		Gradual decrease in number of people living below poverty line in target regions		
Specific objective	1. To support the establishment and strengthening of business-oriented farmers groups to promote increased effectiveness and competitiveness of small farmers in the agricultural economy.	1.1 80% of supported business-orientated farmers groups/ co-operatives operating independently at end of the project.	- Registration documents (including verification of co-operative membership and statute) - State register for agricultural co-operatives - Financial and sales records/statements - Quality standards certification - Monitoring and project evaluation report	<u>Assumptions:</u> - Government will continue to provide support to the agricultural sector - State has supportive policy in place for co-operative development - Effective coordination between value-chain actors - Stakeholders remain committed to support business-oriented smallholder farmer co-operatives - Implemented DRR activities reduce the negative consequences of damages/loss due to natural hazards - Local government reform progressing
Specific objective				<u>Risks:</u> - Political Instability - Natural hazards - Local government reform - Lack of participation on local

		1.2 At least 70% of supported farmers groups / co-operatives members have an increase in production, revenues and sales by end of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - farmers groups / co-operative financial records/statements - Production/yield records - Contracts with buyers - Baseline/midline/endline - Monitoring and project evaluation reports 	government in governance process - Misconceptions of public towards co-operative model
		1.3 At least 70% of women members of farmers groups/ co-operatives have an increase in production, revenues and sales by end of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - farmers groups / co-operative financial records/statements - Production/yield records - Contracts with buyers - Baseline/midline/endline - Monitoring and project evaluation reports 	
	2. To facilitate the creation of a more conducive, sustainable environment for the development of farmers groups in Georgia.	2.1 At least 30% of farmers in target regions have increased equitable access to, and improved quality of services by end of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline / end-line surveys - State budget and governmental decrees (i.e. subsidy schemes, training programmes, extension services, infrastructure development) - Co-operative documentation (i.e. financial records, contracts with private sector service providers and financial institutions, insurance policies, leasing contracts) 	
		2.2 At least 30% of women farmers in target regions have increased equitable access to, and improved quality of services by end of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline / end-line surveys - State budget and governmental decrees (i.e. subsidy schemes, training programmes, extension services, infrastructure development) - Co-operative documentation (i.e. financial records, contracts with private sector service providers and financial institutions, insurance policies, leasing contracts) 	
		2.3 Number of gender-responsive policy/legislative proposals submitted to state authorities for consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline and end-line surveys - Proposition documents from RSF - Meeting Minutes of RSF - State legislative portal (gazette) - Presence of new by-laws (ministerial and govt. decrees) 	
		2.4 Number of gender-responsive policy/legislative proposals adopted by state authorities by end of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amendments to existing laws (i.e. entrepreneurship, tax code, etc) 	
Expected results	Result 1: Business oriented and sustainable farmers groups developed in the Fruit and Vegetable, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and Hazelnut sectors	1.1 100% members of at least 30 target farmers groups / co-operatives are aware of co-operative legislation by end of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline and end-line surveys - Post awareness-raising questionnaire 	<u>External conditions that must be met</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National strategy for agricultural development remains conducive - Local Authorities effectively engaged and committed to the action - Stability of markets - National economic growth is maintained - Political stability remains - Gender sensitisation amongst local and national authorities is conducive to the presentation of policy and legislative recommendations <u>Risks:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural disasters - Adverse impacts of climate change - Market price fluctuations - Civil unrest
		1.2 100% members of at least 30 target farmers groups / co-operatives trained in and demonstrate increased knowledge of business / co-operative management by end of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service Contracts & TORs with trainers/consultants - OCAT report - Test scores as per pre and post test - Participant lists - Training materials/modules - Feedback mechanism of participants on trainings/appraisal 	
		1.3 At least 30% of members of farmers groups / co-operatives trained in business/co-operative management are women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training records/reports; - Monitoring reports; - project reports. 	

