STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF SMALLHOLDERS IN BERRY PRODUCTION

April 2022

SDGs:

Country: Republic of Moldova

Project Code: TCP/MOL/3608 and TCP/MOL/3801

FAO Contribution: USD 455,000 (TCP/MOL/3608)
USD 55,000 (TCP/MOL 3801)

Duration: 30 December 2017 – 30 December 2019 (TCP/MOL/3608)
1 June 2020 – 31 December 2021 (TCP/MOL/3801)

Contact Info: FAO Representation in Republic of Moldova
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Implementing Partners
The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and the National Agency for Rural Development (ACSA).

Beneficiaries
Smallholder and family farmers, the rural extension service, and professional government staff.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs
Outcome 2 – Fostering sustainable agriculture and rural development.
Output 2.3 – New production technologies and guidelines for berries production available for small holder farmers.

BACKGROUND
There is room for growth in the berry sector in the Republic of Moldova. The sector has remained hindered by several factors, including a lack of varieties that are resistant to climate and transport hazards, insufficient post-harvest practices, a deficiency in marketing standards to support exports, and a limited knowledge among farmers in the application of economic, technological and management principles to strawberry and berry production.

This project was therefore designed to provide technical assistance in the identification of suitable regions for strawberry and berry production and in the establishment of demonstration fields that could be used for training activities. The technical training was envisioned to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers on berry production, as well as to develop the capacity of extension service providers so that they could serve as a resource for supporting farmers in the long term.

After an initial phase that was implemented between December 2017 and December 2019, a Phase II was carried out between June 2020 and December 2021 to allow for several remaining activities to be conducted.

IMPACT
The project aimed to support the sustainable development of agriculture in the Republic of Moldova by improving strawberry and berry production through the introduction of modern methodologies and technologies.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS
The project Outcome, which aimed to strengthen national technical capacities for utilizing innovative technology in strawberry and berry production, was achieved, as were all four of the project Outputs.

Following the signing of a letter of agreement (LOA), the National Agency for Rural Development (ACSA) selected ten consultants from the Rural Extension Service (SER) to receive training as facilitators for the founding and management of Farmer Field Schools (FFSs). Several training of master trainers (TMT) sessions were conducted. The initial TMT sessions developed the capacity of FFS host specialists by covering a broad range of relevant topics. Two curricula were developed by FAO and the ACSA for practical and participatory training of the FFS facilitators, which was delivered through a series of presentations and documents. Ten FFSs were established across the country, where training was delivered on key elements of berry production and management.

The project successfully demonstrated and tested modern technologies for the production of strawberries and other berries, as well as their associated planting materials. The project team, together with the ACSA, identified and provided specifications for seven improved berry varieties to be imported from Italy for use at pilot demonstration sites. Similarly, the specification of agricultural materials and supplies that needed to be procured for the establishment of the demonstration sites, as well as the selection of farmers to host demonstration plots, was carried out in a collaborative manner by the project team and the ACSA.

Five pilot demonstration sites were established. Awareness-raising activities to support public confidence in sustainable strawberry and berry production were also completed during the inception workshop, as well as at training sessions, FFSs and farmer field days. In particular, field days at three different pilot demonstration plots were held to reach a broader audience, drawing attention to the multiple facets of success concerning new technology introduced by the project. This included the introduction of innovative methodologies for fruit production and the propagation of planting materials, as well as for testing soil and water conditions.
Additional training on the multiplication and maintenance of planting materials was delivered at farmer field days. The first series of practical field days covered production technologies and the propagation of planting materials, while the second series addressed integrated pest management (IPM) or macro/microelement fertilization. Finally, several draft technical guidelines and manuals were developed, covering the production of strawberry, blackberry, raspberry and redcurrant in the country; planting materials for strawberry and berries; and IPM. Finally, a draft manual on good practices in post-harvest processing, which considers European Union (EU) regulations and market requirements in terms of hygiene, packaging and berry traceability, was also prepared by an international consultant.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

