

QI4GT Fund Project Overview

Organic Product Certification in Georgia

September 2023 – June 2024

What is the QI4GT Fund?

The Quality Infrastructure for Green Transformation (QI4GT) Fund is set up in the framework of the PTB project “Quality Standards for Increased Trade in the Eastern Partnership Countries” and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung/BMZ). It aims to support promising QI initiatives that contribute to Green Transformation in the EaP countries. The Fund offers a flexible mechanism to finance short-term demand-driven projects implemented by a QI institution in collaboration with other partners from the private or non-governmental sectors. The first round of calls for proposals was closed in May 2023.

Objective of the project “Organic Product Certification in Georgia”

The project aims to support CAUCASCERT (Georgia) and ECOGLOBE (Armenia), two conformity assessment bodies (CABs), to prepare and submit their applications to the European Commission for extending their existing accreditation in compliance with the new EU Regulation on organic production. Furthermore, the project aims to support the Georgian Accreditation Center (GAC) to build its capacity to issue accreditation on organic production certification. The larger goal is to ensure that local accreditation and certification services are available and accessible to organic farmers from Armenia and the region so that they can export their produce to the EU and internationally.

Partners

Lead Partner: Georgian Accreditation Center (GAC)

Additional Partners: CAUCASCERT (Georgia) and ECOGLOBE (Armenia)

Main activities

Consultancy services will be provided to the two CABs, including a critical review of assessment reports and quality check of the dossiers before submission to the European Commission.

GAC assessors, technical assessors and auditors will carry out model assessments and participate in virtual trainings as well as hands-on experience in observations and witnessing audits.

Main activities (continued)

Knowledge and experience gained through the above activities will be shared with other CABs and NABs from the Eastern Partnership countries. This will be done through regional workshops and also through recording and dissemination of experiences and lessons learned via Q&A documentation, blog posts and newsletter articles.

Expected outputs

- Successful submission of application for extension of accreditation of 2 conformity assessment bodies (CABs)
- Capacity building of GAC, the Georgian National Accreditation Body, and extension of the scope of its activities to organic product certification
- Documentation and knowledge transfer to CABs and NABs in the EaP region

Links to Green Transformation

Organic farming does not use synthetic pesticides and fertilizers which has a number of positive effects on the environment, including reduced water and soil pollution, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and reduced harm to biodiversity.

Contacts

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Website

<https://www.eastern-partnership.ptb.de/about-the-project/activities/ptb-fund-quality-infrastructure-for-green-transformation-qi4gt/>