		1.4 At least 30 target farmers groups/co-operatives registered/receive status of agricultural co-operative by end of the project	- MoUs - Statutes - Registration documents	- Unwillingness of farmers to engage in the process - Strong traditional and patriarchal perceptions
		1.5 At least 30 target farmers groups/co-operatives have a minimum 30% women's membership by end of the project	- MoUs - Statutes - Registration documents	
		1.6 Number of direct market linkages/ contractual agreements established and/or strengthened per value chain by end of project.	- Monitoring reports; - Contracts / agreements made and signed - Project reports	
Result 2: Competitiveness of farmers groups increased through improved productivity, quality of produce, technical knowledge and enhanced linkages with service providers		2.1 Target farmers groups/co-operatives achieve an average of 30% increase of yield/hectare and harvest (NTFP)	- Baseline and end-line surveys - Harvest records - M&E reports	
		2.2 At least 80% of members of target farmers groups/co-operatives are implementing improved production technologies by end of project	-Baseline and end-line beneficiary surveys (including knowledge, attitudes, practice component) -Monitoring and project evaluation reports	
		2.3 Average 20% revenue increase for target farmers groups / co-operative members compared to baseline data by end of project	- Financial records / statements - M&E reports	
		2.4 Average 20% revenue increase for women members of farmers groups / co-operatives compared to baseline data by end of project	- Financial records / statements - M&E reports	
		2.5 Average 20% increase in sales for target farmers groups/co-operatives through enhanced market linkages by end of project	- Service contracts; - Sales contracts	
		2.6 At least 10 farmers' groups / co-operatives have received quality/ecological/food safety certificates (Organic, Fair Trade, Global GAP, HACCP) by end of project	- Quality and Ecological certificates - Project reports; - Business plan documentation submitted to Project Steering Committee	
		2.7 Business plans of at least 30 target farmers groups/co-operatives developed.	- Project reports; - Business plan documentation submitted to Project Steering Committee	
Result 3: Capacity of women farmers strengthened to enable their active participation and leadership within farmers groups		3.1 At least one women's co-operative operational with profitable business by end of the project	- Registration documents - State register on agricultural co-operatives; - Financial records.	
		3.2 In more than 50% of farmers groups / co-operatives at least 30% women are in management roles by end of project	- Co-operative membership documents and statute	
		3.3 At least 30% increase of women members in farmers groups / co-operatives by end of project	- Co-operative membership documents and statute - Monitoring and project evaluation report	

		3. Percentage of women and of men showing positive increase attitudes towards gender equitable roles by end of project	- Interviews with women and men farmers - Adapted tool - Scaling Indicators for Gender Equity - Baseline and endline surveys - Co-operatives legal and regulatory documentation	
	Result 4: Enabling legal and policy environment developed and improved public and private services accessed by farmers groups	4.1 Four regional stakeholder fora with representation of Local/ National Authorities established and operational by end of project	- Meeting Minutes RSF - Participant Lists - MoU of RSF	
		4.2 Percentage increase in budgetary allocation by MoA for co-operative services (extension/financial services etc) by end of project	- Baseline and end line surveys - Municipal development programmes/budget	
		4.3 Number of policy and advocacy documents on key identified issues produced and presented to national level stakeholders	- Baseline and end-line surveys - Proposition docs - National Legislative portal (Gazette – "sakanondeblo macne") - Meeting Minutes of RSF - Presence of by-laws - Amendments to existing laws (i.e. entrepreneurship, tax code, etc)	
		4.4 Number of policy recommendations integrated into legal framework by end of project	- State and municipal budget and state, regional and municipal development plans - Presence of by-laws	
		4.5 Number of gender sensitive policy recommendations in agriculture and co-operative development policy adopted and implemented by state authorities (local and national) by end of project	- Policy recommendations - Focus Group Discussions - Round table minutes	
Activities	Activity 1.1 Conduct a baseline & endline survey Activity 1.2 Create awareness-raising programme and guide on co-operatives Activity 1.3 Awareness-raising and sensitisation on co-operation Activity 1.4 Identify and select groups to be supported Activity 1.5 Develop Toolkit for Capacity Building and Organisational Development for farmers' groups/Co-operatives Activity 1.6 Deliver capacity building and organisational development for farmers' groups/co-operatives Activity 1.7 Support establishment and registration of co-operatives Activity 1.8 Facilitate market promotion and linkages Activity 2.1 Design and deliver sector specific trainings Activity 2.2 Establish and manage	Means Summary Means: 1.Human resources 2.Travel 3.Equipment and Supplies 4.Local offices 5.Other Costs and Services 6.Other Result 1 - Baseline and Organisational Capacity Building (BLs 6.1-6.7) Result 2 - Technical Capacity building and Capital Investment (BLs 6.8-6.13) Result 3 - Women's Economic Leadership (BL 6.14) Result 4 Policy Advocacy (BLs 6.15, 6.16) Contingency Administrative costs Total eligible costs	Costs Summary Costs in EURO 1,698,785 11,800 96,570 303,640 142,800 3,114,078 542,673 2,318,295 126,450 126,660 80,515 381,373 5,829,561	<u>Preconditions</u> - The government's demonstrated commitment to re-vitalizing the agricultural economy is continued - The passing of the new "Law on Agricultural Co-operatives", along with a broader legislative package, creates a more conducive environment for the development of co-operative structures for small-holder farmers