During its initial phase of implementation, delays led to a lack of achievement of several of the project activities. A second phase to complete these activities was requested and granted. Despite further delays caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic under Phase II, the majority of planned activities were implemented successfully, with a few being carried out virtually in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. Activity 1.5, which envisaged the implementation of national conferences/workshops on good agricultural practices (GAPs) could not be held because of the restrictions. Under Activity 1.6, a final workshop was to be organized; however, it also could not be held because of the pandemic restrictions. That being said, the major results of the project were discussed at meetings and informational materials were distributed. All activities were implemented within the allocated budget.

The risks to implementation were managed successfully by the project team, whose flexible approach allowed for adaptation.

**FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION**

The project identified key technical gaps and capacity-development needs under each Output. Further support should be provided to berry farmers, especially in marketing, processing and value addition to increase productivity.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

1. **Capacity development**

The Government and the ACSA are committed to supporting the demonstration sites for strawberry and berry production using innovative technologies that were established under the project. Additionally, ongoing training efforts are expected to make use of the training manuals and extension materials developed. The commitment to maintaining project outcomes is firmly embedded in national policies on phytosanitary requirements for importing new plant genetic materials both for research purposes and for fostering the introduction of improved crop varieties. These efforts were made possible by strengthened relationships between government ministries, the ACSA, the Berry Farmers Association and farming communities, who are committed to the sustainability of the project Outputs.

2. **Gender equality**

Both men and women participated in project design and inception. Field and training activities equitably benefited women and men involved in the production, marketing and processing of berries, and they are expected to continue to benefit equitably along the strawberry and berry production and distribution chain, as well as through the availability of fruits for consumption.

3. **Environmental sustainability**

The project focused on improving the management of resources to support sustainable agriculture through an integrated crop management approach that utilized improved varieties, and addressed soil nutrient and water management, IPM, proper post-harvest handling and environmentally friendly storage.

4. **Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work**

Although the strawberry and berry sector is still in its infancy, the project supported its development, which will ultimately foster a higher degree of food security and generate employment opportunities along the value chain. These outcomes were supported by the project’s top-down and bottom-up participatory approach, which took all stakeholders into consideration in project development and implementation and ensured accountability and transparency in the development of policies and strategies for natural resource management to address climate change. This will ensure an effective response to the needs and full range of rights for all parties involved.
5. Technological sustainability

The improved methodologies for agricultural production and management met the requirements of farmers, particularly those looking to expand into strawberry and berry production. All of the technologies and information introduced, and management practices demonstrated are accessible to and replicable by farmers nationwide. Importantly, the establishment of FFSs with trained personnel allows for the continued strengthening of farmers’ capacities using locally available expertise beyond the project.

The project established five pilot demonstration sites. The development of a technical manual and guidelines and training materials is expected to have a long-term impact on introducing project interventions and skills to other districts and farming communities. The selected stakeholders and targeted beneficiaries were provided with extensive support. They have the potential to adopt improved technologies and practices to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project results without further support.

6. Economic sustainability

The establishment of a nursery for planting materials will continue to support the availability of agricultural resources beyond the project.

At the time of reporting, no additional funds had been allocated; however, the project highlighted the need to mobilize resources to scale up the interventions nationwide, and to support marketing, processing and further research and development of climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices for berry fruits.

DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ACSA. Training of master trainers materials. 34 pp.
## Achievement of Results - Logical Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Impact</th>
<th>Berry production strengthened through the introduction of new approaches and instruments for its sustainable development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Smallholder farmer and extension services’ technical capacities are improved for berry production through the establishment of demonstration sites and capacity building</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Indicator       | - Farmers’ capacity developed in berry production using innovative technologies and new varieties, increasing sources of greater income, especially in rural areas.  
                   - Specialists received training on the concepts and practices of innovative berry production technologies.  
                   - Demonstration sites for production and nursery are established. |
| Baseline        | - No FFSs on berry production exist.  
                   - Limited knowledge of few experts from NGOs.  
                   - Limited production of berries and planting materials using innovative technologies, and very low compatibility with no capacity to meet the natural and climatic conditions of the area |
| End Target      | - Ten FFSs are established in three different regions of the country  
                   - At least 30 persons representing the Ministry, research institutes, NGOs and farmer organizations are trained at the national level.  
                   - Establishment of two demonstration sites (1 ha in total) for production of berries using most suitable varieties and establishment of nursery (0.5 ha) for production of planting materials for farmers’ use. |
| Comments and follow-up action to be taken | Under the second phase of the project, all of the objectives were achieved. Activities on developing national and smallholder farmer capacities for strawberry and berry production and promoting the use of innovative agricultural methodologies were carried out. Five demonstration plots were established for the cultivation of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and redberry. |

### Output 1

**Strengthened capacity of the country for promotion of innovative technologies on planting material and berry production**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers’ capacity developed in berry production using innovative technologies and new varieties, increasing sources of greater income, especially in rural areas.</td>
<td>Ten FFSs are established in three different regions of the country.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

**Baseline**

- No FFSs on berry production exist.

**Comments**

The planned activities under this Output were completed, with the exception of Activity 1.5. Activity 1.6 was partially completed. Both of these activities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

**Activity 1.1**

**Organize an inception workshop (WS1) under the auspices of the MARDE to discuss with a wide range of stakeholders the project objectives, identify needs and priorities of berry production sector in view of improving national capacity building programs and review the project work plan**

**Achieved**

Yes

**Comments**

A joint inception workshop was conducted for this project and TCP/MOL/3607 (Support to Capacity Building on Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Implementation of Local Community Development Pilot Projects) on 25 January 2018. This was followed by a project planning workshop held on 28 March 2019, attended by 38 participants. The workshop was facilitated by the LTO, the ACSA, and an International Horticulture Specialist, and a report was produced. Several delays were experienced in project implementation beyond the workshop, including the development and finalization of the LOA with the service provider, the ACSA, and the recruitment of project staff and international consultants.

**Activity 1.2**

**Determine and establish suitable advisory system for berry production with purpose of provision to smallholders services (e.g. machinery hire, input supplies and delivery services, farm power, equipment), trainings and education programmes designed for the farmers**

**Achieved**

Yes

**Comments**

In line with the LOA signed with the ACSA, the ACSA project coordinator and a specialist from within the ACSA executive directorate selected ten consultants from the SER to receive training as facilitators for the founding and management of ten FFSs.
## Activity 1.3

At least five formal trainings of master trainers (TMTs) on the concepts and practices of innovative planting material and berry production technologies

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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</table>

**Comments**

Twenty-six participants attended TMT sessions on 23–24 May 2019, facilitating the development of FFS host specialists with knowledge on (i) the concept, elements and specializations of FFSs; (ii) the implementation of FFS curricula and topics for resultative and methodical demonstrations; (iii) the particularities necessary for the growth and fructification of strawberry and berries; (iv) the requirements for soil and irrigation for berry crops; and (v) the application of fertilizer for berries and the diagnosis of soil and water. The TMT session on soil testing and analysis was held on 23 October 2019, while the session covering IPM on strawberry and berry plantations was held on 13 December 2019.

## Activity 1.4

Organize at least two trainings of master trainers (TMTs) for national professional staff and extension service providers, farmer associations and NGOs on FFS methodology and facilitation of the season-long FFSs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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</table>

**Comments**

Two TMT sessions on improved berry production and management practices were conducted on 27–28 June 2019 and 8–9 August 2019. The trainings focused on the multiplication of strawberry planting materials and berry crops, the application of mulches with non-woven fabrics (both agryl and lutrasil), packaging and the technological requirements for the use of packaging; the appreciation of phytosanitary status and IPM on fruit plantations, and the propagation of strawberry and berry crops.

