



Georgia Employment and Infrastructure Initiative
საქართველოს დასაქმებისა და ინფრასტრუქტურის ინიციატივა

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Kodalo Fruit Storage Facility: Managing Supply to Increase Income



Six local residents began work on the Kodalo fruit storage facility in August 2007. In addition to USAID funding, they received a \$5,000 credit from Bank Republic to install a special refrigerator. They purchased special boxes for grapes and were able to begin storing grapes for 2007's harvest.

The Kakheti region is famous for the wide variety of grapes grown there in abundance. During harvest time, however, this abundance means that grapes are sold at low prices. The lack of a facility to store local production limited the growers' storage capacity, resulting in Georgian markets and supermarkets being supplied with grapes by neighboring countries during off seasons at higher prices.

Ilia Batselashvili, a farmer from the village of Kodalo, Gurjaani District, owns a vineyard and gathers a large amount of grapes during the harvest season. In order to increase his income and allow grape growers to store their harvest, Ilia and six other Kodalo residents established a fruit storage facility in the village.

In 2005 CHF International-Georgia began collaborating with Kodalo through the USAID-funded GEII project. Residents first focused upon rehabilitating the village's infrastructure. The first project involved installation of two transformers and the second resulted in the rehabilitation of the Kodalo-Gurjaani highway.

After completing the infrastructure projects, community members turned their attention to economic development. At community meetings coordinated by CHF, residents proposed several interesting business ideas, among them establishing a fruit storage facility. Because the majority of Kodalo's residents have vineyards and the geographic location of the village enables them to collect a large quantity of soft fruit, CHF recognized the project's potential to benefit the community's economic development and agreed to finance the project.



Six local residents began work on the Kodalo fruit storage facility in August 2007. In addition to USAID funding, they received a \$5,000 credit from Bank Republic to install a special refrigerator. They purchased special boxes for grapes and were able to begin storing grapes for 2007's harvest. More than eight tons of grapes can be kept in the refrigerator. With the special storage conditions provided by the facility, the group intends to sell grapes in January and February when they will receive a higher price for their produce.

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