



Dairy Modernization and Market Access: Adaptation Component (DiMMAdapt)

Inception Workshop Report

Tbilisi, Georgia, 16 April 2021

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List of Acronyms

AF	Adaptation Fund
CENN	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network
DiMMAadapt	Dairy Modernization and Market Access: Adaptation Component
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FLSP	Field-level Service Providers
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoG	Government of Georgia
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IW	Inception Workshop
MEPA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
MoRDI	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan for Agriculture
NFA	National Food Agency
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPR	Project Performance Report
4Ps	Public, Private, Producer, Partnership
PUA	Pasture User Associations
REC Caucasus	Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus
USP	Unidentified Sub-Projects

I. Introduction

1. The Government of Georgia supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), submitted the USD 4,644,794 Dairy Modernization and Market Access: Adaptation Component (DiMMAdapt) project to the 34th Adaptation Fund (AF) Board meeting and was approved on the 10th of November 2019. The agreement between IFAD and the Government of Georgia was signed on the 16th of October 2020, and the agreement with the AF was signed on the 8th of April 2020, as per the agreement, the Executing Entity will be the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA). The Inception Workshop (IW) was held on the 16th April 2021 to officially launch the project. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, it was held remotely and was attended by national and international stakeholders and interested parties (see list of attendees Annex 2).

II. Summary and Recommendations

- The Inception Workshop recommended for the project to further develop and finalise the Environmental and Social Management Plan in compliance with the AF environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy.
- The workshop was an opportunity to help the project staff set the project implementation priorities and sequencing of activities for the compliance of the project with AF ESP and Gender Policy requirements, particularly for the Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs).
- The PMU was advised to focus early on, on the development of the Terms of References for a strong Service Provider that will be in the development of the Pasture Management Plans, the Pasture User Associations and the GHG offsetting.
- The Project has already tendered the contract to conduct a landscape assessment of Pastures and Pasture User Associations (PUA) in Georgia.
- The project has launched a call for proposal for SPs to apply for the development of the off-grid milk-processing pilot and subject to performance also the demo and training programme.
- The project was recommended to include gender mainstreaming with all AF training and to keep to the project's gender targets when holding all consultations, workshops and training.
- The PMU was recommended to develop a robust M&E that reflects the project activities.

III. Project Overview

2. Georgia is classified as an upper middle-income country by the World Bank with GNI per capita of USD 3,810 (2017). There are around 550,000 rural households with an average of 3.3 people per household (GeoStat, 2014). Agriculture accounts for 45 per cent of rural household income, a further 28 per cent coming from social payments and pensions and only 27 per cent from salaried work. Land privatization that followed the fall of the Soviet Union has resulted in fragmented holdings (75 percent households with less than 1 ha of land) and neglect of the agricultural sector until recently, has contributed to the dominance of subsistence farming.

3. Poverty is widespread in rural areas, where every second households can be considered poor along the USD2.50/day international poverty line. Although poverty level varies by regions, a more profound difference is within the regions themselves, between urban and rural, mountainous, remote and near towns, industrial and service oriented and more agrarian settlements. Years of economic crisis and large-scale forced migration of populations from the territories of Abkhazia and former Soviet Ossetia due to military conflicts caused the impoverishment of a large section of the Georgian population.
4. **Agriculture.** Since 2010 Georgian agriculture has been reversing its long-term decline, with output increasing by 19 percent from 2010 to 2016. The state budget for agriculture also increased from 1.3 percent to 3.8 percent from 2010 to 2018, suggesting a growing commitment by the Government of Georgia (GoG) to the economic and social importance of the agricultural sector. As mentioned above, agriculture in Georgia accounts for 45 per cent of rural household income, a further 28 per cent coming from social payments and pensions and only 27 percent from salaried work. The structure of the rural economy and demographics suggest that farming is likely to remain the dominant source of employment and income for the majority of rural citizens in the medium term.
5. **Climate Change.** A recent study from the National Adaptation Plan for Agriculture (NAPA) in Georgia observed changes in climate and therefore in agro-climatic zones. The change of agro-climatic zones against the background of the temperature increases and changes in precipitation patterns is one of the highest risks caused by climate change for the agriculture sector. Following the report, the total overall temperatures have increased in most part of the country. According to the 1991-2015 data, precipitation in the vegetation period decreased only slightly. The analysis of the last decade's climatic patterns (1960-2016) completed by IFAD in 2017 confirms that the climate in Georgia has already changed and that the main trends foreseen by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the NAPA are becoming evident. Trends in extremes in maximum and minimum temperatures for most of the regions in the country, have been increasing since 1960, resulting in warmer maximum temperatures in summer and colder minimum temperatures in winter.
6. The increase of temperature have resulted in decreases in water availability for animals in June-September. In ponds originated from rainwater (which is often a single source of watering) water is gradually decreasing or is generally dried out. The remaining ponds are often subject to pollution due to animal high pressure. Torrential rain has also intensified causing increased soil erosion from the slopes, which against the background of intense grazing, is accompanied by harsh reduction of productivity of mowing and grazing lands. Heat waves, which are projected to increase in frequency and severity, could directly threaten livestock, reducing weight gain and sometimes causing fatal stress. Heat stress affects animals both directly and indirectly and it can increase an animal's vulnerability to disease, reduce fertility, and reduce milk production in dairy animals. Change in temperature also changes the natural boundaries at sensitive areas of eastern Georgia (forest ecosystems), the loss of resilience of flora and fauna to invasive species, the loss of natural ecosystems "corridors" for migration of rare and endemic species, the increased cases of forest fires (Summer 2017), the degradation of landscape diversity, and the loss of biodiversity in general. Those effects have a direct negative impact on livelihoods.
7. Addressing these challenges led to the development of the DiMMAdapt project by the Adaptation Fund (AF). The AF project is for USD 4.6 million and is matched by the IFAD DiMMA project for a combined EUR 47.5 million. The AF project seeks to strengthen the agro-ecological and social resilience to climate change in the climate vulnerable areas of Georgia. It aims to achieve this by enhancing the resilience to climate change of vulnerable dairy producers through the creation of an enabling environment developed through training and capacity building, implementation of a pasture management plan and introduction of climate-smart technology demonstrations and alternative livelihood

