

The Cooperative  
Fund



# COOPERATIVES FOR BETTER LIVES





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Fund

The Cooperative Fund was created in 2017 by CARE, on the basis of the agricultural cooperatives, supported under the ENPARD cooperatives project. It assists agricultural cooperatives in Georgia to develop their businesses, through increasing their access to financial and technical resources. It provides financial resources to the cooperatives and teaches how to effectively use them, through technical assistance and capacity building.

The Cooperative fund is a not-for-profit member-based entity with unique governance structure, democratic control and decision-making that allows cooperatives to be involved in management, have reasonable control over the resources and make their decisions for their development.

Different from the typical financial institutions, the fund is focused on financial well-being of its member cooperatives. The uniqueness of the model is that, the each dollar contributed to the fund's budget is not used only once, but constantly revolves, reaches its members and is used multiple times for the development of the cooperatives.

2019, Georgia



# APICULTURE



## KORENISHI

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, village Korenishi

Members: 6

Activity: Beekeeping, honey production

Grant contribution: Beehives and bee families; Truck for beehives seasonal transportation



"Korenishi" is a newly founded cooperative working on beekeeping and honey production. With the new beehives and bee families that the cooperative received through the grant, as well as the truck for seasonal transportation, its members expect the rise in their production and income for the future.



The cooperative "Mtis Nobati" is a second-level cooperative which consists of three different cooperatives working on beekeeping and producing honey: "Khvamli", "Alpuri Nektari" and "Svanuri Putkari", located in the villages of both Tsageri and Lentekhi municipalities.



## MTIS NOBATI

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, village Orbeli Kvemo Svaneti, Lentekhi, villages Leksura and Tvibi

Members: 20  
Activity: Beekeeping, honey production  
Grant contribution: Trucks for beehives seasonal transportation; Primary processing equipment



## MADLIANI TAKVERI

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, Village Lukhkvano

Members: 8

Activity: Beekeeping, honey production

Grant contribution: Beehives; Truck for beehives seasonal transportation; processing equipment

Members of cooperative "Madliani Takveri" had a long experience of working together in beekeeping sector. Currently owning 268 bee families, the cooperative produces natural honey of three sorts-chestnut, linden and acacia, and plan to add alpine honey as well. The beehives are located in mountainous areas of Tsageri region and the cooperative ensures to keep their product natural. With the financial support, the cooperative received additional 100 beehives, electro knives, braces and all materials necessary for beekeeping and further widening their production.



## OTSNEBA

Location: Samegrelo, Senaki, village Teklati

Members: 11

Activity: Beekeeping, honey production

Grant contribution: Beehives, Truck for beehives seasonal transportation, Processing equipment

Members of the cooperative "Otsneba" have practiced beekeeping during 20 years and already accumulated their own clients, but participation in the program opened new opportunities for them. Since they received all the necessary inventories required for beekeeping, the cooperative now hopes to expand their bee families up to 500, and breeding mother bees. Meanwhile, producing natural and free-of pesticides honey is the main priority for the cooperative.

*"We got more opportunities since we became a cooperative. It's very different from working alone. The cost is less and you get more result. Although in the beginning cooperatives were overlooked by many people, they realized that when farmers cooperate and unite in the cooperative, they have a good chance to become good competitors with other large organizations on market".*



# FISHERY



## IKAROSI

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, village Chkhuteli  
Members: 7  
Activity: Trout production  
Grant contribution: Minivan for transportation to markets; Renovation of ponds

was common issue before, as the level of water was raising. The cooperative plans to build tourist houses and make the area a beautiful tourist attraction place, which will contribute to employment of more local people.

*“Currently we sell on local markets. As a newly formed cooperative, who is repaying grant in cooperative fund, we’re trying not to rush, but we certainly have capacities to reach larger markets too”.*

Cooperative “Ikarosi” produces trout in a small area located in the center of Tsageri municipality. Although the cooperative had started the business years ago, the lack of enough financial and technical resources hindered its further development. Through the financial support, the cooperative received a car for fish transportation to market, new ponds were constructed with concrete and the towpaths built. Now the cooperative doesn’t have to worry about flooding that

*“The development of cooperatives in our region already brought positive changes-things are developing and moving forward. We also can’t stop, we think how to expand, employ more people, strengthen the cooperative and create local production”.*



## KULBAKI

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, village Kulbaki  
Members: 5  
Activity: Trout production  
Grant contribution: Pickup for transportation to markets; Excavator for ponds renovation



Kulbaki fishing pond is located in a remote village in Tsageri. The natural cold water with the consistent temperature creates perfect condition for growing ecological fish. The members of “Kulbaki” had owned fish pond for a long time, but due to lack of technical and financial resources, their business wasn’t advancing and the production wasn’t high. With the grant, the cooperative now owns an excavator which allowed them to clean the road, expand the fish ponds. The cooperative also received a car for transporting fish to markets. As a result, the production has increased. They all time reporting different numbers, But I think 30-40 tones is too much, I am also not sure how they calculate starting point 200 kg, maybe it was Begin period, when project start their production capacity was 5000 kg.



*“Before, the work in ponds was done manually and lot of risks were involved. The production was little and the demand too. Since we formed a cooperative and received the equipment, the production and market has increased, as the demand got bigger and our economic conditions kept improving. Through the hard work and financial assistance, we saw the results and plan to expand our activities.”*

*“We got knowledge from trainings that opened us to more opportunities. We moved forward not only economically, but personally too.”*

In addition, as part of the cooperative, “Kulbaki” practices goat farming. The farm owns 70 goats, but plan to increase the number up to 300, as the dairy factory will be built. The future plans are to start producing goat milk and cheese.



Cooperative “Samegobro 2014” is located in the remote village of Chokhatauri, in an outstanding natural environment in the highlands, which makes their cooperative more attractive for trout buyers and visitors. The perfect natural conditions allow breeding ecological fish, which quickly gained popularity. Cooperative tried to make use of the area, having built a tourist cottage house and plans to add more, so that more guests can enjoy the fishing trout and the natural environment.



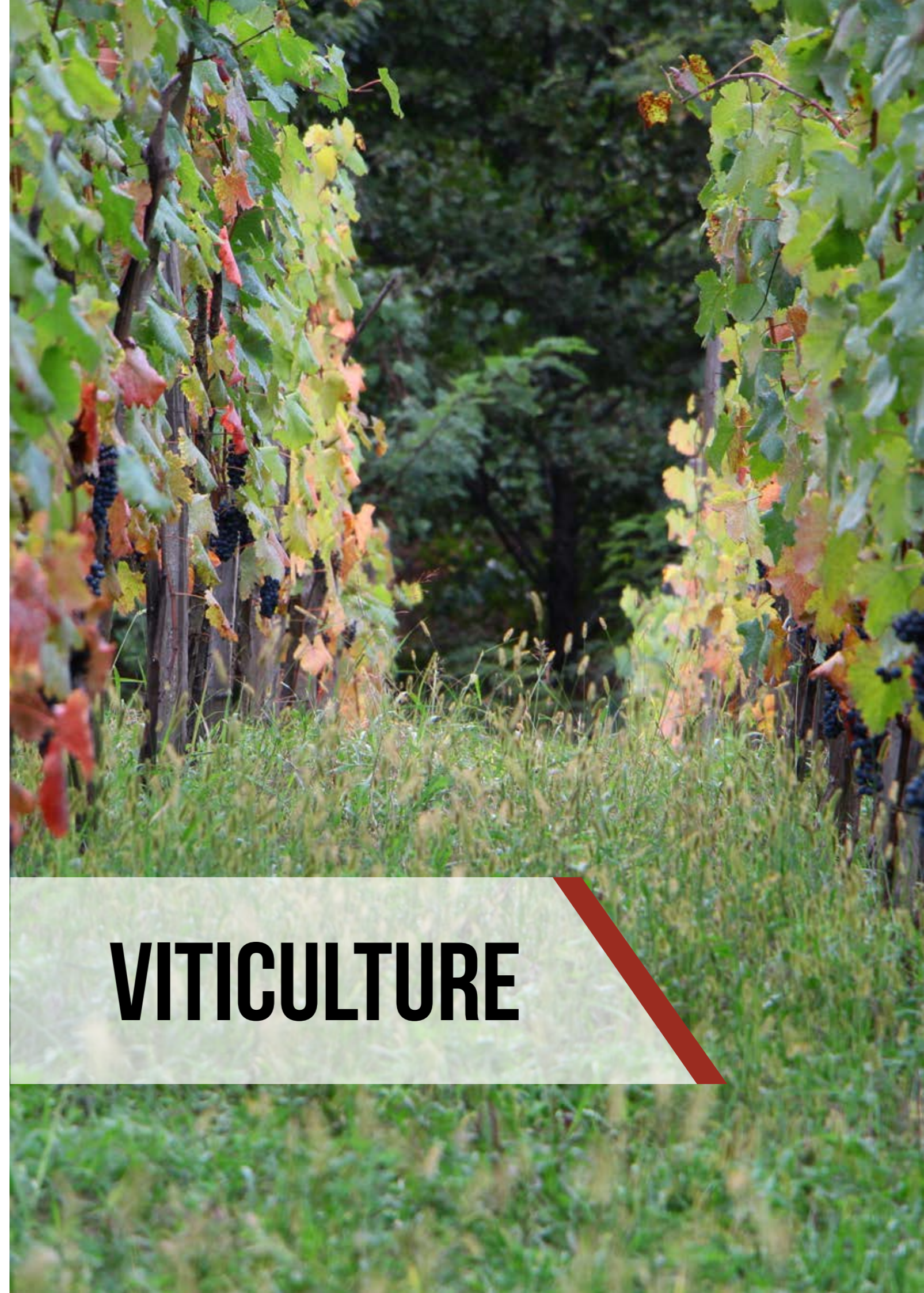
## **SAMEGOBRO 2014**

Location: Guria, Chokhatauri, village Chkhakaura

Members: 5

Activity: Trout Production

Grant contribution: Pickup for market realization, Roe, Fridges



# **VITICULTURE**



## DOGHURASHI

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, village Doghurashi  
 Members: 11  
 Activity: Grape production, winemaking  
 Grant contribution: Wine processing equipment, Tanks for wine



“Doghurashi”, a winemaking cooperative, produces red semi-sweet wine from “Orbeluri Ojaleshi”, an endemic sort of grape growing particularly in the area. The cooperative built a factory which was equipped with wine processing equipment through the grant program. After the cooperative was created, the amount of wine sold by the cooperative has increased. The members now are waiting for higher prices and more income from sales.