## Activity 1.5

Organize at least two national berry conferences/workshops on good agricultural practices and review experience of other countries and raise awareness on modern technologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>No</th>
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</table>

**Comments**

This activity was proposed for consideration during the second phase of project implementation; however, the conferences could not be organized due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its related restrictions.

## Activity 1.6

Organize a final workshop

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<tr>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Partially</th>
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**Comments**

Owing to time constraints, as well as the delayed recruitment and missions carried out by the international consultant, there were also delays in the completion of the technical peer review and in the editing and publication of the technical manual and extension materials. The activity was proposed for completion during the second phase of project implementation; however, it could not be carried out because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The major results of the project were discussed at meetings organized with the main beneficiaries and stakeholders of the project. Informational materials on the achievements of the project were disseminated among the targeted groups of berry producers.

## Output 2

Innovative technologies on planting materials and berry production demonstrated and tested

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of demonstration sites to be used for trainings and FFSs.</td>
<td>Three demonstration sites established and trainings conducted.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Baseline**

No demonstration sites.

**Comments**

The envisioned Output was achieved through the completion of planned activities. In fact, the target was exceeded, as five demonstration plots were established in the villages of Meleseni, Mana, Hristoforovca, Negueni and Dobruja Veche. These consist of strawberry plots (400 square metres on average), a raspberry plot (1,500 square metres), a blackberry plot (6,000 square metres) and a redcurrant plot (2,000 square metres). Additional efforts that raised awareness about the project were completed during the second phase of implementation through the organized events and dissemination of technical materials.

## Activity 2.1

Identify in a participatory manner together with country’s research and extension systems suitable type of berries, varieties and cultivars, prepare technical specifications for the tender and procurement of the planting materials of the identified species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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**Comments**

The project team, in collaboration with the ACSA, identified and provided detailed specifications for the import of improved berry varieties from Italy. These included four strawberry varieties (Albion, Selva, Annabelle and Elba), one raspberry variety (Tulane), one blackberry variety (Lockness) and one redcurrant variety (Jonker) for pilot demonstrations.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity 2.2</th>
<th>Identify the list of tools, equipment and machinery needed for establishment and development of demonstration sites and develop the technical specifications for tender and procurement of the needed equipment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>The project team, in collaboration with the ACSA, identified and provided detailed specifications for the procurement of agricultural supplies and materials required for the establishment of pilot demonstration sites, in addition to the import of berry varieties from Italy. Delays were experienced in the procurement of greenhouses and facilities from overseas suppliers, which delayed the establishment of pilot demonstration sites.</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity 2.3</th>
<th>Select suitable regions and implementing partners for establishment and maintenance of at least three demonstration sites to be used for trainings and farmer field schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>The project team and the ACSA selected five farmers to host pilot demonstration plots using the criteria that had previously been agreed upon.</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Activity 2.4</th>
<th>Establishment and maintenance of at least three demonstration sites (0.5 ha each) including land preparation, analysis of the soil for pests and pathogens, using soil amendments (if testing indicates nutrient toxicity, deficiencies or other problems), installing drip irrigation system and anti-hail nets, planting the plantlets, application of modern production technologies throughout the growing season</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Five pilot demonstration plots were established: (i) Farm Holding (FH) Portnoi Anatolie (strawberry in greenhouses) in Meleseni (village), Calarasi (rayon); (ii) FH Tarus Segiu (strawberry in open fields) in Mana (village), Orhei (rayon); (iii) FH Vizitii Petru (strawberry in open fields and greenhouses) in Hristoforovca (village), Ungheni (rayon); (iv) FH Malai Valeriu (authorized nurseries, strawberry in open fields and greenhouses, and raspberry, blackberry and redcurrant in open fields) in Negureni (village), Telenesti (rayon); and (v) FH Urojai Berezov (strawberry, raspberry, blackberry and redcurrant in open fields) in Dobruja Veche (village), Singerei (rayon).</td>
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<tr>
<th>Activity 2.5</th>
<th>Organize public awareness campaign, including arrangement of video interviews, collecting information, preparing the briefs and success story that will help ensuring public confidence in sustainable agriculture and berry production, specifically</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Awareness-raising activities were completed during the project inception workshop and training sessions, as well as at FFSs and during field days. The awareness-raising campaign included the organization of three field days at the demonstration plots, three TV advertisements, three videos on the agribusiness portal, five articles in the national media, twelve radio reports and social media posts.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Activity 2.6</th>
<th>Organize field days at least two times during the vegetation for a broader audience to demonstrate the innovative technologies of the berries production</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Three field days were completed at three different pilot demonstration plots. At Demo Plot 3, the focus was on modern technologies for fruit production and the propagation of planting materials for strawberry (19 August 2019). At Demo Plot 2, emphasis was placed on modern technologies for fruit production and the propagation of planting material for strawberry, raspberry and blackberry (25 September 2019). At Demo Plot 5, the focus was on testing the conditions and quality of soil and water, as well as key elements in the implementation of modern technologies for the cultivation and propagation of planting materials for berries (25 October 2019).</td>
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### Output 3

