



Georgia Employment and Infrastructure Initiative
საქართველოს დასაქმებისა და ინფრასტრუქტურის ინიციატივა

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Didi Dmanisi Vegetable Collection Center: Organized Collection Creates Profit



In two weeks, 170 tons of potatoes, 120 tons of cabbage, 9 tons of carrots, 4 tons of beans, and 60 tons of wheat were sorted and distributed for sale. This resulted in average income of more than \$5,000 for each of the 15 local farmers who supplied vegetables to the collection center.

Didi Dmanisi, a small village in Kvemo Kartli, is situated 900-1000 meters above sea level. The village's altitude is a great asset to agricultural production, since it reduces bacteria during cultivation and facilitates growth, and its agricultural products are popular at local, Marneuli, and Tbilisi agricultural markets.

The community produces an abundance of vegetables, including potatoes, cabbage, beets, carrots, beans, and wheat. The absence of a collection center, however, hampered local business development. Growers were forced to store their produce in Gantiadi, a village four kilometers away from Didi Dmanisi. This increased expenses, caused transportation problems, and stole precious time from growers.

In order to improve business potential, two local farmers, Mr. Ramaz Iakobishvili and Mr. Shota Iakobashvili, decided to renovate the local vegetable collection center (900 m² area) by fixing the 1300 m² damaged slate roof. They registered as LLC Kviratskhoveli and applied to CHF International~Georgia for an Enterprise Investment Grant (EIG) through the USAID-funded GEII program. The funding they received allowed them to install a new corrugated iron roof and create a place to store and package local produce.

The center opened on September 20th, providing employment for twelve women and two men for an average monthly salary of 200 GEL. In two weeks, 170 tons of potatoes, 120 tons of cabbage, 9 tons of carrots, 4 tons of beans, and 60 tons of wheat were sorted and distributed for sale. This resulted in average income of more than \$5,000 for each of the 15 local farmers who supplied vegetables to the collection center. Ten farmers from neighboring villages have also started bringing their vegetables to this center. The renovated collection point's better storage conditions will allow Didi Dmanisi citizens to increase their harvest by 20-25%.



Larger urban businesses are looking to have products all conglomerated into one spot for purchase. Thus, rehabilitating the vegetable collection center supported business linkage development with retailers that purchase vegetables and wheat and strengthened Didi Dmanisi's previously existing agreements with distributors and consumers.

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