The members of cooperative “Nergebi” have a long experience of cooperation. The cooperative owns Usakhelauri and Tsolikouri vineyards, among which Usakhelauri is an endemic sort of grapes growing only in a small area of the village Okureshi. The cooperative owns the 50 percent of Usakhelauri vineyards growing in the area. The members of the cooperative have dedicated their work and time to highlight the uniqueness of the wine and develop the concept for their wine production.

With the grant, the cooperative received wine processing equipment that allowed them to equip a new factory and fully process the Usakhelauri grapes. The cooperative also works on grape seedlings, and managed to save and revive the unique sort. As most cooperatives supported by the project, Nergebi employs local population in their work on a constant basis.

*“The cooperatives work successfully in other countries, and we think that working with like-minded people who are willing to cooperate and have same aspirations is very beneficial. Having a common interest, the group is given the opportunity to work*



## NERGEBI

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, village Okureshi  
 Members: 10  
 Activity: Grape production, winemaking  
 Grant contribution: Wine processing equipment

*together and it's easier than doing it alone. In the future we want to expand and ensure the full processing of the grapes for realization, which this small factory is allowing.”*



## LEIPHANA

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, village Okureshi  
 Members: 4  
 Activity: Grape production, winemaking  
 Grant contribution: Grape Seedlings, Fencing, Vineyard arrangement



The cooperative Leiphana owns Usakhelauri vineyards and produces red semi-sweet wine. The cooperative is gradually increasing its production and hopes to sell more to markets. The cooperative is using Nergebi's factory for processing their Usakhelauri grapes and will deepen this cooperation in the near future.



The cooperative “Kobidzeebis Marani” works on Chkhaveri grapes, the rare sort of grapes growing in Guria region. The members also own different kinds of grapes, which they harvest and sell on the market. The cooperative members plan to build the winery in order to be able to fully process grapes by themselves.



## KOBIDZEEBIS MARANI

Location: Guria, Chokhatauri, village Erketi  
 Members: 10  
 Activity: Grape production, winemaking  
 Grant contribution: Fence, Tractor, Seedlings, Mini-van for transportation to markets





