

Seminars on Sustainable Land Management, Crop Production, and Pest and Disease Control Held in Target Communities of the Project for Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region

Alaverdi



Acori



Marts



Qarinj



Tumanyan



Dsegh

In October 12-14 2010, the Green Lane Agricultural Assistance NGO conducted seminars in Alaverdi (Sanahin, Akner, Madan), Acori, Dsegh, Tumanyan, Qarinj, Marts communities of Lori region, Armenia. The seminars aimed to once again draw the attention of the most proactive farmers in these target communities to the current issues of land degradation in the region. The total number of the participants of 6 seminars was 116, 61 of which were women. The Green Lane NGO will continue with seminars for two weeks, in this period in total 212 people (104 of which are women) will participate in 11 seminars.

The seminars were implemented within the framework of the project for Sustainable and Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region that is supported by the EU and jointly implemented by CENN and the Caucasus Regional Environmental Centre (RECC).

The main focus of the seminars was on the sustainable land management issues faced currently by the farmers in Lori region. Particular attention was paid to the issues of soil quality improvement, increasing soil fertility and productivity as well as introduction of innovative crop cultivation techniques and environment-friendly pest and disease control methods.

The seminars have been facilitated in an interactive way with participants being actively involved in discussions and knowledge and idea sharing process.

The Green Lane's expert team answered a number of farmers' questions regarding land degradation, environment protection and application of sustainable farming practices. All the questions and issues raised and discussed during the seminars will be summarized by the expert team in special Question & Answer Sheets, which, together with a number of brochures published as a part of the project activities, will be distributed to the participants of future meetings with farmers of the project target communities.

The participants discussed some issues related to the difficulties faced by the farmers in marketing their produce. To help farmers overcome these difficulties, the Green Lane team is going to organize meetings for the community governors and representatives of trading and processing companies.

During the seminars, the farmers received vegetable seeds donated by the Armenian University Educational NGO.

When summarizing the results of the seminars, the participants thanked the organizers and expressed hopefulness that the project team will find opportunities to regularly have this kind of meetings and seminars in local communities.

Donations have been made also by Green Lane and CENN. The libraries of the above target communities received 17 books and publications on vegetable, fruit and berry growing, forage production, livestock farming, etc, from these two organizations. When summarizing the results of the seminars, the participants thanked the organizers and expressed hopefulness that the project team will find

opportunities to regularly have this kind of meetings and seminars in local communities.