Use of Data for Effective Implementation of the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement between the EU and Georgia in the field of Agriculture and Rural Development

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EU-Georgia Association Agreement

- EU and Georgia signed Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement in 2014

- Association Agreement, among other areas, foresees gradual alignment of Georgia's Agriculture and Rural Development Policy to the EU relevant policies

- Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreement opens up EU market for Georgian products and services

- With the support from the EU, Georgia implements substantial reforms in agriculture and rural development fields to fulfil obligations under Association Agreement and DCFTA and advance on EU integration path

Key challenges

- **Shrinking rural areas: population ageing and migration, linked to decreasing range of services.**

- Dominating primary (traditional) industries: **low productivity agriculture and (low value added) tourism**

- Territorial disparities and **growing divide**

	Rural	Urban
Unemployment rate (2020)	15.8%	20.3%
Share of informal employment in non-agricultural employment	35.6%	30.2%
Urban hired employees: more than double vs rural (2020)		
Average Monthly Incomes per household from wages (GEL) (2020)	287	562
Absolute Poverty	27.5%	17.1%
Percent in total GDP (2019) in current prices	Tbilisi – 51.2%	
ICT skills (some level)	38%	65%
Households owning personal computers	35%	57%
Internet access (any quality)	61%	82%
Only 3.5 percent of working age population living in rural areas are involved in non-farm business and entrepreneurship activity		

Reforms in Agriculture and Rural Development Policy

- First ever National Rural Development Strategy 2017-2020 and Action plan adopted and implemented , New phase 2021-2027 adopted and implementation started

- European Neighborhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Developmen (ENPARD) – largest EU support programme in Agriculture and Rural Development implemented

- New Governance and Institutional Structures (e.g., Paying Agency, Inter-Agency Coordination Council) Established

Use of data
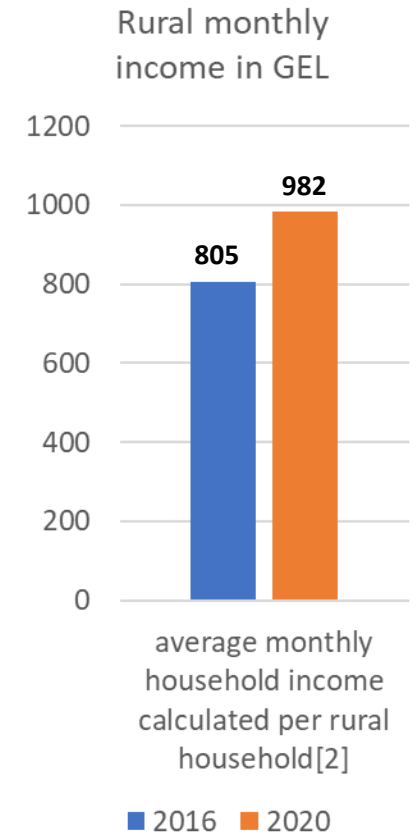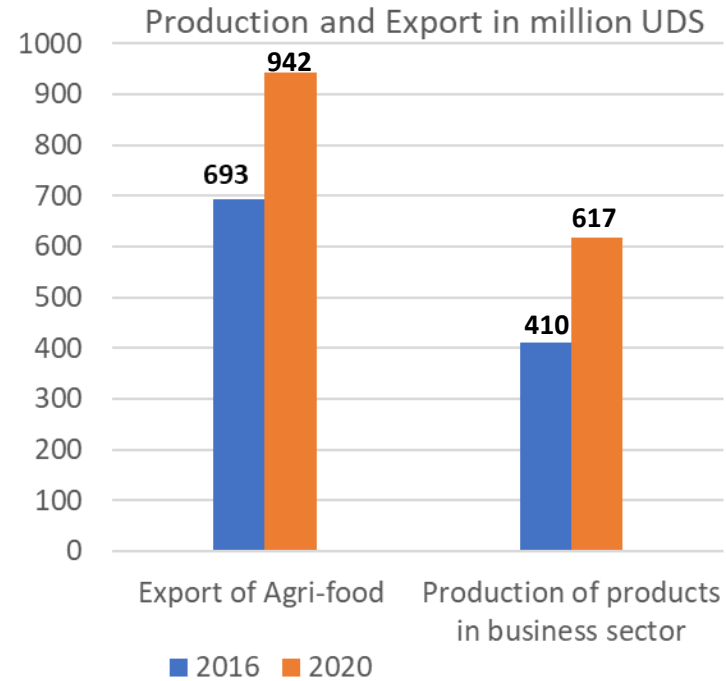
- Ex-ante assessment conducted for informed policy and stagey formulation

- Results, outcome and output level indicators of the Rural Development Strategy elaborated, with respective baselines and targets

- ENPARD programme budget support conditionalities elaborated and agreed

- Monitoring and Evaluation framework elaborated and established

Main source of data

GEOSTAT statistical data:

- Survey of Agricultural holdings

- General agro statistics
- Basic characteristics of agricultural holdings
- Crop production
- Livestock
- Production of animal husbandry

Key Results

Rural Development Strategy Action Plan Budget ('000 ₾)

2017	372 713	549 689	
2018	558 163	682 821	
2019	596 176	729 263	
2020	701,000	855,000	

■ Planned ■ Actual

Production and Export in million UDS

Export of Agri-food: 693 (2016), 942 (2020)
Production of products in business sector: 410 (2016), 617 (2020)

■ 2016 ■ 2020

Rural monthly income in GEL

805 (2016), 982 (2020)

average monthly household income calculated per rural household[2]

■ 2016 ■ 2020

Rural Development Strategy Action Plan 2017-2020 output examples

- **433,697 rural residents** have increased access to **new/upgraded infrastructure**;
- **35,978 beneficiaries acquired/improved skills** necessary for the labor market;
- **16.6%** increase of irrigated land area;
- **18.7 %increase** in the area of forest managed by the **sustainable Forest Management Plans**;
- **4** additional territorial units of **protected areas a**re managed by the **Management Plans**;
- **32,030 ha** of agricultural lands under **insurance schemes**;
- Investments made in **328 new tourism product/infrastructure**;
- **3,248 rrural businesses** made investments.

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2017-2020: 2.8 billion GEL spent on Rural Development programmes

2017-2020: 600,000 rural residents benefited

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Thank you for your attention!