



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

JANUARY 2022

According to the EU Commission Regulation EU 2022/34 of 22 December 2021, Georgia has been added to the list of countries, whence snails are allowed to be exported to the EU market



Before adopting the respective regulation, certain measures intended to get closer to the EU legislation were taken by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the National Food Agency. All strides were made under the framework of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA).

It should be mentioned, that a number of projects promoting the development of snail production in Georgia have been implemented by the Rural Development Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

In total, 38 loans exceeding 10 million GEL were issued for creation and development of snail production under the preferential agro-credit project. The co-financing of the Rural Development Agency amounted to over 824,000 GEL.

Moreover, Georgian honey (from 2016), Black Sea anchovy (from 2017), pet food products (for dogs, cats..from 2020) and certain categories of non-food products (leather, wool) are allowed to be exported from Georgia to the EU market. .

It should be mentioned, that 173 tonnes of honey were exported to various markets, including 143 tonnes exported to the European countries in 2021.

The total value of exported honey amounted to USD 657 000. The value of export was increased by 436%, while the volume increased by 696% compared to the same period of the previous year.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20643/>

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The cooperation between the Embassy of Georgia in the State of Qatar and the company Spar has resulted in a special shelf space to allocate for Georgian honey in the Spar supermarket chain in one of the largest shopping malls (Tawar Mall) in Doha.

A special shelf space for Georgian honey will be allocated in all stores of the Spar supermarket chain in Qatar, where customers will be able to buy high quality, natural Georgian bee honey.

Georgian honey is also available in large supermarket chains in Qatar, such as LULU, Family Food Center. Through joint cooperation with the Embassy of Georgia in the State of Qatar and the Mercy Corps, Alliances Caucasus Program (ALCP), the wild honey "Jara" produced in Georgia (by using traditional methods) was exported for the first time in the State of Qatar.

It should be noted, that in 2020, the relevant agencies of Qatar and Georgia approved a "Veterinary certificate issued for the export of honey and other beekeeping products from Georgia to the State of Qatar", which simplified the export procedures for Georgian honey to the state of Qatar and boosted honey exports from Georgia. Accordingly, in 2020, honey exports from Georgia to Qatar increased by 350%, compared to the same period of the previous year. In 2021, the export was increased by 255% compared to 2020.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20628/>



Government of Georgia approves technical regulations on walnuts and almonds

GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA
APPROVES TECHNICAL
REGULATIONS ON WALNUTS AND ALMONDS



The technical regulations on walnuts and almonds prepared by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture has been approved by the Government of Georgia.

On June 1, 2022, the regulations will enter into force, under which the principles will be set out for regulating the products intended for export, namely, walnut in shell / walnut kernels and almond / almond kernels and blanched almond kernels.

The technical regulations include requirements for product safety and quality, as well as conformity assessment procedures and hygiene requirements for business operators.

The regulations set specific requirements for walnut in shells / walnut kernel and almond in shell / almond kernel / blanched almond kernel.

In accordance with the technical regulations, the business operator, who undertakes production / processing / distribution or export of walnuts / almonds, is responsible (obliged) for ensuring the compliance with the requirements set by the “general rules of food / animal hygiene” and committed to implementation of a system based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) in line with the Food / Animal Feed Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection Code.

It should be noted, that regulations were prepared in close cooperation with the Almond and Walnut Growers Association.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20633/>

Levan Davitashvili: “Expo 2020 Dubai” offers a good opportunity for millions of visitors of the international exhibition to get familiar with the potential of our country“



learn about Georgia’s unique culture, cultural heritage, history, biodiversity, also to get familiar with the potential of our country. The strategic location of our country offers a good opportunity for setting up a business, running a commerce, establishing trade relations and issuing transit permits. Georgian Pavilion enables to see its distinguished strategic location as the main area of interest.

“We emphasize, that our cultural heritage is recognized by UNESCO, besides that, we say, that Georgia is a modern country, that offers many opportunities to the modern world” - said Mr. Levan Davitashvili.

At the “Expo 2020 Dubai”, Georgian pavilion presented four thematic areas - traditional winemaking, Georgian script, dynamics of tourism destinations and tourism development areas and business environment.

