



Georgia Employment and Infrastructure Initiative  
საქართველოს დასაქმებისა და ინფრასტრუქტურის ინიციატივა

# COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

## Improved Seedling Production:

### Promotes increased productivity and incomes for small land holding farmers of Georgia



*“These new innovation technologies have reduced expenses, minimized my loss and increased my productivity in greenhouse. I believe these improved seedlings will also help the farmers who purchase them to have a better harvest.”*

*Levan Papashvili*

*Farmer, Kvemo Kartli*

USAID supported farmer Levan Papashvili vividly understands the importance of improved technologies to increase productivity and income. “These new innovation technologies have reduced expenses, minimized my loss and increased my productivity in greenhouse. I believe these improved seedlings will also help the farmers who purchase them to have a better harvest.” Shortly after participating in a seedling project, financed by GEII, Levan, from the community of Jorjiashvili in Kvemo Kartli, received an order from neighboring communities for 50 000 of tomato seedlings. His 300m<sup>2</sup> greenhouse is expected to provide approximately \$7000 of increased income, well above what he could have earned producing vegetables.

USAID's Georgia Employment and Infrastructure Initiative (GEII) strives to increase rural income by introducing modern technologies to Georgian farmers to promote increased income per unit of on-farm inputs and labor. One of the constraints in the Georgian vegetable value chain is that Georgian farmers were not competitive overall with imports because traditionally there has been a significant lack of good quality seedlings for vegetables, though demand has been high. Due to lack of accessibility, farmers were producing low-quality seedlings or producing vegetables directly from seeds.

To address this gap between supply and demand, USAID/Georgia has started seedling projects in 9 communities in the Imereti, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti regions of Georgia to produce high quality seedlings in greenhouses using new technology, introducing seeder machines, spray irrigation systems, and special trays for seedlings.

These new technologies have numerous advantages over current methods. Modern spray irrigation systems are more effective and provide improved seedling growth, while seeder machines save on labor costs. Overall, seedlings produced with these methods provide for healthier, higher quality plants and products.

In the short-term, the seedlings for tomatoes, sweet pepper, cauliflower, and broccoli produced in greenhouses will generate increased income for local farmers, as there is great demand throughout the country for high-quality seedlings. This is a very profitable opportunity for greenhouse owners who can now supplement the production of their off-season vegetables production with seedlings.

As for other farmers participating in the project, Delidori, a local vegetable processing company, has agreed to purchase the seedlings directly from them.



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