diversification. The project duration will be for 4 years and close in 2025. It will benefit 6,000 beneficiaries and is structured around 2 components:

- Climate-proofing pastoral ecosystem services (water management, pasture regeneration, and disaster risk reduction). (USD 2,834,111)
- Supporting the climate resilience of market vulnerable smallholders. (USD 1,128,080)

IV. Project Inception Workshop Overview

8. The DiMMAadapt inception workshop officially launched the project and marked the starting point of its implementation. The workshop was held via video conference due to Covid 19 and was officially opened by the Director of the Project Management Unit (PMU), Ms. Lali Durmishidze. It was attended by a broad range of stakeholders from key government organisations, representatives from key ministries including MEPA, the National Food Agency (NFA), Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (MoRDI), the Rural Development Agency and the National Agency for Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Monitoring. The workshop was also well attended by civil society with the Georgian Technical University; the Tbilisi State University, Institute of Geography; the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN); Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) as well as farming associations and international stakeholders such as the European Bank for Reconstruction Development (EBRD) and the Swiss Cooperation Office.

i) Opening and Welcoming Remarks.

9. The workshop started at 10:00 Georgia time with a brief welcome and introduction of the agenda by the PMU Director and workshop moderator - Ms. Lali Durmishidze. Following this the official opening speech was given by the IFAD Country Director, Mr Vrej Jijyan. They mainly highlighted the importance of the project for improving the climate-resilience of the rural dairy sector to enhance poverty and vulnerability reduction efforts and enhance environmental sustainability in Georgia.

ii) Presentation Sessions

A) Introduction of the IFAD DiMMA project and updates on activities

10. This session was dedicated to the presentation of the IFAD DiMMA project and the priority activities underway and to be implemented by the PMU. A brief overview followed by Ms. Ketii Sharabidze, the DiMMA Agribusiness specialist and Deputy Project Manager. Ms Sharabidze presented the project and explained that DiMMA is in support of rural economic development and poverty reduction by contributing to modernization and emergence of a competitive, diversified, resilient and sustainable dairy industry. It aims to enhance the livelihoods and resilience of smallholder dairy producers, especially in mountain areas, and improve the management of the natural resources on which they depend.
11. The presentation proceeded to provide an outline of the DiMMA project components and the project approach that is based on: i) the Public, Private, Producer, Partnership (4Ps) principle, the organisation of clusters, Pasture User Associations (PUAs) and the empowerment of cooperatives; ii) Grant co-financing by dairy producers, milk processors, and Field-level Service Providers (FLSPs); iii) Adaptation Fund-financed improved pastures, feed production demonstrations as well as IFAD-financed milk production, collection and processing demonstrations; iv) Capacity building and technical development; v) Improved infrastructure; and vi) Policy development.

12. The DiMMA presentation furthermore explained the progress to date namely that the Service Provider (SP) has already been selected and contracted, that currently the PMU is progressing with mobilization activities as well as mapping and analyzing of actors of Georgian dairy sector are ongoing as are planning and budgeting activities.