Last year, the event could not be held due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Government of the United Arab Emirates made its best efforts to hold “Expo 2020 Dubai” in 2021.

“It’s worth mentioning, that a record 191 countries were participating in “Expo 2020 Dubai” year.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20633/>



December 29, 2021, Georgian National Day was celebrated in Dubai within the framework of the international exhibition “Expo 2020 Dubai”. Georgian delegation was headed by Vice Prime Minister Mr. Levan Davitashvili.

“Our country’s pavilion has more than a thousand visitors a day and provides a good opportunity for millions of visitors to the international exhibition to

Levan Davitashvili “ Holding negotiations with the United Arab Emirates on free trade is of utmost importance”

Georgia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed an agreement on starting free trade negotiation during “Dubai Expo 2020” .

“It should be noted, that the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia has been working with the partners in the United Arab Emirates to start free trade negotiations. Moreover, the agreement on free trade has been reached in a reasonably short time frame; usually it takes a long time. I hope, that next stage will be even more fruitful.

The United Arab Emirates is a center for economic innovations and trade relations. We have a liberal trade policy, an open trade policy, which will be an important signal for partner countries. I would like to emphasize, that this is a region, where the potential for growth of export of Georgia’s agricultural products really exists. After signing the Free Trade Agreement, we will be able to use these resources more efficiently and I believe our goals will be achieved in a very short time span” said the Minister Levan Davitashvili.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20639/>



EU supports Georgia in strengthening food safety system and helps in sharing experiences of successful countries



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. George Khanishvili attended the event at the Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace, where activities carried out within the framework of the EU-funded Twinning project - “Ensuring further progress of the SPS and food safety system in Georgia” were summed up by participants, who also highlighted key aspects of the project, as well as future plans.

While addressing the participants, George Khanishvili expressed his appreciation for the EU’s support to strengthening the food safety system in Georgia.

“Georgia is going through a new important phase of implementing modern food safety standards and approximating with the EU legislation in this area; therefore, sharing the experiences of the EU Member States involved in this project is essential” - stated Mr. Khanishvili.

“The approximation process with the European Union legislation in the field of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary is proceeding according to the plan. In 2015-2020, up to 150 legal acts were approximated within the framework of the DCFTA agreement. As a result of the support provided by the European Union, we already have tangible results in protecting the interests of consumers, introducing modern standards in production and raising awareness in the business sector. However, challenges remain as we move forward. We have ambition to make Georgian products competitive on the EU market. In this regard, it is important to share the experience of other successful countries and this opportunity is being offered by the Twinning project” stated Mr. Zurab Chekurashvili, Head of the National Food Agency.

“EU continues supporting Georgia in strengthening food safety for better consumer protection and export opportunities in Agriculture. The main benefit of the Twinning project is that it will boost the competitiveness of Georgian products in the European Union market and strengthen consumer confidence in the food control system” said the project leader, Director General of Latvian Food and Veterinary Service, Māris Balodis.

The event was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Khvtisiashvili, representatives of the diplomatic corps, the Ministry of Finance, non-governmental sector and sectoral associations. The Twinning project has been implemented since October 2020, with the involvement of Georgia, Latvia, Estonia and Sweden. Experts invited from partner countries within the project share their knowledge and practical experience with their Georgian counterparts.

“Twinning” is a European Union instrument allowing for a direct exchange of knowledge and expertise between EU Member States public administrations and their counterparts in the Beneficiary Country. The project will run until November 2022.

For additional information please see the following link :

<https://www.pvd.gov.lv/en/projects/ensuring-further-progress-sps-and-food-safety-system-georgia-no-ge-18-eni-ag-07-19-eu-financed-twinning-project;%20www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia>

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20644/>

Levan Davitashvili:

“I believe, that Georgian wine companies will be even more successful in new markets in 2022”



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20642/>

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Levan Davitashvili commented on the diversification of wine markets, noting, that in 2021, the share of exports in the Russian market was 57%, which is the lowest rate, if compare these data to the period before imposing the embargo on the Georgian products (when 87% was taken up by Russian market), and over the past few years after lifting the embargo. The decline in market share is resulted from the consistent policy of the Ministry-was noted by the Minister Davitashvili.

