

Sustainable Food Systems

RECONOMY is a regional inclusive and green economic development program of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkan countries.



Sector:

**Cross-sectoral
(BMOs, BSOs,
relevant state
institutions, media)**



Target group

**Private sector enterprises;
unemployed or
underemployed women
and youth**



Location:

**Armenia
(Eastern
Partnership
country)**



Start:

June 2022



Co-facilitation partner:

**Center for Agribusiness and
Rural Development (CARD)**

FOCUS

The focus of this pilot intervention is to improve the agriculture sector in Armenia in order to have a profitable and sustainable food production. This will be done through a) strengthening intersectoral linkages and utilizing the potential of secondary cities, b) proposing innovative solutions for fragmented agricultural production to move into a profitable sector that would lead to the increase of agriculture's contribution to total employment, c) activating public-private dialogue through multistakeholder consultations, and d) policy improvements to involve food system innovators.



VISION

The main strategic development directions of the sector in Armenia are the development of the agricultural infrastructures and agricultural sustainability, as well as mitigation of risks. Decreasing the highly fragmented production of the sector will increase profitability of production and eventually make it an attractive operation especially for young generations. The de-fragmentation of the agricultural production will create possibilities of transfer of knowledge, education and technologies, as well as increase the investment volumes, which will make the production higher efficient, thus higher quality and profitable.



The intervention envisions to involve national and international food system innovators which are represented in Armenia and propose innovative solutions to Armenian small scale food producers to move into higher profitability sector and enhance new job opportunities outside Yerevan.

PROBLEM

Lack of cooperation between sectors related to food production, as well as limited innovative solutions for fragmented production which would lead to better productivity and profitability.

Underlying system constraints include:

- Limited access of the fragmented production to innovative solutions which offer sustainable production technologies and high profitability.
- Weak Intersectoral linkages in food systems as well as underutilized potential of secondary cities.
- Low access to high-value markets.
- Limited cooperation between related sectors.
- Limited access to finance.
- Poor regulatory framework and public support mechanisms.
- Declining contribution of agriculture to the national GDP and employment.



BUSINESS MODEL

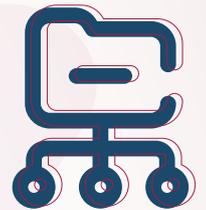
Supporting private sector development - through promoting new and improved business and financial services and public-private coordination, stimulating enterprise investment, growth and ultimately the creation of more employment and income-earning opportunities.

The food system relevant key stakeholders in the area of public-private dialogue will be identified and mapped, in line with the capacities and incentives of the relevant market actors, with whom business models and roles will be developed and agreed. Linkages will be facilitated, and firm collaboration practices will be established between engaged market actors in accordance with the developed business models. National and international food system innovators will be identified who will provide solutions for sustainable and profitable operations with fragmented production, after which multistakeholder consultations will be conducted on proposed solutions. An action plan for moving from current production practices to sustainable profitable sector will be elaborated.

Supporting advocacy (policy/regulatory/legislative/administrative improvements) so that target groups and private enterprises increase their participation and voice, and hence access better economic opportunities.

A workshop will be conducted with the engagement of public sector to present business models and pilot intervention. Establishment of an operational platform

for public-private dialogue will be facilitated to enhance increased incomes of food system operators and employment in agriculture. Regulatory gaps in involvement of food system innovators will be analyzed into agricultural production. A policy recommendation document will be elaborated to enhance participation of national and international food system innovators in building sustainable food systems given fragmented production.



EXPECTED RESULTS

80 people improve their skills and knowledge, and increase their employability as well as start their own economic/income-generating initiatives

5 successful public-private dialogue initiatives stimulated by the program

2

policies/regulations/administrative requirements developed that directly contribute to economic opportunities and improved business environment

new/improved business and financial services offered



50%

of private sector enterprises reporting increased capacity/confidence and satisfaction in advocating on their interests

10%

of additional investment made by private sector enterprises as a result of changes stimulated

