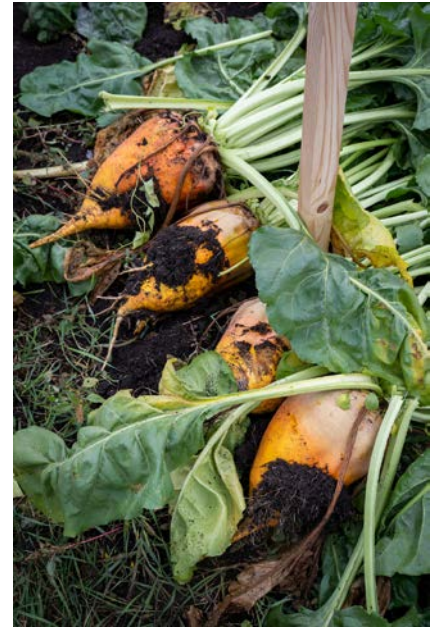


FinExCoop Success Story with Murtaz Tsulukidze

FinExCoop Georgia introduced new experimental seeds of potatoes and fodder beets for the first time to Georgian markets. We have sowed these seeds across the country in our experimental demonstration plots.

On October 2 FinExCoop organized a demo day at its demo plot with farmer Murtaz Tsulukidze in Artevani village, Tsalka municipality, Kvemo Kartli region. The demo day was attended by the EU (Georges Dehoux), FAO ENPARD, other potato pilot farmers, neighbor farmers and input suppliers. The farmer Murtaz Tsulukidze harvested 30 t per ha of four types of potato seeds, which is almost triple the regional average of 11 t per ha in Kvemo Kartli in 2019 according to Geostat (unfortunately so far there is no updated information regarding the 2020 yields). It must be highlighted that the farmer had no drip irrigation and strictly followed the recommendation of FinExCoop to stop the growth of his potatoes by cutting their leaves and stopping irrigation in early September to keep tubers small for further seeding.

During the demo day, participants could also see the results of trials of five varieties of fodder beets provided for free by Germicopa's mother company Florimond-Desprez.



These fodder beets were used to promote alternative crops for better agronomic rotations. They yielded 80 t per ha. The results very much impressed local farmers and other participants, FAO in particular. These farmers are expected to dedicate next year part of their fields, including gardens, to these new varieties which are very productive and which do not require heavy equipment to be cultivated and harvested.

