



Spawning Endangered Species of River Trout

Arthur Khatchatryan’s main goal is spawning endangered species of river trout. The European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) has fully supported him in achieving his goal.

“The so-called Rainbow Trout is included in the IUCN Red List. I have always been interested in trout farming. People enjoy fishing but they do not realize the impacts of fishing on fish populations. It causes the extinction of unique species. I consider that our business is a perfect example of social responsibility. I hope that we will manage to return 5,000 hatchlings back to the river every year,” said Arthur Khatchatryan who has been working in the field of fishery for 35 years and has diverse knowledge and experience.

At the outset, the project faced many challenges. As a first step, written approval must be obtained concerning the that the fish he intends to breed are the right species and capable of adapting to the local river environment. He is actively working on obtaining the approval and expects a positive outcome in the near future.



Employees: 3 locals
Total budget of the project: GEL 5,990
EU share: GEL 35,000
Co-financing: GEL 15,990



A new incubation basin has already been constructed for spawning the different trout species.

“When the weight of the hatchlings is 150 grams, we then start selling them. We assume that we will have our own fish eggs in two to three years which means we will no longer have to purchase them. The Ambassador of the European Union paid a visit to us last year. He thanked us for the efficient work we had done. We would like to express our gratitude both to the EU and GIPA for their support of our project,” said Arthur Khatchatryan.





Modern trout farming will promote the improvement of both the environmental and social conditions in the region. A few people have already been employed at the trout farm. If the business extends its scope, the amount of employees will increase as well.



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