“ We should take certain measures towards diversification and annually reduce the dependence on the Russian market, which implies more marketing activities in the new markets, where awareness of Georgian wine is relatively low. Last year, the export of Georgian wine approached the million mark for the first time in the US market, thus selecting Georgian wine as a marketing priority. Our goal is to actively implement a project, which supports the individual marketing initiatives and state co-financing for trade marketing.

In September, 2021, we held a presentation of the respective program, which aroused great interest from winemakers. Moreover, we are expecting to be more active in the priority markets of our country, especially, if we are strengthening diversification and effectively implementing the aforementioned program. I believe, that Georgian wine companies will be even more successful in the new markets “ Minister Davitashvili said.

Nino Tandilashvili participates in the discussion of the project “Support to Implementation of the Forest Sector Reform in Georgia - ECO.Georgia”

“Climate change is the major challenge facing the world. Therefore, all sectors should take climate change adaptation measures to meet the existing challenges “- said the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili at the working meeting in Telavi municipality.

The Government of Georgia will implement a seven year project in Dedoplistskaro, Telavi, Akhmeta, Kvareli, Chokhatauri, Lanchkhuti, Ozurgeti and Tianeti municipalities.

In the course of the meeting, the importance of the project was underlined by Mrs. Tandilashvili, who also brought forward activities, which are purposefully planned to be implemented within 7 years.

“Georgia entered into almost all international agreements or conventions, aiming at mitigating and adapting to climate change. We are actively working to ensure the fulfillment of our commitments and taking actions to address climate change and mitigate its impacts not only at a national , but also at a global level “ said the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

The unprecedented financial and technical support of the project will help to establish sustainable forest management in the country, it will contribute to the well-being of the local population, strengthen and improve control on forest and forest resources and increase oversight capabilities. Moreover, the respective project will improve protection and sustainable use of forest ecosystems, forest monitoring and conservation of biodiversity. Dozens of people will be employed as part of the project.

For the implementation of the project, the Supervisory Board of GCF ap-

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20646/>



proved a grant of 33 million euros. The project is co-funded by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (EUR 10 000 000 million) and the Government of the Swiss Confederation (EUR 4 000 000 million). The total amount of a grant is 47 million euros.

The representatives of the relevant departments of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the GCF, the embassies of Germany and Switzerland, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and local self-government took part in the discussion of the project.

A series of public informational meetings will be organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), which will be gradually held in all aforementioned municipalities.

As of January 23, Georgia exported 18.4 thousand tonnes of hazelnut

From August 1, 2021 to January 23, 2022, Georgia exported 18.4 thousand tonnes of hazelnut, which has amounted into USD 84.5 mln.

The volume of exports increased by 28 % (4.0 tonnes) during the aforementioned period, while the value of exports increased by 11%, amounting to USD 8.3 mln, compared to the same period in 2021.

The vast majority of Georgian hazelnut is exported to EU markets - Italy (7,621 tonnes), Germany (3,533 tonnes), Spain (522 tonnes), Czech Republic (467 tonnes), Poland (379 tonnes), France (339 tonnes), Lithuania (327 tonnes), Bulgaria (144 tonnes), Greece (71 tonnes), Latvia (70 tonnes), Estonia (60 tonnes), Belgium (41 tonnes), Hungary (22 tonnes), Croatia (20 tonnes).

Georgian hazelnut is exported to the following countries, such as: Armenia (1,290 tons), China (785 tonnes), Russia (400 tonnes), Ukraine (339 tonnes), Saudi Arabia (301 tonnes), Belarus (251 tonnes), Algeria (241 tonnes), Switzerland (173 tonnes), Iraq (168 tonnes), Mexico (120 tonnes), Canada (120 tonnes), Argentina (105 tonnes), Turkey (92 tonnes), Azerbaijan (82 tonnes), United Arab Emirates (75 tonnes), Kazakhstan (45 tonnes), Uzbekistan (44 tonnes), Jordan (30 tonnes), Tunisia (27 tonnes), United Kingdom (22 tonnes), Kyrgyzstan (22 tonnes).