## BUKISTSIKHE 1811

Location: Guria, Chokhatauri, village Bukistsikhe

Members: 8

Activity: Grape production, winemaking

Grant contribution: Wine processing equipment

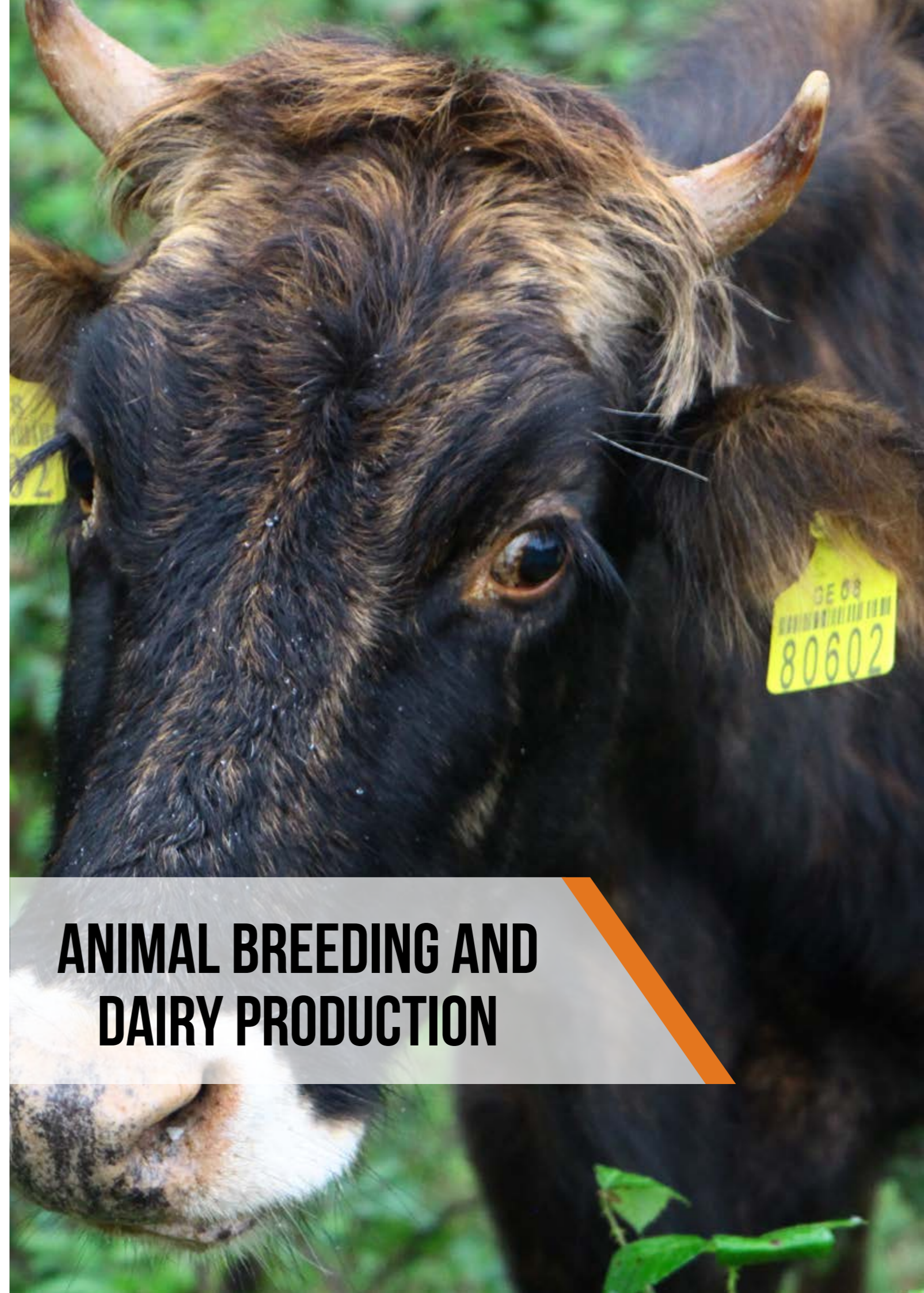
Bukistsikhe, the village where the cooperative "Bukistsikhe 1811" is founded, is famous for its oldest wine making traditions and unique grapes, such as Chkhaveri, one of the rarest grapes to produce naturally Rosen wine. Besides Chkhaveri, the members of the cooperative own two other sorts of grapes, and started a cooperative with a well thought concept to revive and promote wine-making traditions of their village. With the grant, the cooperative received wine processing equipment, and built a factory with their own contribution.



*"Financing wasn't the main thing we had in mind when we created the cooperative. We also thought how to benefit our community and village. Now we're gradually improving, the factory satisfies the standards and is allowing us full processing. We expect to have more production than we had initially estimated".*



# DRY FRUIT PRODUCTION



## TABGAAL

Cooperative "Tabgaal" collects different sorts of wild fruit from faraway areas in the mountains: dog-rose, blueberry, black plums, herbal plants ... and produces healthy and natural production-dry fruits and different sweets. The cooperative is also engaged in seedlings production. Before engaging in the program, the access to mountainous places was limited for the cooperative and the lack of technical facilities was affecting their production. Now with the car for transportation of seedlings and a proper drying facility, the workload has reduced, and allows the cooperative to distribute its production more easily.

Location: Kvemo Svaneti, Lentekhi, village Buleshi

Members: 10

Activity: Nursery, dry fruit production

Grant contribution: Fruit drier equipment, Fence, Mini-truck for product transportation

## ANIMAL BREEDING AND DAIRY PRODUCTION





## CHRELA

Location: Lechkhumi, Tsageri, village Lasuriashi  
 Village Lasuriashi, Member:14  
 Activity: Milk processing, dairy production  
 Grant contribution: Cheese processing line

Cooperative “Chrela” was founded in 2015 to work on milk processing and dairy production. The dairy factory with the cheese processing line serves not only cooperative members but also the local villagers, who will be able to sell their milk to the factory and who eventually will become members of the cooperative. The cooperative produces cheese, and dairy products and plans to start producing artisan cheese in the future, which will bring more income. Cooperative members participated in range of trainings, and with the given knowledge, are able to successfully manage the factory.

