



### State-of-the-Art Combine-Harvester for Farmers from Akhalkalaki

The harvest of barley and wheat starts in August in the Akhalkalaki Municipality. On average, farmers expect to take 2,500-2,800 kg of yield per a one-hectare plot. The majority of the barley and wheat harvest is collected by the middle of September when the farmers face their most challenging issue: a lack of combine-harvesters. The municipality has about 50 combines but they were produced in the Soviet Union which means that they are already quite old. During the peak of the harvest, the farmers bring combine-harvesters from Kakheti to ease their workload.

Armen Pambukhchyan is a farmer from the village of Kartsepi, Akhalkalaki Municipality. He has planted over 20 hectares of his crop. He was able to get a new combine-harvester with a grant which he received from the European Union and so he no longer worries about his harvest. He also plans to help others with their harvests as well by using his combine-harvester.

“I received information about the grant competition on the Internet and so I contacted the Akhalkalaki Local Action Group for help. They provided me with instructions on how to prepare a project proposal and gave me some advice. My project won and I received a grant within the ENPARD program and I procured a modern combine-harvester,” he says.



Employees: 2 locals  
Total budget of the Project: GEL 80,000.00  
EU share: GEL 40,000.00  
Co-financing: GEL 40,000.00

According to Armen Pambukhchyan , people in other regions of Georgia, Kakheti and Kartli, start harvesting at the beginning of July. In the nearest future, he intends to go to these regions in the summer and offer the locals his service for harvesting. Afterwards, he will return to his municipality, look after his own harvest and assist local farmers as well. Information regarding his combine-harvester circulated quickly and so the number of his clients also increased.





The combine-harvester that was procured with the grant money is a modern model of high-quality technology and provides a quick harvest for very little time and energy.

Armen Pambukhchyan has already employed one local individual. They will work in shifts and will have quite a lot of work to do in August and September. According to the Rural Development Agency of Georgia, there are 8,000 hectares of barley and 2,000 hectares of wheat in the Akhalkalaki Municipality. The two men expressed their hopes for financial gains from their endeavor.

*The initiative has been financed by the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) through the project of promoting new approaches in Rural Development in Akhalkhalaki.*

*Project is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development and Vocational Education (DRDVE) of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). Project Partners are Mercy Corps, Elva – Community Engagement and West Cork Development Partnership.*

*The European Union supports agriculture and rural development of Georgia through the programme of ENPARD, which has been implemented in Georgia since 2013. The total budget is 179.5 mio EUR. The main goal of the ENPARD is to reduce the rural poverty. The main priority of the first phase of the program was to support agricultural development, whereas the main aim of the second and third phases is to promote economic opportunities and capacity building of people living in the rural areas. For the additional information, please follow the link: [www.enpard.ge](http://www.enpard.ge)*