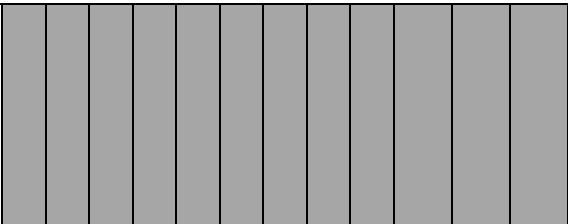
	<p>"Demonstration Plots"</p> <p>Activity 2.3 Support the introduction of new, cost effective technologies, techniques and equipment</p> <p>Activity 2.4 Facilitate access to extension services</p> <p>Activity 2.5 Raise awareness on Food Safety standards</p> <p>Activity 2.6 Develop target communities understanding on disaster and climate change risks and vulnerabilities</p> <p>Activity 3.1 Design and implement Women's Economic Leadership (WEL) campaign and educational programme</p> <p>Activity 3.2 Support establishment of women farmer's groups</p> <p>Activity 4.1 Establish and/or strengthen regional co-operative stakeholder fora</p> <p>Activity 4.2 Support strong engagement of local authorities in co-operative and agricultural development processes</p>			
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Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above €60 000 awarded for the implementation of the action during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the award procedure followed and the name of the contractor. N/A

2.4 Updated action plan ²

	Year 2												
	Half-year 1						Half year 2						
Activity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Implementing body
Preparation <i>Activity 1.1 Conduct a Baseline/End line Survey</i>													Oxfam with support to design from Co-Applicants (CAs)
Execution <i>Activity 1.1 Conduct a Baseline/ End line Survey</i>													Oxfam with support to design from Co-Applicants (CAs)
Preparation <i>Activity 1.2 Create awareness raising programme and guide on co-operatives</i>													Oxfam with support to design from Co-Applicants (CAs)
Execution <i>Activity 1.2 Create awareness raising programme and</i>													Oxfam with support to design from Co-Applicants (CAs)

² This plan covers the financial period between the interim report and the interim report.

<p>Execution Activity 4.2 Support strong engagement of local authorities in co- operative and agricultural development processes</p>		<p>Co-Applicants in their respective regions (coaching of OXFAM)</p>
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3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation

3.1 How do you assess the relationship between the Beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the Coordinator)? Please provide specific information for each Beneficiary/affiliated entity.

Overall the relationship between Oxfam and consortium partners as ENPARD beneficiaries has developed well during year 1 project implementation as a result of clearly established consortium governance structures, mechanisms and workflows.

However, as experience has shown, working in consortium, with regard to multi-component rural business development support projects is a substantial challenge. Predominantly it is related to the task to ensure efficient, well coordinated collaborative action of independent, sovereign organizations that represent diverse organizational and communication culture, different cycles of decision making, different specialization as well as diverse quality of experiences and knowledge. The basic difficulty is to ensure effective leadership and well planned segregation of duties and responsibilities among the different levels of governance; at the same time to preserve the unity and solidarity amongst parties for the interest of efficient implementation of the project but this should not imply flattening of the diversity that exists between parties as well as this should not compromise democratic practices of the governance. At the outset of project implementation the above described challenge has been given a very serious consideration and the following approaches have been applied in order to meet the above challenges and mitigate the related risks:

The project has been designed jointly by the four partner agencies and it is being implemented through the very intensive almost day-to-day interactive collective working process. Consortium management structures are set and the segregation of the relevant duties, authorities and responsibilities are defined, agreed and stipulated within the four partite agreement undersigned by the parties concerned (see annex 11: extract from the consortium agreement - description of consortium management structures). The activities and support, been planned and being carried out through the project reflect the partners complementary knowledge, experience and expertise in developing rural business groups'/collective action, agriculture (including bio-farming), market-based approaches, training/capacity building delivery, mainstreaming cross-cutting themes (i.e. gender and DRR/CCA), advocacy and support to policy formulation. In addition the geography of the project is strongly grounded on either the partners' permanent presence or their already developed strong community relations and knowledge in target areas (i.e. ACF in Samegrelo and Kvemo Kartli, RCDA in Mtskheta-Mtianeti and ELKANA in Shida Kartli).

