REPORT/DRAFT

**Training Workshop on cultivation technologies of apricot orchards under the TCPARM3302 Apricot Genetic Resources Conservation and Utilization Project TCP/ARM/3302**

**Yerevan, Armenia,**

**13 August – 17 August, 2012**

The training workshop on cultivation technologies of apricot orchards was organized by FAO Armenia in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia in the framework of the “Apricot Genetic Resources Conservation and Utilization” TCP/ARM/3302 Project from 14 to 17 August, 2012 in Yerevan. The main objective of the workshop was introduction of the current situation of apricot cultivation in Armenia and presentation of the best international practices.

27 participants from the 5 RA regions/marzes (Ararat, Armavir, Aragatsotn, Kotayk and Vayots dzor) and Yerevan had their active participation, including representatives of the Regional Agricultural Support Centers, farmers- apricot growers, scientists, as well as the members of the Project expert team.

In his opening speech, Mr Robert Makaryan, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Project National Coordinator, emphasized the importance of apricot production for Armenia and presented the RA Government policy on this regard. Opening remarks were also made by Mr Avetik Nersisyan, Plant Production and Protection Officer, FAO-REU and Ms Gayane Nasoyan, Assistant FAO Representative in Armenia

The workshop was moderated by Mr Avetik Nersisyan. The Project current progress and outputs, including the results of apricot identification works, were presented by Hovik Hovhannisyan, Project National Consultant for Apricot Production.

 The main themes presented and discussed during the 1st day of the workshop were current apricot cultivation technologies used in Armenia, rules and regulations for the registration of new varieties of apricots in the Republic of Armenia, presentation of AgroWeb network in CAC region and the implementation of [agro.am](https://faohumail.fao.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=8fd19721b1f140bda0bb04b7e324f6af&URL=http%3a%2f%2fagro.am) portal and apricot production and cultivation technologies in the European countries.

The filed visit to the apricot orchards of “Tsiranout” LLC in village Aragatsavan, Aragatsotn region was organized on 15 August, 2012. The main purpose of the field training was demonstration of the new technologies and practical aspects of the apricot cultivation, including propagation techniques, pruning and tree training, orchard establishment and maintenance, harvest and postharvest operations, through the group work.

The 3rd training day was devoted to presentation of some valuable European apricot varieties and rootstocks, which could be used in the project sites (presented by Mr Avetik Nersisyan, Plant Production and Protection Officer, FAO-REU ), as well as identifications of the proper technologies and varieties to be introduced in the country for apricot cultivation through working groups.

Demonstration orchard establishment and maintenance, harvest and postharvest operations were presented and discussed during the final day of the workshop. The workshop was concluded by the overview of the workshop’s previous days and discussion of the current issues and gaps and recommendations on future improvement in this field. Overall, the workshop training was assessed by the participants as a very informative and useful and it has facilitated the cooperation between different people involved in apricot production.

The workshop participant evaluated the project activates and made the following recommendations to be taken in to consideration during the implementation of the project:

1. To procure 12-15 European Apricot varieties and 6 different rootstocks and appropriate equipment for introduction of new technologies in the demonstration plots and in collection orchards of the project, using the list of varieties and rootstocks which was presented during the workshop.
2. In addition to the already 4 identified demonstration sites to add 3 other sites in Aragatsotn, Kotayk and Vayots Dzor regions, in the case if the project budget will allow to do that.
3. Develop and publish “Apricot tree cultivation technologies” handbook for farmers and farming households within the framework of the project.
4. Prepare for publishing a Bulletin of identified apricot gene fond varieties under the Project that are preserved in the collection orchard.
5. Till end of the year to organize a workshop on Pest and diseases management in apricot orchards using new approaches.
6. Organize a study tour of 2 people to the European countries as it is foreseen in the project.
7. To assist the Ministry of Agriculture in data recording and management of apricot production in the country

In the end of the workshop the participants were granted by certificates of attendance.