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20645>



From September 1 to December 26, 2021, Georgia exported 33.7 thousand tonnes of tangerines, which has amounted into USD 16.4 mln.

In 2021, tangerines are mainly exported to Russia (22 677 tonnes), Armenia (6 086 tonnes), Ukraine (3 582 tonnes), Moldova (463 tonnes), Slovenia (172 tonnes), Kazakhstan (301 tonnes), Estonia (104 tonnes), Kyrgyzstan (80 tonnes), and other countries (78 tonnes)

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20635>



As of December 26, 2021, Georgia exported 12.1 thousand tonnes of persimmon, which has amounted into USD 6.1 mln.

During the mentioned period, persimmons are exported to Armenia (5 744 tonnes), Russia (3, 752 tonnes), Ukraine (2 385 tonnes), Turkey (108 tonnes), Kazakhstan (62 tonnes), Moldova (39 tonnes) and other countries (10 tonnes).

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20636>





From August 1 to December 12, 2021, Georgia exported 3 792 tonnes of apple, which has amounted to USD 2.5 mln.

During the mentioned period, the apples were mostly exported to Russian Federation (3, 787 tonnes), only 5 tonnes of apples were exported to Armenia

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20637>

Total income from the exports of wine, brandy, chacha, tap brandy and brandy spirits amounted up to USD \$ 400 million, which is 18% higher compared to 2020, and 142% more than in 2012

In 2021, Georgia exported 107 million bottles of wine to 62 countries, which is the highest mark in the history of independent Georgia. In 2021, the export of Georgian wine was 359% higher than in 2012. In 2012, only 23 million bottles of wine were exported from Georgia, and the income derived from exports amounted to USD 71 million, while in 2021, the income received from 107 million bottles of wine exported from Georgia was equal to USD 250 million. In 2021, both the amount of exported wine and export earnings increased by 16% compared to 2020. Apart from wine, 42.2 million bottles (0.5 l) of brandy were exported from Georgia to many countries around the world in 2021, which is 30% higher compared to 2020 and 554% more than in 2012 (only 6 million bottles were exported). Brandy export earnings reached USD 78.3 million (up 19%). In 2012, the brandy exports earned USD 20 million.

In 2021, 1 million bottles (0.5 l) of chacha were exported; the increase in exports compared to 2020 was 145%, while the increase compared to 2012 was 622% (in 2012, 145 thousand bottles of chacha were exported).

Revenue from chacha exports in 2021 reached \$ 2.6 million. The growth rate of export was 126% compared to the same period last year. In 2012, the income from the export of chacha was USD 584 thousand.

Georgian wine export maintains the growing dynamics in the strategic markets, where marketing measures are being implemented by National Wine Agency aiming to boost popularity and increase awareness of Georgian wine: Poland 34% (7003031), China 29% (5934937), USA 19% (1084278), Germany 28% (892348), Latvia 19% (1900519), Lithuania 45% (986740), Japan 12% (197638) and Great Britain 71% (736391).

Export increases are achieved in the following countries: Canada 76% (332182), Sweden 76% (136786), Czech Republic 227% (148002), Norway 1047% (108086), Israel 50% (480007), Kazakhstan 47% (4232446), Azerbaijan 35% (246635), Turkey 260% (108570), Ukraine 21% (12921321), Russia 8% (62115759), Mongolia 158% (484902), Belarus 33% (4886393) etc.

According to the data of 2021, the share of the Russian market in Georgian wine exports is the lowest - 57% - considering years before the Russian embargo and after it.



It is worth mentioning, that for the first time in the history of independent Georgia, Georgian wine exports to the United States exceeded 1 million bottles.

441 Georgian companies exported different volumes of wine from Georgia, while in 2012, only 120 companies had the opportunity to export wine.”

Overall, the total income from the exports of wine, brandy, chacha, tap brandy and brandy spirits amounted up to USD 400 million, which is 18% higher compared to 2020 and 142% more than in 2012, amounting to USD 163 million.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20648/>