B) Introduction of the Adaptation Fund and Overview of Environmental and Climate Challenges

13. The presentation on the Adaptation Fund project was introduced by the IFAD Consultant Mr Wietse Michiels who set the stage by introducing the historical climate change challenges and climate trends to the participating stakeholders. These included:
- The mountain regions becoming 30% wetter in winter by and 8% drier in summer;
 - Overall increases in temperature by between 0.3 and 0.5 °C;
 - Increases in the number of hot days between 1986 and 2010;
 - Changes in the rainfall patterns;
 - 30% decreased glacier mass;
 - Increased number of extreme events such as extreme precipitation, which cause landslides, mudflows and droughts; as well as more frequent floods in the west.
14. The future climate trend forecasts were also outlined as follows:
- Increased average annual temperatures by 0.8°–1.4°C by 2050 and 2.2° – 3.8°C toward 2100; in northwest mountains.
 - Increased amount and intensity of daily rainfall, leading to increased soil erosion, land degradation, risk of flash floods, mudflows and landslides.
 - Increase in the number of hot days (which may double in some mountain areas) and more frequent heat waves June–August.
 - Complete loss of Georgia's 637 glaciers projected by 2160 due to higher temperatures.
15. The impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector were also outlined as:
- Intensification of droughts, a decrease in moisture caused by evaporation and leading to yield losses;
 - Increased soil salination along with increase of evaporation intensity;
 - Rapid mineralization and exhausting of organic mass of soil;
 - Better hibernation (wintering) of agricultural crop diseases and pests and, as a result, their intense reproduction;
 - Strengthening of erosion processes and increase of the risk of high-waters and hail as a result of increase of precipitation intensity and frequency.
16. It was also explained that climate change is expected to increase the frequency, intensity and severity of extreme events such as the drought in 2000 that cost the agricultural sector an estimated USD 460 million. With unpredictable seasonal rains as well as rising temperatures expected to have a negative impact on Georgia's agriculture sector, the 50 percent of the population that depends on agriculture as a major livelihood including the majority of the country's poor are particularly vulnerable.

17. At this point the AF was introduced including with background information in terms of mandate and country eligibility. The presentation also conveyed the concept that practicing sustainable pasture and livestock management is preferable to dairy sector intensification, as it primarily increases productivity and therefore profitability through improved resilience of pastures. To this end the presentation gave some recommendations for sustainable practices, to:
- Reduce head of grazing animals per hectare for winter and autumn pastures.
 - The restoration of pastures rotation schemes i.e. not to allow the grazing on the same plots during the same calendar season.
 - Low-productivity hay meadows should be used as pastures.
 - Where possible hay meadows should be expanded;

C) DiMMAdapt Project Overview and updates on activities

18. Ms. Nino Kizikurashvili, the DiMMAdapt Project Coordinator followed on with the introduction of the AF project. She explained the overall goal of the project to reduce the vulnerability of the dairy value chain to the negative impacts of climate change and with the objective to enhance the resilience to climate change of vulnerable dairy producers. She went into detail describing the project structure by component and the targeted regions of Imereti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti.
19. Ms Kizikurashvili gave an update on the status of implementation and that although the inception workshop marks the start of the project, some preparatory designing of terms of references and preliminary procurement processes have been conducted. At the moment of the workshop there were already two tenders in the pipeline covering i) the demonstrations for the restoration of degraded pastures; and ii) the energy-saving, climate-smart pilots.
20. The tasks of service provider (SP) covering the former include: i) to develop demonstration plots (manure management and private pasture management) and conduct relevant trainings; and ii) to carry out a situation analysis to demonstrate the potential for development of Pasture Management Plans (PMPs) for PUAs and their further implementation in the program target regions. The second SP for the energy-saving, climate-smart pilots will be tasked to conduct a market and cost-benefit analysis of the current affordable technologies available on the market. They will also obtain and assemble parts for milk cooling and cheese making (e.g. solar panels, batteries, inverters, milk cooling tanks and solar heaters to heat water for the warming of milk in cheese production) to be demonstrated at one pilot demo plot. The off-the-grid milk cooling and processing units will be designed to be small and affordable and tailored for the needs of small rural mountain dairy producers. Depending on performance the same SP will also design and conduct the training, alternatively a new SP will be tendered for.

D) Environmental and social safeguards and risk screening and project implications

21. Mr Michiels ended the presentations with an overview of the AF Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and he explained the 15 ESP principles in detail. A particular focus was placed on the need to track the number of cattle and offset the resulting carbon emissions, should the animal population in the project area increase. He explained that large agricultural projects such as IFAD's DiMMA are triggers for the AF in the ESP on climate change and because the AF project is closely integrated, although the AF project itself will not adversely contribute to climate change. In doing so he estimated the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the cattle resulting from the DiMMA project and provided

estimates as to the offsetting required in the hypothesis of an increase of 5000 cattle heads.