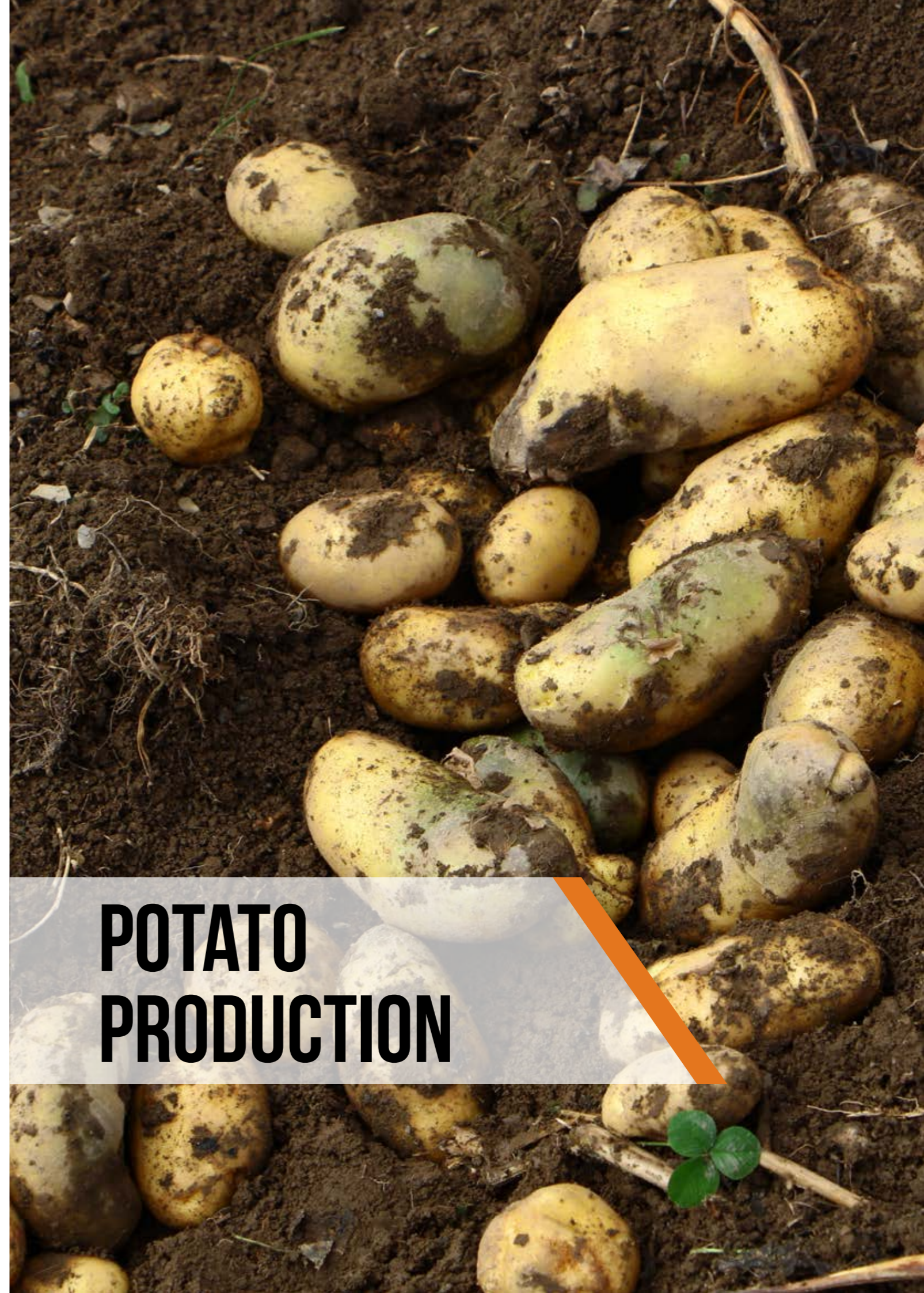
*“The project helps people develop not only economically but personally. Apart from being financed, we participated in a lot of trainings. We saw some international experience which is useful for us, this gives us chance to move forward and scale up. That is our aim”.*



## TSIKARA

Location: Guria, Lanchkhuti, village Gvimbauri  
 Members: 11  
 Activity: Milk processing, dairy production  
 Grant contribution: Dairy Product processing line

Cooperative Tsikara was founded in 2014 and works on dairy production, aiming at high quality natural products. The cooperative has built a cheese factory with their own funds. With the financial assistance from the project, the cooperative acquired additional equipment to the dairy processing line received thanks to the support from ACDA, which allows expanding and increasing effectiveness of the dairy production. The cooperative plans to employ up to 20 people once the factory is on full operational capacity.



# POTATO PRODUCTION



## ZESKHO

Location: Kvemo Svaneti, Lentekhi, village Zeskho

Members: 9

Activity: Potato production

Grant contribution: Tractor and additional equipment for tractor (plough, cultivator, seeder, harvester)

Cooperative “Zeskho” is located in the very remote village of Zeskho, in Kvemo Svaneti region, and is located at the highest point of all the cooperatives in Georgia. The members of cooperatives with their families traditionally practiced potato production and continued it as a cooperative. Working in strict conditions with very harsh winters and difficult-to access roads, the cooperative couldn’t use full advantage of the natural and unique soil. Workload has reduced and became easier after the cooperative received a tractor and additional equipment for cultivating the land and for harvesting potatoes.

*“Collective work increases the work productivity. Besides the interest towards cooperative work increases in the region and it is important especially for reducing youth migration from the village.”*



# VEGETABLE AND GREENS



## MTSVANE PHOTOLI

Location: Samegrelo, Abasha, Village Tkhemelari

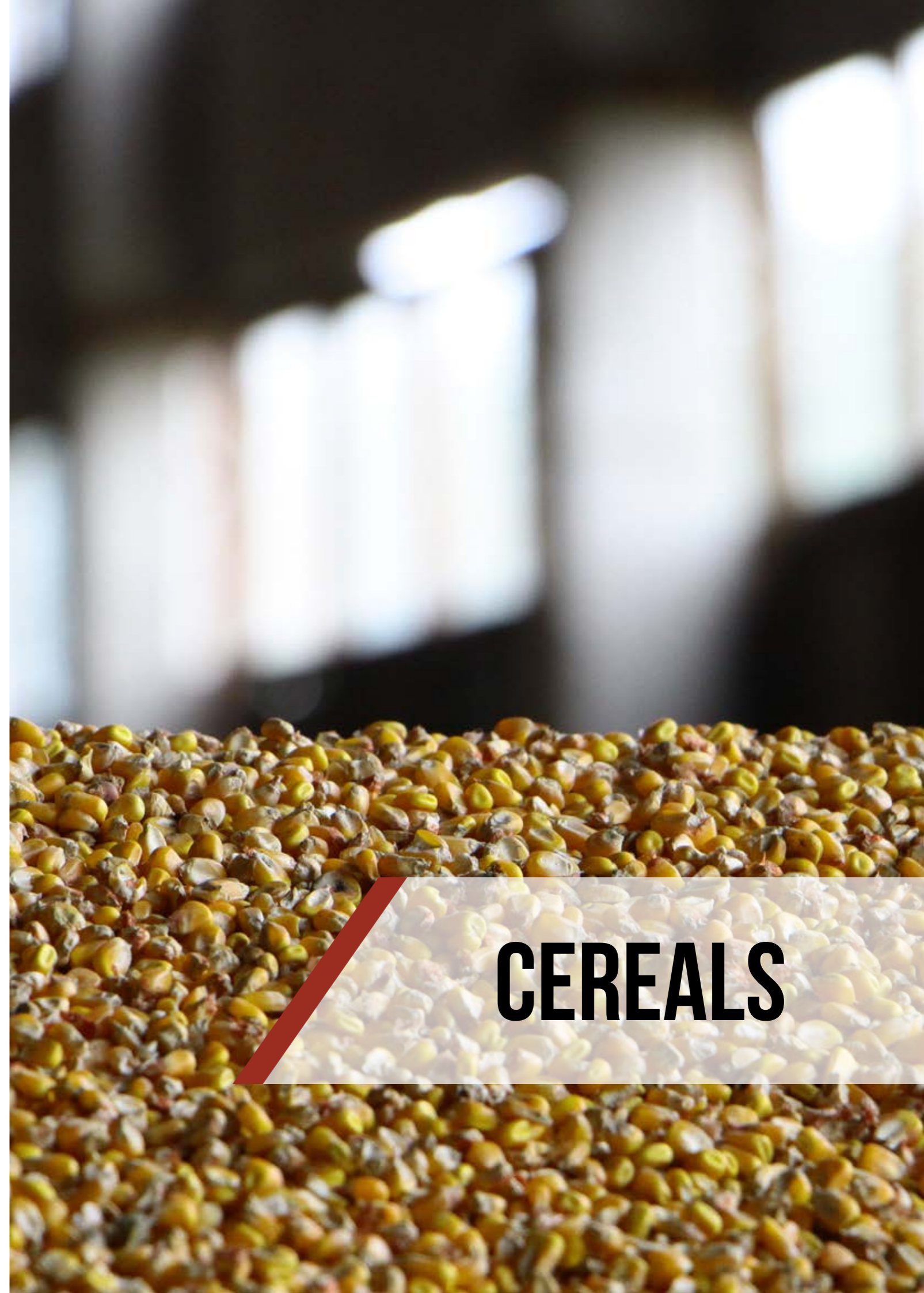
Members: 9

Activity: Basil production

Grant contribution: Greenhouse, Mini-truck for transportation to markets

Cooperative “Mtsvane Photoli” works on basil production. Although its members were experienced on vegetable production in greenhouse, basil production was a completely new area for all of them. With project support, the cooperative was provided with a greenhouse ventilation and heating systems, while its members benefited from the trainings, including new technologies and methods in basil production. The local markets for basil products seem promising, but the cooperative plans not to stop on just one type of production and wants to add vegetables.

*“For us, the trainings were crucial because we didn’t have experience with new production methods and we learned a lot. Now we plan to expand to vegetable cultures as well. With all these efforts, we will develop ourselves”.*



# CEREALS



## AGROSERVICE

Location: Samegrelo, Abasha, village Norio  
Members: 15  
Activity: cereals-maize and soy  
Grant contribution: Tractor and hay packaging equipment

The cooperative works on production and selling of annual crops, including maize, soya and others, and provides technical assistance services for farmers. The tractor, which the cooperative received through grant scheme, is the main facility that made the workload easier and being crucial to allow enlarging their business activities.

*"In the future we plan to bring more technical equipment, to be able to serve the members of our cooperative in affordable prices."*



## FARMER 2015

Location: Samegrelo, Abasha, village Ketilari  
Members: 14  
Activity: Cereals-corn, Alfalfa, soya  
Grant contribution: Tractor, Seeder, Hay packaging equipment

Cooperative "Farmer 2015" cultivates corn, while its members also practice cattle breeding. Currently the cooperative consists of 14 people and plans to enlarge and increase production with new methods and technical equipment received through the grant scheme. The cooperative is also interested in innovations: with the project support, "Farmer 2015" has implemented a pilot activity on wheat production and is developing hybridation techniques for improved corn production.