**Capacity of smallholders developed on the use of innovative technologies for planting materials and berry production**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training modules are developed.</td>
<td>Three training modules developed.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Baseline**

No training modules.

**Comments**

All the planned activities under this Output were completed.

#### Activity 3.1

Develop training modules and training materials for FFS on application of innovative berry production technologies and plant protection methods as well as multiplication and the maintenance of the planting materials

- **Achieved**: Yes

- **Comments**: In collaboration with the ACSA, the FAO international consultants developed two curricula for the implementation of FFS training. The curricula were used to conduct practical, participatory training sessions for FFS facilitators regarding the application of technological elements to processes involved in the production of seedling materials and berries. Twenty PowerPoint and Word presentations with information on cultivation technologies and the production of planting materials for strawberry and berry crops were used.

#### Activity 3.2

Identify the participating smallholders and facilitators in each region and organize at least one national awareness raising workshop on FFS for smallholders

- **Achieved**: Yes

- **Comments**: The ACSA, in collaboration with the Berry Farmers Association, identified farmers for hosting pilot demonstrations, as well as the farmer communities to be involved in the FFS trainings.

#### Activity 3.3

Set up and implement at least ten farmer field schools in different locations and organize at least ten trainings per year on different subjects related to berry production for participating farmers

- **Achieved**: Yes

- **Comments**: Ten FFSs were established and operationalized in different locations with training being delivered on major aspects of berry production and management. The name (and location) of the ten FFSs are Zaim (Causeni), Speia (Anenii Noi), Melesi (Calarasi), Negureni (Telenesti), Hristofovorca (Ungheni), Mana (Orhei), Dobruja Veche (Singerei), Plopi (Donduseni), Pocrovca (Donduseni) and Colicăuti (Briceni).

#### Activity 3.4

Organize at least two training sessions on the multiplication and the maintenance of the planting materials

- **Achieved**: Yes

- **Comments**: Training sessions were accomplished during farmer field days and expanded upon by each FFS. The first ten practical field days were conducted in July 2019, covering production technologies and the propagation of planting materials for strawberry and berry crops. The second series of field days were conducted in August 2019, covering IPM or macronutrient and microelement fertilization.

#### Activity 3.5

Developing manuals and/or guidelines on innovative berry production technologies and plant protection methods, as well as multiplication and the maintenance of the planting materials for several types of berries

- **Achieved**: Yes

- **Comments**: Under Phase I of the project, the ACSA and international consultants developed and submitted some draft technical manuals and guidelines, which were under review at project closure. These were not finalized due to time constraints. The drafts included:
  - The Technical Manual for Production of Strawberries, Blackberries, Raspberries and Currants in Moldova (56 pages).
  - Production leaflets for strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, and currants.
  - The IPM Guide for Berry Fruits in Moldova.