V. Working group on ESMP Development

22. The IFAD consultant also conducted a separate working group for the Project Management Unit (PMU) to train staff on compliance with AF ESP requirements and update the ESMP which will be further developed throughout the year. Training was given on Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs) and it was explained that specific assessments and risk identification will need to be conducted and mitigation measures taken. It was explained that the requirements for each USP in terms of ESP compliance are the same as for activities that have been fully formulated at the time of funding application submission. In compliance with AF requirements, support and training was given also in how to conduct USP reporting namely through the Project Performance Report (PPR) and the ESMP that was initiated as part of this workshop and will be further developed throughout the year as mitigation measures are refined by the PMU.
23. It was furthermore explained that the ESMP serves a dual purpose. In the first instance for the already fully formulated activities, it describes how the project is addressing the unwanted environmental and social impacts that have been identified during project formulation. For the USPs, it will include the review process that will ensure that for a USP, as and when it is being formulated to the point where effective ESP risks identification is possible, risks will be identified and risk mitigating measures taken. Effective risks identification requires that the risks inherent to both an activity and the specific environment and social setting in which it will take place, are known.

Annex 1 DiMMA and DiMMAadapt alignment

Combined DiMMA / DiMMAadapt	Outputs	DiMMAadapt Alignment	
Goal	Rural economic development and poverty reduction by contributing to the modernization and emergence of a competitive, diversified, resilient and sustainable dairy industry		
Objective:	Enhance the livelihoods and resilience of smallholder dairy producers, especially in mountain areas, and improve the management of the natural resources	To strengthen the agro-ecological and social resilience to climate change in the climate vulnerable areas of Moldova, by enhancing water availability, water use efficiency, and promoting adaptive agriculture production systems and technologies for improved livelihoods and food security of rural households	
Component 1: Dairy Value Chain Development – EUR 37.9 million			
Outcome 1 Milk production, safety, marketing and profitability of target households improved	Output 1.1 Value chain actors capacitated Output 1.2 Seed capital financing provided through DVCF Output 1.3 Pasture lands developed Output 1.4 Marketing infrastructure developed	Outcome 1.1 An enabling environment developed through training and capacity building.	Output 1.1.1: Climate resilient and DRR solutions for pasture rehabilitation and increased productivity promoted.
		Outcome 1.2. Pasture Management Plans Implemented	Output 1.2.1: Climate resilient and ecosystem-based adaptive pastoral investments implemented. Output 1.2.2: A management mechanism is in place to screen and offset any potential cattle number increases from DiMMA
		Outcome 2.1 Climate-smart technology demonstrations and livelihood diversification.	Output 2.1.1 Climate-smart technologies and alternative livelihood measures promoted. Output 2.1.2 Alternative, complementary, non-competitive, non-extractive livelihood jobs created.
Component 2: Institutional and organisational development; EUR 5.7 million			
Outcome 2: Sustainable institutional and organisational development	Output 2.1. Local dairy initiative clusters and platforms and farmer groups developed/strengthened Output 2.2. Dialogue between dairy sector stakeholders strengthened	N/A	N/A

Annex 2 Attendance list.**IFAD DIARY MODERNIZATION AND MARKET ACCESS PROJECT
ADAPTATION FUND COMPONENT (DiMMAdapt)
INCEPTION WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE LIST
APRIL 16, 2021**

	Name, surname	Position	Organization	Gender male / female	Location / region	e-mail
1	Beka Tagauri	Head of Economic Development Program	Swiss Cooperation Office	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	Beka.gatauri@eda.admin.ch
2	Giorgi Razmadze	Chief Specialist	Ministry of Environmental Protection And Agriculture (MEPA)	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	giorgi.razmadze@mepa.gov.ge
3	Ekaterine Sanadze	Head of hydromelioration Unit	MEPA	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	ekaterine.sanadze@mepa.gov.ge
4	Gizo Chelidze	Head of the Hydro-melioration and Land Management Department	MEPA	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	gizo.chelidze@mepa.gov.ge
5	Toma Dekanoidze	Head of Protected Territories department	MEPA	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	dekanoidzetoma@gmail.com
6	Salome Oboladze	Deputy Head of Donor Coordination Division, International Relations Department	MEPA	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	Salome.Oboladze@mepa.gov.ge
7	Maka Manjavidze	First Category Chief Specialist Of Land Resources Protection Division	MEPA	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	manjavidzemaka@gmail.com maka.manjavidze@mepa.gov.ge