*"Before, the production was little, we also weren't able to follow the proper schedule for sowing. Last year we managed to produce the food for our own cattle so that the cooperative members didn't have to buy them on market."*



## TSKARO

Location: Samegrelo, Khobi, village TorsaDghvaba  
Members: 11  
Activity: Cereals production Cereals production and land cultivation  
Grant contribution: Irrigation system, Tractor



Cooperative "Tskaro", founded in 2016, works on cereals: soya, corn and alfalfa production. The current plan for the cooperative is to pilot feijoa production, additionally to the annual crops production. The tractor and irrigation system the cooperative received with project support and the state program: "Plant your Future", is allowing an increased productivity and more efficient work for its members.



## GVIRILA

Location: Guria, Chokhatauri, village Zoti  
Members: 19  
Activity: Hay production and distribution  
Grant contribution: Tractor with additional equipment, Truck

Cooperative Gvirila was created in 2016. Its members own land in Eastern Georgia, where they collect and press hay required for cattle breeding activities in their community. With the given financial assistance, the cooperatives received a tractor, and the truck for transportation of the hay. The cooperative plans to expand and increase the production to fully satisfy the needs of its members.

*"Of course the situation has improved a lot, because we became more productive-we purchased the technique, transportation is cheaper. We moved forward in cattle breeding as well. In the future we plan to gain more members, we think to expand and it will bring welfare for all the members"*





# TEA PRODUCTION



## CHIBATI

Location: Guria, Lanchkhuti, village Chibati  
Members: 37  
Activity: Tea production and processing  
Grant contribution: Tea processing equipment

The members of the cooperative “Chibati” have long tradition of working in tea sector, as the region and the village where the cooperative is located has always been famous for its tea. As a cooperative, the members started the process of rehabilitating tea plantations and managed to engage the local population in this work. The cooperative tries to encourage local population to get involved in revival of the tea sector. With the given financial support, the cooperative received the tea processing equipment to run a factory. The immediate plans are to increase the production and export to larger markets, for which the cooperative conducts negotiations with potential buyers.

*“There’s a good potential to develop tea sector and help local population improve their economic conditions. We would like to increase tea plantations and make the full use of the factory’s capacities. Later, we plan to provide packed tea bags to the market that will increase our profits”.*



## NAGOMARI

Location: Guria, Ozurgeti, village Nagomari  
Members: 18  
Activity: Tea processing and production  
Grant contribution: Processing line for black and green Tea



Cooperative Nagomari is working on rehabilitating their tea plantations. Its members hope to reach 12-13 tons of production per year. With the grant support, the old wooden equipment was replaced by newest technology, and a tea bag production line has been installed. This way the cooperative is able to work on quality and aim at high standards, allowing them to sell to large supermarkets.

