

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF ESTONIA AND THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA
ON SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
AGRICULTURE**

The Ministry of Agriculture of Estonia and the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding,

recognizing the leading role of the sector of agriculture in enhancing economic development and achieving food security;

aiming at the development of economic and scientific relations in the fields of agriculture and food industry;

proceeding from the necessity to promote favorable conditions for market relations development;

understanding the importance of consultation and coordination at all levels to reinforce cooperation between the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding;

have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Within the scope of their competence and legislation in force, the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding undertake to foster mutually beneficial economic and scientific cooperation between the persons engaged in agriculture and food processing industry.

ARTICLE II

The Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding shall promote cooperation in the following directions:

- development of bilateral trade relations between Georgia and Estonia in the framework of treaties entered into by the European Community, its Member States and Georgia;
- bringing Georgian institutions and enterprises into accordance with the requirements of the European Union (including the harmonisation of national legislation with the Acquis Communautaire and the implementation of those legal acts in the fields of veterinary medicine and plant protection);
- development of research contacts and extension activities;

- collaboration, two-way exchanges and trainings in the collection, characterisation, documentation, preservation and utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources according to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

ARTICLE III

The Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding shall promote and develop technical cooperation in the following areas of agriculture:

- seed growing and plant breeding; implementation of the Plant Variety Protection System;
- cattle and swine breeding;
- fisheries;
- veterinary;
- plant protection;
- food safety;
- marketing.

ARTICLE IV

Economic and scientific cooperation between the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding shall be implemented through the following measures:

- exchange of information, normative acts, standards and product samples of mutual interest;
- promotion and enhancement of bilateral trade relations with regard to agricultural products;
- attraction of investments and creation of joint enterprises in the sector of agriculture;
- organisation of business agro-forums with the participation of relevant industries;
- organisation of expert consultations on the questions of mutual interest for fostering further cooperation;
- organisation of joint events and activities (exhibitions, workshops, conferences, etc.);
- assistance in the establishment of direct contacts between different stakeholders engaged in the sector of agriculture.

ARTICLE V

The corresponding units of the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding involved in foreign economic cooperation shall be responsible for the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding. According to this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding are also

responsible for the implementation of specific projects, programmes of mutual activity and legislative cooperation,

The expenses incurred by the implementation of the current Memorandum of Understanding shall be covered by the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding in conformity with their respective national legislation.

ARTICLE VI

Bi-Annual cooperation programmes shall be signed by the Secretary General of the Ministries of both countries.

ARTICLE VII

By the mutual consent of the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding, this Memorandum of Understanding may be amended, modified and terminated by a separate Protocol, which shall become an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding. The Protocol shall enter into force pursuant to the provisions of Article VIII.

ARTICLE VIII

The present Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature. It can be terminated by a written request by one Party to the Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be repealed in three months from the date of the receipt by one Party of the written notification from the other Party about its desire to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed on January, 21st 2010 in three original copies in Georgian, Estonian and English languages, all three texts having equal validity. In case of dispute, the English version shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Agriculture of
Estonia

For the Ministry of Agriculture of
Georgia

Helir-Valdor Seeder
Minister

Bakur Kvezereli
Minister

