



Press release

The EU and AFD support the modernization of Georgia's livestock value chain.

October 18-21, 2022. Tbilisi – The Livestock Week on Big and Small Ruminants, an international event was combining an online forum and field visits, was held in Tbilisi between October 18-21, 2022. In order to discuss the prospects, opportunities, and challenges in the country's livestock sector, the event was dedicated to the "Situation and prospects of the livestock value chain in Georgia". The Livestock Week was organized by the FinExCoop Georgia project, which is financed by the European Union (EU) NIF Programme and French Development Agency (AFD), in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA), FAO ENPARD and USDA SQIL.

The aim of Livestock Week was to gather forces with other key stakeholders involved in the field, development organizations, off-takers, and suppliers of inputs and equipment to think and act together for the modernisation of the livestock value chain in Georgia.

"Today's meeting and the whole livestock week itself is very important, not only for the organizers and the attendees but also for Georgia in general, for the Georgian livestock sector. Because this day and the whole week should once again show, in practice, the opportunities and knowledge that can be brought to our country in terms of livestock sector development. I would like to thank the EU, AFD and FinExCoop, through which such important projects are implemented." Said Mr Giorgi Khanishvili, the First Deputy Minister of MEPA.

Upon opening speeches, the Livestock Event started with the online international agribusiness forum. After the plenary on "Promoting New Technologies in Livestock", during which French companies share international best technology practices in the livestock sector, a field visit was held in Zemo Samgori Area during the afternoon of the first day.

October 19-20th, were devoted to field visits designed to provide an environment for business-to-business and business-to-customer meetings among French companies and Georgian farmers and stakeholders.

On the last day of the event on October 21st, online working groups were executed in four different sessions related to the livestock field, where attendees shared their presentations and discussed hot topics on the livestock sector's further support and development.

"Livestock production represents an essential element of Georgia's agriculture sector, not only in socioeconomic terms but also in terms of landscape management and agrotourism. Making this sector more productive while ensuring that this development is environmentally sound and inclusive will be one of the major challenges of agriculture development in the coming decades. I was thus very happy to see that guest speakers and participants to this conference were able to inspire themselves from the main pillars of the new EU Common Agricultural Policy and, in particular, those related to greener and fairer principles." noted Mr. Georges Dehoux, Programme Manager for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety of the EU Delegation to Georgia.



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The Livestock Event was concluded with Mr Raphaël Jozan, Director of the AFD Tbilisi Regional Office. He underlined the role of the AFD in the process of contributing to the sector's development. He noted: *"AFD would like to scale up on what has been implemented in FinExCoop project, and we believe it will benefit Georgia and Georgian farmers"*

Mr Christophe Cordonnier, Team Leader, FinExCoop Georgia, mentioned in his closing remarks: *"Our livestock forum with a combination of online and field visit was very effective, and we believe it will benefit all the international and local stakeholders who participated to move forward to further develop the livestock sector, knowing there is still a lot to be done"*

Finance, Extension and Cooperative Development for Georgian Farmers (FinExCoop Georgia) is funded by the European Union (EU) under the NIF Programme with a total budget of EUR 4 million and managed and coordinated by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). The project aims at improving access to finance and agricultural extension services for small farms and cooperatives in Georgia.

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) implements France's international development and solidarity policy. Through its financing of NGOs and the public sector, as well as its research and publications, AFD supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world. It also provides training in sustainable development (at AFD Campus) and other awareness-raising activities in France.

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