Apart from cooperative members, the village population is benefiting largely from the cooperative, as the cooperative is employing at least 35 families in tea plantations during the production season.

*“Cooperatives are crucial for agricultural development. Although in the beginning people were sceptic about our work, the development of our cooperative gave stimulus to other people to start taking care of their own plantations. Our village has a large potential with the tea sector and we should be able to use it well”*



# NURSERY



## NERGEBI

Location: Guria, Lanchkhuti, village Lesa  
Members: 5  
Activity: Seedlings production  
Grant contribution: Greenhouse, Irrigation system, Vents

Cooperative “Nergebi” was founded in 2014 and its members are all experienced to work on different types of seedlings (fruits, decorative trees, trees for wind protection, etc.). Through project support, the cooperative built a greenhouse that is used for keeping seedlings in winter and for producing vegetables the rest of the year. This cooperative had a long practice of cooperation of up to 8 years and they continue their work as a cooperative more enthusiastically. “Nergebi” is trying to get certification for their seedling business to ensure high quality for their customers.

*“It’s different and better when you are working as a cooperative, people know us more, we help each other and the work becomes easier, there’s more income and less costs for the members”*

*“We felt that we were supported with the program, as they helped us with trainings, market research, we started to produce more and hope to increase the quantity and quality of our production”.*





# HAZELNUT PRODUCTION



## GURIIS TKHILI

Location: Guria, Lanchkhuti, village Shukhuti  
Members: 96  
Activity: Hazelnut plantation and processing  
Grant contribution: Processing line for hazelnuts



Cooperative "Guriis Tkhili" was founded in 2014 with 5 members and since then, reached up to 96 members. Hazelnut factory with the processing line has become fully functional and the cooperative expects to add additional processing machinery, including roasting equipment, and employ and incorporate more people outside the cooperative. Apart from hazelnut processing, the cooperative plans to expand its activities to advocate full rehabilitation and recovery of hazelnut plantations from the diseases. The plan for the cooperative is to reach out to bigger markets and buyers, while also producing roasted hazelnuts and different hazelnut sweets.



Agrolikhauri was founded in 2015. The cooperative is working on the ecological production of hazelnuts, which before they had to sell to factories to be processed. With the project support, Agrolikhauri has a fully equipped factory which allows adding value to their production. In the future the cooperative plans to produce their own hazelnut products.

## AGROLIKHAURI

Location: Guria, Ozurgeti, village Likhauri  
Members: 34  
Activity: Raw hazelnuts production  
Grant contribution: Processing line for hazelnuts



## SOPHLIS IMEDI

Location: Samegrelo, Senaki, village Ushafati  
Members: 31  
Activity: Hazelnut plantation and processing  
Grant contribution: Equipment for processing hazelnuts



Cooperative “Sophtis Imedi” works on hazelnut production and processing. The cooperative is the only main enterprise functioning in the area and had gained a social function as many people of nearby villages benefit from its work. Apart from cooperative members, Sophtis Imedi employs 50 workers from the village during 9 months a year on a permanent basis. The hazelnut drying facility that was purchased through grant support was very important for a cooperative to get quality hazelnuts. The cooperative plans to expand and directly reach European markets. For this aim, it has established working relationships with investors through the mediation of the project.

*“Since we started, the cooperative has become stronger, the people in the village us saw the success and we became attractive to more people around, as they are willing to join the cooperative. This proves that cooperative movement is moving forward.”*



## POULTRY





## GEJETI

Location: Samegrelo, Senaki, village Gejeti  
Members: 5  
Activity: Chicken hatching and production  
Grant contribution: Incubator, Cages



Cooperative 'Gejeti' was founded in 2015. Having its members well-experienced in chicken hatching and production, the cooperative got an incubator with project support, together with trainings on the use of the facility. The future plan of the cooperative is to establish a slaughterhouse.

*"If not the financial support, we wouldn't be able to build this, because we didn't have any technical resources for it. Now we want to enlarge and promote our business with others to encourage people and contribute to the strengthening of our economy".*



## STRAWBERRY PRODUCTION



## ZANELI

Location: Samegrelo, Senaki, village Zana  
Members: 11  
Activity: Strawberry production  
Grant contribution: Greenhouse, Seedlings

Cooperative "Zaneli", founded in 2016, consists of 11 members. With the project financial support, the cooperative got strawberry seedlings and built a fully equipped greenhouse for strawberry production.



