



## PRESS RELEASE

### ENPARD to support the business plans of 40 primary producer groups

Yerevan, 18 February, 2016

During the week of 8-12 February 2016, in total **40 primary production groups from Shirak, Lori, Kotayk, Gegharkunik and Aragatsotn regions presented their agricultural business plans on buckwheat, non-traditional vegetables, fruit and berry value chains** within ENPARD Armenia's Technical Assistance Project "Producer Group and Value Chain Development".

**33 primary producer groups of buckwheat, 4 of non-traditional vegetables, and 3 of fruit and berries had prepared their business plans during 2 months with the assistance of consultants.** Each of the business plans was unique, designed according to the climate, geography, available resources, number of members, and other characteristics of the groups and their communities. The farmers, confident and optimistic, presented the agricultural profile of their communities, the projections of their production, marketing, implementation and financial plans (ENPARD grant and own investments), cost/profit estimations and other details of their business plans.

The production groups will receive agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers) and necessary equipment (machinery, tools) for the first year of production from ENPARD funds. In addition, the producer groups will be supported to register as agricultural cooperatives and institutionalise their activities.

ENPARD (European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development) is financed by the European Union to ensure sustainable agricultural development in Armenia. One of its components, "Producer Group and Value Chain Development", is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with top-up funding from the Austrian Development Agency.

The main objective of this component is to support agricultural cooperatives and engage producer groups effectively in value addition.

The project was launched in January 2015 and its duration is 36 months.

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The project is financed by the European Union and Austrian Development Agency

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

The project is implemented by the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UN Development Programme (UNDP)

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"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders."