



### State-of-the-Art Potato Combine-Harvester

Agriculture has a great importance for the economy of the Akhalkalaki Municipality. of the entire village population in the municipality is involved in agricultural production. The leading field is potato cultivation. Supporting the growing of potatoes, therefore, is crucial for the sustainable development of economy in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region.

Arshak Gogoryan is from the village of Diliska in the Akhalkalaki Municipality. He has planted over 44 hectares of potatoes. He has signed an agreement with two companies which produce potato crisps and has planted a particular type of potato which is suitable for their products. Mr Gogoryan indicated that he faces challenges during the planting and harvesting of the potatoes due to the lack of a workforce.

With the support of ENPARD, he was able to purchase a state-of-the-art potato combine-harvester which significantly reduces both the costs and the time for completing the harvest. According to his calculations, he will be able to reimburse his expenses in a period of two years. Before starting to operate the new combine-harvester, Arshak Akopyan engaged with relevant specialists to learn how to use the new piece of equipment.



Employees: 8 locals  
Total budget of the project: GEL 55,000  
EU share: GEL 35,000  
Co-financing: GEL 9,500

“The state-of-the-art combine has attracted the attention of the people living in the region. Farmers from the neighboring villages pay us a visit to get to know how the combine works. I hope that the combine won’t let us down and will work properly. I would like to express my gratitude toward the European Union and GIPA for their dedication to the implementation of important projects in our regions” said Arshak Gogoryan.





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*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)*