Under Phase II, the Technical Manual Strawberries, Blackberries, Raspberries and Currant Production in the Republic Moldova (72 pages) was finalized (the title was changed from The Technical Manual for Production of Strawberries, Blackberries, Raspberries and Currants in Moldova). The publication was translated into Romanian and disseminated to the smallholder berry producers.

#### Activity 3.6

**Translation, printing and dissemination, among farmers, farmer associations, extension service providers and Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, manuals and/or guidelines on innovative berry production technologies and plant protection methods as well as multiplication and the maintenance of the planting materials for several types of berries**

- ** Achieved**: Yes

- **Comments**: Under Phase II, the technical guidelines and manuals produced under Activity 3.5 were translated into local languages and disseminated to berry farmers, producer associations, extension service providers and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI).
**Output 4**

**Strengthened market linkages between value chain actors and enhanced capacities of berry producers, traders and processors to meet the market’s needs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Manual/guidelines for good practices in post-harvest and processing are developed.</td>
<td>- A technical manual on postharvest handling, storage and processing developed.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Berry fruit value chain forum meeting conducted.</td>
<td>- One forum meeting held.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Berry value chain analysis and marketing developed.</td>
<td>- Market study and value chain report completed.</td>
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**Baseline**

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**Comments**

Under Phase II, technical guidelines on supply chain and market analysis of berry production were developed and disseminated to berry producers, processors, and farmers’ associations. Webinars on post-harvest practices, value chain analysis and market access were successfully conducted.

**Activity 4.1**

Organize a value chain actors’ forum meeting and present the result of FAO berry value chain analysis

| Achieved | Yes |
| Comments | Under Phase II, the results of the berry value chain analysis were presented during the webinar organized under Activity 4.5. |

**Activity 4.2**

Design and propose a model for berry value chain for internal and provide recommendations for external markets

| Achieved | Yes |
| Comments | Under Phase II, a guideline was developed for supply chain and market analysis. The manual included an analysis of berry export market opportunities for the Republic of Moldova, as well as recommendations for improving the berry supply chain and export promotion. |

**Activity 4.3**

Prepare a manual/guidelines for good practices in post-harvest and processing taking into account EU regulations and the market requirements related to hygiene, packaging and traceability of produced berries

| Achieved | Yes |
| Comments | A guideline entitled Republic of Moldova Supply Chain and Market Analysis (57 pages) was developed. The publication was translated into Romanian. |

**Activity 4.4**

Conduct at least two training sessions on post-harvest processing and value addition

| Achieved | Yes |
| Comments | Under Phase II, a webinar on berry fruit harvesting and post-harvest care was conducted on 17 November 2020 for berry producers, berry producers’ associations and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. The information presented at the webinar covered all aspects of optimal berry crop harvesting and post-harvest care practices so that growers and marketers will be able to reduce post-harvest fruit loss and provide destination markets with consistent supplies of high-quality berries. |

**Activity 4.5**

Conduct at least one training session on market access

| Achieved | Yes |
| Comments | Under Phase II, a webinar on marketing and value chain analyses for berries was organized on 1 December 2020 with the participation of the most important actors along the berry value chain in Republic of Moldova. The webinar increased the level of knowledge of the participants on the domestic berry market, the global berry market, export market channels, berry fruit export market requirements, packaging materials, fruit quality requirements, grade standards, certifications, GlobalG.A.P., GlobalG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP), and food safety. |

**Activity 4.6**

Organize a study tour for two specialists (working in berry processing) to one European Union member country

| Achieved | Yes |
| Comments | Under Phase II, a study tour to Italy was conducted with two selected Moldovan berry farmers and one officer from the Ministry of Agriculture from 16 to 20 September 2019. The team visited (i) a technology research centre; (ii) a company engaged in the propagation and sale of berry seedlings and production of fruits; (iii) a specialized nursery engaged in in vitro multiplication of different berry species, (iv) a farmers’ association with greenhouses for berry crop production; and (v) nurseries for the production of grafted or self-rooted seedlings. |