The basic *modus operandi* for the project, is that Oxfam, as a lead agency, is responsible for overseeing the design, planning and monitoring of the various tools and systems that are used to conduct the activities (with input from co-applicant partners), whilst the three co-applicants are responsible for delivery of the activities in their respective target regions. In addition Oxfam is responsible for providing expertise in the field of marketing, gender analysis, gender mainstreaming and women's economic leadership, as well as disaster-risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA).

In the case that a co-applicant has a specific specialized knowledge, such as Elkana's experience in organic farming, food safety, product branding and certification schemes, RCDA in sustainable livelihoods, DRR/CCA and climate smart agriculture, or ACF in agricultural development and logistical support systems (specifically in the formation of informal producers' groups and the provision of agricultural facilities such as irrigation), then Oxfam and partners are supporting one another in the delivery of certain activities. Synergies and expertise

shared amongst the partners is seen as crucial for adding value and for the successful implementation of the action and relevant contractual provisions are applied.

3.1. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

First of all it is to be mentioned with high satisfaction that in the light of entire ENPARD being a large program engaging several sub-programs including the state budget support, technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and the academic institutions as well as the so called small holders cooperation component represented by four consortia (OGB, CARE, MC and PiN) the relevant platforms to ensure close coordination and collaboration between the stakeholders concerned have been well envisioned by EC. In addition to the above said from the very beginning the partners have been very strongly appealed and encouraged by the donor to treat their respective projects not as a sort of a standalone undertaking but as an integral part of a country wide multi stakeholder action, for the implementation of which concerted effort and well-coordinated set of activities, approaches and methodology is to be applied. The following platforms exist and functional on the national level through which the entire ENPARD “family” comprised by implementing NGOs and state agencies are in place: 1. ENPARD council - established through the decree of the Minister of Agriculture (March/2013) comprised by consortia partners, MoA, ACDA, EC, ECU and the Agrarian Committee of the Parliament; 2. Monthly Coordination platform hosted by ACDA and supported by ENPARD policy unit/FAO.

The above platforms are very actively working and provide an opportunity for every ENPARD beneficiary to discuss and agree on the issues in relation to relevant methodology with regard to capacity building, awareness raising, policy advocacy work as well as monitoring and evaluation approaches, plans and tools.

Between 2012 and 2013 Oxfam advocated for and supported the development process for the new Law on Co-operatives, in close collaboration with the EU delegation in Georgia. Close working relationships with key decision makers and stakeholders have been established in the process of consultation meetings in nine regions, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agrarian Committee of the Parliament. These relationships play a key role in strengthening the advocacy component of the on-going action.

Furthermore the newly established ACDA is a key state stakeholder that project is collaborating with as being a specialized agency in support of development of agricultural cooperation systems. It is to be mentioned with a certain pride that methodology developed through the project with regard to awareness raising and capacity building on and for cooperatives the project facilitated a very active and in-depth engagement of ACDA in these processes. As a result the information guide on cooperatives, ODT and OCAT tools have been developed jointly with ACDA and it has been taken by ACDA as a part of their methodology. In addition ACDA staff is involved in capacity building component of the project as its staff has been trained in OD&BP and OCAT and its management representatives participated in study tour in Serbia.

Apart from that the project is in close cooperation and coordination with local authorities as project ensures their greater understanding on farmers’ cooperation and promotes their active involvement in the action through awareness raising, capacity building and beneficiary selection components. Furthermore with the upcoming enforcement of Law on Self Government it is anticipated that Local Authorities (LAs) will have greater level powers as decision makers within the country, which will extend into the agricultural sector. In addition there is a particular concern that under the new law on agricultural co-operatives, the role of local government has not been defined and this could form one of the main topics on the policy agenda that could be advocated through Regional Stakeholder Fora envisioned through the project.

In the light of the above mentioned the project draws upon the positive experience of co-applicant ACF's recently completed EU-financed "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities" action in Georgia (Grant Ref. EU NSA 2011/270-610) where agricultural "Focal Points" (FPs), nominated by the LAs, work together with ENPARD implementing partners of OXFAM to manage and implement the project activities. The FPs, women and men who have a strong agricultural background, competency and skills, essentially become a conduit between consortium partners and the LAs. As local representatives from target municipalities they have good community knowledge and a strong stake in helping deliver high quality programming in each respective municipality. They also perform multiple roles within the project, including developing strong relations with the farmers groups, providing trainings, liaising with the RICCs and, most importantly, providing feedback to senior municipal representatives of LAs on all issues of co-operative development.