	Name, surname	Position	Organization	Gender male / female	Location / region	e-mail
8	Jimsher Koshadze	Agriculture and Rural Development Coordinator	Caucus Environment NGO Network (CENN)	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	jimsher.koshadze@cenn.org
9	Zviad Asanishvili	Head of the Animal Registration and Identification Division	National Food Agency (NFA)	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	zviad.asanishvili@nfa.gov.ge
10	Nodar Kevkhishvili	Department Of Energy Efficiency- Professor	Georgian Technical University	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	nodar_ke@yahoo.com
11	Dimitri Chkareuli	Head of Secondary Structural Unit	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (MoRDI)	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	d.chkareuli@mrdi.gov.ge
12	Giorgi Misheladze	Chairman	The National Agency For Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Monitoring	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	giorgi.misheladze@land.gov.ge
13	Lasha Avaliani	Deputy Chief of Party	Land O'Lakes Venture	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	lavaliani@landolakes.org
14	Nana Bolashvili	Director	Tbilisi State University, Institute of Geography	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	nana.bolashvili@tsu.ge
15	Kety Tsereteli	Project Manager/project coordinator	REC Caucasus	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	kety.tsereteli@rec-caucasus.org
16	Lali Madzgarashvili	Government and Donor Relations' Manager	NPLE AGROSERVICE	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	lmadzgarashvili@agroservice.ge
17	Besik Macharashvili	Head Of Grant And Investment Unit	Rural Development Agency	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	Besik.macharashvili@rda.gov.ge
18	Rati Kochlamazashvili	Deputy Director	Georgian Farmers' Association	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	rkochlamazashvili@gfa.org.ge

	Name, surname	Position	Organization	Gender male / female	Location / region	e-mail
19	Mariam Jorjadze	Director	The Biological Farming Association Elkana	Female	Georgia	director@elkana.org.ge
20	Kateryna Poberezhna	Agribusiness Advisor	European Bank for Rural Development (EBRD)	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	poberezk@ebrd.com
21	Isabelle Lagaille-Degeorge	Chief Technical Adviser/Team Leader	IFAD	Female	France	zimex@wanadoo.fr
22	Vrej Jijyan	Country Director	IFAD	Male	Yerevan, Armenia	v.jijyan@ifad.org
23	Wietse Michiels	Consulting in Sustainable Natural Resource Management	IFAD	Male	Roma, Italy	wietse.michiels@gmail.com
24	Lali Durmishidze	Project Manager	PMU	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	Lali.Durmishidze@mepa.gov.ge
25	Ketevan Sharabidze	Agribusiness Specialist	PMU	Female	Tbilisi, Georgia	Ketevan.Sharabidze@mepa.gov.ge
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31	Beka Gonashvili	Livestock Specialist	PMU	Male	Tbilisi, Georgia	Beka.Gonashvili@mepa.gov.ge
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Annex 3 Workshop Agenda

Dairy Modernization and Market Access - AdaptationDiMMAdapt Start-up workshop April 16, 2021, Tbilisi, Georgia Agenda

TIME	VENUE	ACTIVITIES	PRESENTERS
10:00-10:20		Brief Opening: Objective of the workshop, expected results and agenda intro of Government	Ms. Lali Durmishidze, DiMMA project Manager
10:20 – 10:45		Opening remarks from IFAD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic objectives of IFAD investments in the Georgia 	Mr. Vrej Jijyan, Country Director, IFAD
10:45 – 11:15		IFAD Project Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timeline and progress to date ▪ Project objectives, components, implementation arrangements, partners, expected results, team, roles and responsibilities 	Ms. Ketii Sharabidze, DiMMA Agribusiness specialist/Deputy project manager
11:15-11:30		Question and answers	Open session
11:30 – 12:00		Introduction of the Adaptation Fund and overview of Environmental and Climate challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the AF ▪ Environmental and climate challenges in Georgia that the AF project aims to address 	Wietse Michiels, IFAD Consultant
12:00 – 12:15		DiMMAdapt Project Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relation with IFAD DiMMA project ▪ Project objectives, components, implementation arrangements, partners, expected results, team, roles and responsibilities ▪ Timeline and progress to date 	Ms. Nino Kizikurashvili, DiMMA Adaptation Fund Coordinator
12:15 – 12:30		Question and Answers	Open session
12:30 – 13:00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental and social safeguards and risk screening and project implications 	Wietse Michiels, IFAD Consultant
13:00 – 13:15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Questions and answers from the public 	
13:15		Closing Remarks	Ms. Lali Durmishidze, Government representatives