3.2. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- As described above OXFAM led consortium partners are coordinating and collaborating very closely with other ENPARD beneficiaries and their consortia. At the outset of ENPARD small holders cooperation component the Inter consortia coordination working groups have been established and functioning in the following areas of action: 1) Awareness raising; 2) Visibility and Communication; 3) Capital Investment; 4) Gender Mainstreaming; 5) Baseline Survey Methodology and M&E; 6) Advocacy; and 7) Organizational Development Methodology;
- SEEDEV consulting company contracted by the project is extremely instrumental in elaborating and delivering the methodology with regard to institutional capacity building and assessment as well as in providing relevant insights in terms of advocating conducive policies for developing agricultural cooperation systems; SEEDEV's contribution to the project has been very much appreciated by the leadership of OXFAM's MECIS operational region (Middle East and CIS) so that the OXFAM's internal regional learning event on collective action and cooperatives have been planned in Serbia in March/2015 that will be organized and moderated by SEEDEV. This activity is the one outside ENPARD frame and it will be directly supported by OXFAM/MECIS headquarters.

3.3. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

In parallel to ENPARD project OXFAM together with ELKANA implements the EC funded project "Improving Regional Food Security through National Strategies and Small Holder Production in the South Caucasus". The Project foresees elaboration and publication of gender sensitive food security and nutrition strategy in Georgia, formulated and developed within multi-stakeholder Working Groups involving project partners, government, the private sector, NGOs, MFIs, research institutions, and representatives of small holder farmers.

In the frame of the above project In March 2014 ELKANA organized the **Farmers Congress** which was initiated by regional meetings covering all 9 rural regions of Georgia including Adjara Autonomous Republic, attended by 258 participants, including 154 active farmers (77 female farmers among them) and representatives of 25 farmers/community/women organizations (which in turn express 2,320 members), as well as 59 representatives of self-governing bodies and employees of RICCs and 20 persons involved in agrarian business. One of the main topics of the Farmers Congress was areas of needed state support in developing agricultural cooperation that has been included into the final document of the congress (Farmers' Congress Appeal) and widely disseminated to the all stakeholders concerned. In addition the advocacy platform GAARD (Georgian Alliance for Agriculture and Rural Development) supported by the above project is mainly represented by ENPARD beneficiaries and it will be linked up to the forthcoming Regional Stakeholder Fora that will be facilitated by the OXFAM led consortium project.

3.4. If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants). N/A

4. Visibility

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

Oxfam and co-applicant partners ensure that the action is widely publicised and that EU visibility is prominent at all events and on all action documents. The special working group comprised by consortium partners is established as a primary task force to endorse and manage appropriate actions in the above regard. A specific visibility and communication plan is developed and visibility activities commenced with the introductory meetings with beneficiaries and stakeholders, where an informational brochure was being distributed outlining the projects principal aims, objectives and activities and detailing the source of funding and EU's support. Electronic publications - including research papers and assessment reports - produced by the partners, carry the logo of the EU and a description of the project activities supported by this funding. Moreover, visibility banners were made and were being displayed at all trainings, workshops and public events and all communication materials (brochures, guides, handbooks and leaflets) printed recognizes the support from EU. Furthermore equipment and materials purchased through the project budget will be marked with stickers bearing the EU and Oxfam/co-applicant partner logos. For demonstration plots and for larger resources supported (i.e. irrigation equipment, storage, processing units) signboards, clearly displaying the EU contribution, along with contributions from other parties, will be placed in all project areas. Outputs from the action are photographed and videos also recorded for selected actions. These photos and videos, along with all reports and documents, are placed and will be placed in the future on Oxfam's and co-applicant partners' as well as on ENPARD web-sites and social media pages that provide a permanent record of the action that can be viewed both locally and internationally.

In the reporting period the six months monitoring process showed that despite of the cascade of actions and materials to ensure relevant visibility of the project described above, still the awareness on the donor and implementing agencies of the project among the target population is quite low. It is believed that major reason of the latter is mainly a general ignorance of the farmers (they simply do not care who is who) as well as lack of their general awareness on the composition of the international development community acting in the country is very low. Consequently it was decided to include special explanatory session within the organizational development capacity building module and to include specific questions within the post-training test questionnaires in order to measure the impact of visibility assurance efforts.

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here. NO OBEJECTIONS.

Name of the contact person for the Action:

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Signature:

Location:

Date report due:

Date report sent: