This booklet illustrates a number of past and existing projects undertaken by US-funded organizations in Armenia over the past 22 years, which have provided technical assistance and financial support throughout the country. The facilitation of cross-organizational dialogue and partnership for upcoming joint initiatives is important for agricultural development in Armenia.

USG-Armenia partnership began in 1993 with the Armenian/American Agricultural Extension Service project and the use of the Land Grant University System. Soon after, the introduction of USDA's Marketing Assistance Project (MAP) was added to incorporate a marketing and credit component to the initial field extension program. Since 2005, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) efforts have placed emphasis on sustainability, promoting high potential value chains, such as cheese, wine, dried fruit, and greenhouse management; agricultural credit, research and education; and the institutional capacity building to conduct an agricultural census that will enable the Armenian Government and other stakeholders to more effectively support the agricultural sector.

The only way USDA was able to accomplish 20 years’ worth of tangible results is due to the long-term and successful partnerships of the National Statistics of Armenia and institutions like the Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU), Agribusiness Teaching Center (ATC), Farm Credit Armenia (FCA), The Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD) and the International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education (ICARE). The past 20 years have resulted in only positive changes to the direct impact on farmers' lives, and we have seen--especially in the last 9 years -- how vibrant education extension programs can rapidly translate into sustainable agricultural development practices.

These institutions recognize that the acceleration of high quality, effective agricultural education, extension, animal health and nutrition, credit, and partnership with private industry, are vital for sustaining socio-economic prosperity and promoting knowledge for farm-agribusiness linkages.

The results of past and present activities have proved that each local institution in this booklet has been a viable independent provider of technical expertise to serve the needs of rural Armenia and to help Armenia participate in international standards-setting institutions.

For questions about this booklet, contact: clemen.gehlhar@fas.usda.gov
Agricultural Extension

FIRST PRIVATE EXTENSION SERVICE IN ARMENIA

The establishment of the Farm and Veterinary Service Centers (FVSCs) was aimed at increasing the access of subsistence dairy farmers to advanced veterinary services, input supplies, and output markets in the Shirak, Lori, and Syunik regions of Armenia servicing about 15,000 farmers. These FVSCs were established to offer a wide range of services, among them: veterinary services including genetic improvement, disease prevention, and treatment; animal health medicines, veterinary input supplies, farm supplies; technical assistance, links to supply market; business development information, and financial services.

All ten FVSCs have the same design, layout, and operations that demonstrate a model of first “private extension service” in Armenia. These Centers provide free-of charge and for-fee agricultural support services.

The FVSCs also provide Business Development Services such as: business training/advisory services, farm management trainings, trainings/consultations on “how to apply for credit” or “better management of credit resources”; information and reference services, including information about various supplies of agricultural inputs, business directories, price lists of various agricultural products, and market information on agricultural outputs; advisory services in business and financial planning, and rural credit and leasing—all free of charge. The for-fee services include: advertising space service for the sales of agricultural products, services; computer, printing and scanning services; internet service; renting a training facility for various development and/or other organizations; credit and agricultural machinery/equipment leasing.
There are currently 70 veterinarians in these regions receiving continuous trainings in issues of vet practices and all of them have access to high quality input supplies, new technologies, and information through the established FVSCs. These veterinarians learned new methods of artificial insemination using advanced technologies and high quality bull semen imported from World Wide Sires Company, USA.

#1 Agricultural Magazine in Armenia

One of the recent initiatives funded by the USDA FAS is the publication of the first Agricultural Magazine with new content and concept. Four issues have been published with the 4th one last September.
The 60-paged magazine contains science, technology, newsworthy and thought-provoking materials. The main objective of this project was to create a magazine that illustrates the importance of a farmer-centered approach, especially when agricultural producers and processors are considered a key and driving force for creating change.

The magazine is published primarily for farmers, agricultural specialists, agri-processors, and policy makers at all levels with a commitment to profile successful local and foreign farmers who represent a new vision in the agricultural marketplace and who can both encourage and mentor other farmers and agribusinesses.

Through the magazine, CARD acts as a vessel to inform the agricultural community about innovations and new approaches in the sector, about everyday business (including CARD led projects), and encourages interactions between businesses and the agricultural community. In the short time the magazine has been published it has gained great popularity throughout country, and is highly demanded among farmers and their families for its information, tips, and advice. The magazine reaches all regions of the country, remote and vulnerable ones inclusive.

The regional distribution of the magazine is mainly carried out through the Farm Service Centers (FSCs) across Armenia. 2,000 copies of the magazine have been distributed throughout the regions and in Yerevan. The distribution list includes: the US Embassy, governmental bodies (National Assembly, Ministries, Regional Ag. Support Centers, Marzpetarans (Regional Governor Offices)), International Organizations, NGOs, Agricultural Educational Institutions (ICARE, Armenian National Agrarian University), National Library, Banks, Audit companies, hotels, restaurants, and partners cooperating with the Agromshakuyt magazine.
Fruit Drying

Fruit drying is an efficient means for adding value to fruit production. This is an important marketing tool given the short period of harvesting and the volatility of local and export markets for local fresh produce. There is a large market for Armenian dried fruits, and production was not sufficient to cover local market needs. However, low quality product, the absence of modern equipment and poor hygiene standards were obstacles that prevented development of the dried fruit industry in Armenia. Most of fruit drying, about 95%, is done under the sun, in open air or covered by glass, and fully dependent on weather conditions. This led CARD to initiate the Dried Fruit Production Improvement Project in Armenia in 2010.

The first initiative in this field was the introduction of new technology- the cabinet (or shelf) dryer through the USDA/FAS funded “Dried Fruit Value Chain Development”. The cabinet dryer operates by blowing hot air and, depending on the model, is powered by electricity or natural gas. The equipment has several advantages in comparison to the conventional solar dryers, though has slightly higher operational costs. The most important advantages are: the possibility to control the process of drying without dependence on weather conditions, better quality and appearance of final product and more sterile working conditions.

Since 2010 CARD has introduced 11 cabinet dryers with a total production capacity of about 30 tons of dried fruit annually. Moreover, the first positive results of this initiative convinced other development organizations such as UNDP, Heifer, and Save the Children, as well as various private sector companies to get involved in this activity.

Within a short period of time these efforts have returned positive results. Capacity to produce more than 100 tons of dried fruits in a controlled environment increased by 8% in nationwide dried fruit production. These actions opened the market for dried fruit for more than 2,000 farmers.

The cabinet fruit dryers have several advantages in comparison with traditional sun dryers. They do not depend on weather conditions, provide cleaner conditions for
production, occupy less space, and shorten the production cycle by 3-5 times. In addition, cabinet dryers are more energy efficient, and farmers have increased production efficiency by 30%.

The project is continuous and in the coming 3 years, these efforts should at least double in results, which in turn will create more potential for dried fruit exports in large quantities.
Viticulture

Training program developed and conducted by a wine expert from the U.S., invited through the USAID-funded Farmer to Farmer program implemented by ACDI/VOCA. The expert provided consultancy to Armenian winemakers to improve production practices and quality of the final product.

11 wineries were visited for on-site consultation in the following areas:

- evaluation of the winemaking practices, vineyards and wines;
- processes of control fermentation;
- winemaking procedures;
- winery sanitation and waste disposal;
- wine analysis;
- addressing quality parameters of wine.
23 winemakers attended a seminar and participated in one-to-one consultations with experts and viticulture specialists. CARD will follow up with the wineries and will provide support to implement the recommended improvements.
The Black Ox dairy farm located in Bardzrashen village nearby Yerevan is owned by the Ghazarian family and is one of the most progressive farms in Armenia. Starting only with one cow, a calf and a heifer, the farm gradually increased to 78 cattle, half of which are Holstein heifers bred through artificial insemination (AI). In 2005, the AI technology was applied in the farm with USDA support and the US-based World Wide Sires (WWS) specialists. After participating in capacity building programs on AI and dehorning, the owner's son, Norayr Ghazaryan, now carries out artificial insemination at his farm using semen from the US. With genetically improved livestock, the farm produces up to 6,500 liters of milk annually, whereas previously this number hardly reached 3,000 liters. More than 70% of the cattle are milked with milking machines.

CARD’s ongoing support and consultancy to Norayr Ghazaryan has marked considerable improvements in animal care management at the farm, young stock care and nutrition in particular. New modern barns, along with special calf feeding buckets, have been placed for purebred calves which are fed with newly introduced calf starters. “Construction of a loose barn for cows and provision of balanced feed ratio is a priority. In case of such
favorable conditions for the livestock, we are likely to register an increase of 15-25% milk yield,” said Norayr Ghazaryan. Being formerly a semi derelict structure, the farm now has become a demo project due to the devoted and hard work of the Ghazaryan family.

**Developing a National Strategy for Improved Brucellosis Control Measures**

Brucellosis has been recognized as a serious problem for livestock and human populations in Armenia. It is unknown which *Brucella* species are present in the country as culturing samples have not been conducted. Vaccination for brucellosis is not practiced in Armenia other than in an on-going pilot project. Challenges to brucellosis control in Armenia include minimal surveillance, a lack of an animal identification and registration system, significant animal movement within the country, small-sector farmers who depend on their livestock for their livelihood, limited laboratory capabilities, and a lack of a compensation system for animals that test positive.

The Armenian Ministry of Agriculture requested assistance in enhancing their brucellosis control program. One of the recommendations to the minister was to train two brucellosis subject matter experts who would guide the development of a new comprehensive brucellosis for Armenia as National Brucellosis Leaders. As part of this program, a successful training of two Armenian brucellosis program managers took place in Fort Collins and Denver, Colorado, April 20 to May 8, 2015. The purpose of this visit and training was for two Armenian officials to attend the two-week “Veterinary Epidemiology Management Plans for Animal Diseases & Production International Workshop”. During the third week, meetings and visits were scheduled to expose the Armenian officials to as much field experience as possible to equip them with the technical skills and knowledge required to create and implement a national program with a new, more scientifically based approach in Armenia. As a direct result of this activity, a national strategic plan for control of brucellosis has been drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

*USDA Under Secretary Scuse and RA Minister of Agriculture Sero Karapetyan*
Complementary to the activity described above, Minister Sergio Karapetyan and Deputy Minister Armen Harutyunyan visited the United States from July 20 to 24, 2015. The purpose of the 5-day visit was to provide an in-depth overview of the management of the United States’ national brucellosis program. During this visit, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Under-Secretary Scuse.

Ultimately, it is hopeful that collaboration between USDA/FAS and the Ministry of Agriculture will continue in support of implementation of new models and approaches for brucellosis eradication in Armenia. Through this “Developing a National Strategy for Improved Brucellosis Control Measures” program, critical connections, lessons learned, and technical expertise has been shared between the U.S. and Armenia on how best to develop a strategy and provide oversight of a national brucellosis program in Armenia in order to maximize its effectiveness.
THE ARMENIAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION PRAISED THE RESEARCH WORK OF
THE ICARE MAB STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

The Agribusiness Teaching Center (ATC) was founded in 2000 after negotiations in 1998
between the Armenian Agricultural Academy (former name of the Armenian National
Agrarian University), Texas A&M University, and the USDA. An agreement
created the ATC operating as a part of Armenian National Agrarian University
(ANAU).

It’s been 5 years that the Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program of
Agribusiness Teaching Center (ATC),
conducted jointly by ANAU and Texas A&M University, produces agribusiness
specialists trained in the latest methods of business and economic analysis, armed with
broad economic, marketing, and managerial skills, up-to-date communication abilities
and excellent knowledge of English. The two-year curriculum is western-structured,
based on the graduate agribusiness economics curricula of Texas A&M University. The
MAB program is a thesis degree requiring that students defend graduate thesis projects,
which gives them an opportunity to conduct research, apply knowledge and analytical
skills learned in preceding courses, and make presentations.

Since 2014, selected MAB students and graduates present their thesis papers at the
Armenian Economic Association's (AEA) annual meetings, which aim to promote the
development of economics education and research in Armenia. In 2014 ICARE was
represented by two MAB graduates being presenters at the Agricultural Economics
Session and in 2015 five made presentations of their thesis papers at the “Agriculture and
Environment” session. Both sessions were chaired by ICARE Director Vardan Urutyan,
who is also a member of AEA Board of Trustees. In 2015 the AEA annual conference
was hosted by the Central Bank of Armenia, the Yerevan State University, and the
American University of Armenia and attended by minister of economy, Central Bank
officials, academia and students. The Prime Minister Abrahamyan sent a welcome address praising the importance of such events for Armenia. Continuous participation at the AEA annual meetings, in such an important forum covering virtually the entire young Armenian scientific potential in the country and in Diaspora, is an essential achievement for the MAB graduates. According to the participating experts, the MAB graduates demonstrated PhD level knowledge and excellent presentation and communication talent.

The combination of economic, business analysis and quantitative methods, the class dynamics and the teaching methods are the tools that make MAB students very competitive in the job market. About 18 students graduate from the MAB program every year. As of June 2015, MAB has produced 66 graduates, most of who work in agribusiness, financial, and other industries, international organizations, NGOs, and government agencies in Armenia and elsewhere. More than 95% of the graduates are employed. The MAB graduates are competitive in the U.S. PhD market as well; two MAB graduates currently are PhD students in the US universities: MAB graduate Tatevik Avetisyan continues her education at Michigan State University and Aramayis Dallakyan at Texas A&M University, Gayane Sargsyan and Armen Ghazaryan received Fulbright scholarships and continue their education in the University of Ohio and the University of Missouri, respectively.

ATC will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of the MAB program this year. It was the contribution from the Armenian and U.S. governments that made this important world-class educational initiative possible for young professionals from Armenia, Georgia and other countries.

**Internship Program: a springboard to successful career**

The Agribusiness Teaching Center is unique with the hands-on modern educational opportunities that it offers to its students at the ANAU and the Republic of Georgia. The ATC curriculum is designed based on agribusiness industry feedback and preferences. Internships are one of the core components of the ATC curriculum required for the students who have completed their first year of studies both in the undergraduate and the Master of Agribusiness programs.
ATC introduced innovative tools and approaches in organizing internship programs and changed the overall industry internship culture in Armenia. Since 2000 ATC has cooperated with 227 companies in Armenia and globally placing its interns in agribusinesses and related companies, banks, and NGOs throughout Armenia and Georgia, USA, Greece, Germany, Ukraine, etc. Internship is a real opportunity for ATC students to balance their theoretical training with practical work experience. Being the first work experience for our students, the ATC internship program is very valuable in preparing them for a professional career and giving them possible employment opportunities through developing a network of contacts with professionals. Our partner companies evaluate the students’ abilities and overall preparedness as their potential employees. Upon completion of the 8-week internship program many ATC students received job offers in their internship companies.

ATC internship coordinators regularly check the students’ performance at each company through regular visits during the internship period. During each visit the students present their daily activities and describe what they have learned while working in the production, financial, marketing and administrative departments. In the end of the program students submit a written report, as well as share their experiences at the traditional annual internship conference. Students are evaluated and graded based on the company supervisor’s evaluation, final presentations and written reports. Company representatives are invited to participate and listen to the students’ presentations, and those providing excellent working environment and outstanding supervision for our students receive certificates of appreciation for their successful participation in the Internship Program.
ATC provides its students with qualifications and competencies for successful employment in international organizations, government, the agribusiness sector, NGOs, academia, and the financial sector. As of 2015, ATC produced 389 graduates from the undergraduate program, 90% of whom are employed holding positions of financial analysts, consultants, accountants, auditors, marketing specialists, credit specialists, project coordinators, and executive assistants. About 16% of the graduates occupy leadership positions. The job placement rate of MAB graduates is also impressive: 95% of the MAB graduates are employed. The MAB graduates currently employed receive 2.3 times higher salaries than the industry average.

The number of the ATC graduates is not so high, yet they have been playing qualitatively new roles in their respective companies and the economy overall as compared with the roles of graduates of traditional Armenian and Georgian universities. The feedback from employers clearly indicate that the technical, communication and personal skills put the ATC graduates in a favorably different position in terms of their important contribution to the components of success of the companies: increased sales volumes, improved quality of products and services, improved communication, application of up-to-date business approaches, etc.

High competitiveness in the job market led to the reduced number of students who want to leave the country for the quality graduate level education. While previously our graduates were employed virtually only in the private sector, today there is a growing interest in employing ATC graduates among the decision makers on the official levels both in Armenia and Georgia. Armen Harutyunyan, ATC graduate of 2002, is now the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in Armenia, Mariam Meloyan, MAB graduate of 2013 is the internal auditor at the Central Bank of Armenia, Ilia Gogichaishvili (2008) works as a senior corporate banker at the TBC Bank Georgia in Tbilisi, Georgia, Demna Dzirkvadze (2005) works as an agricultural specialist in USDA Georgia.

Among other advantages, these and other high-flying ATC graduates create more interest towards ATC as a unique modern regional business school that produces industry leaders for the growing regional economy, with many challenges yet to be met.
Farm Credit

Farm Credit Armenia (FCA)\(^1\), is the only cooperative credit institution in Armenia. FCA is focused on rural areas crediting and supports the development of rural Armenia through providing loans and leases to farmers, agribusinesses, SMEs, young and beginning farmers (YBS), women, and minorities. Its cooperative structure means clients become both borrowers and owners of FCA.

FCA was founded in 2007 by 57 Armenian farmers and with USDA great support. In the founding meeting the Board of Directors was formed and Seryozha Hayrapetyan was elected as a Board Chairman and Armen Gabrielyan was appointed the CEO/President of the cooperative.

FCA now comprises more than 5,000 member-shareholders from across Armenia. As of August 31, 2015 FCA had total assets of USD 17.3 million, with total loan portfolio equivalent to USD 16 million and total equity of around USD 2.6 million. Up to date FCA has disbursed 8,500 loans equivalent to USD 42 million across the 357 communities of the country.

FCA’s cooperative structure, where clients are both borrowers and owners, establish it as a unique player in the Armenian agricultural lending market. Its aim of improving the lives of rural people resonates with borrowers, presenting FCA as a credible, trusted and ultimately preferred lender. FCA has four distinct product categories, with corresponding

\(^1\)Full legal title: Farm Credit Armenia Universal Credit Organization Commercial Cooperative.
customer groups; agricultural farmer loans, agribusiness loans, SME loans, financial leasing for agricultural and agriculture related machinery and equipment.

FCA has also launched housing loans as a new product category, to support rural Armenians in establishing and improving their own homes. Building on its strong customer-owner loyalty and principled offering, FCA is aiming to enhance the support it provides to members through introducing new products to meet their needs. With USDA financial and technical support FCA has grown as a credit institution and since 2014, when USDA support came to end, it became a self-sustainable and steady organization.

In its eight years history FCA could build a comprehensive partner network. FCA partners on the fund borrowing side comprises “Water to market” lending project of Millennium Challenge Account, rural lending project of International Fund for Agriculture Development, the World Bank SME lending project, the German KfW Development Bank Agro lending project, the Asian Development Bank Women entreprenurship lending project. FCA is participating in all these projects through the governmental agencies of German-Armenian Fund (GAF) and the Rural Finance Facility PIU under the Ministry of Finance.

Currently FCA is active in almost all of rural Armenia with 8 branch offices across the country (FCA does not operate in Yerevan, though this is where it is headquartered). Though the increasing number of agricultural lenders in Armenia, FCA’s unique borrower-ownership offering retains its competitive position in the market.

FCA has adopted high standards of corporate governance. The General meeting is comprised by FCA members, each with one vote regardless of their participation in the equity of the cooperative. The Shareholders elect Board members each representing one region. Currently, the Board of Directors of FCA is composed of seven members from seven regions (marzes) of Armenia and two Independent Directors elected by the Board of Directors.
The independent Board members are professionals, one is a lawyer and the other member has a PhD in agricultural economics. The Board was having continuous trainings on corporate governance and risk management in the scope of USDA technical assistance project, which was coached by US University professors.

FCA is a high quality credit organization and unique in its offering and purpose within the Armenia market.

FCA is a member of the Union of Credit Organizations of RA (UCORA), the Microfinance Centre, the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and Cooperatives Europe.

**Khachik Babayan**

Farm Credit Armenia UCO CC aims to contribute to the development of the agricultural sector and support motivated farmers. As a result, the member-borrowers build a long-term partnership with the cooperative, which promotes their businesses. One of the mentioned borrowers is Mr. Khachik Babayan from Kotayq marz.
Mr. Babayan started the cooperation with Farm Credit in 2013 and has already borrowed 4 credits. Although the partnership with Mr. Babayan is a short story, it promises to be continued and be profitable for both sides of cooperation. In the last 2 years he has been financed in the amount of 48 mln drams.

Mr. Babayan’s main activities are livestock farming and trade. In the latter part of 2002, he decided to invest his savings in the construction of a livestock farm and acquired 30 cows. The husbandry is located in Kotayq marz, in Geghashen area. To show the dynamic growth of his husbandry, we should state that he went from 30 to 122 cows. The first loan was in the amount of 10 mln drams, which was allocated to the acquiring of new cows. The additional loans borrowed from Farm Credit have been invested for the expansion of his farm. Also, Mr. Babayan added 300 ewes to his developing farm, in order to diversify his business.

On the other hand, Mr. Babayan, as an active, prominent and outstanding businessman owns 2 shops in their region, in which he sells mainly food and spare parts for cars.

Mr. Babayan sells the meat in his own shop which is located in Abovyan city. However, besides his aspiration to enlarge and improve the business, it is important to mention about his willingness to support his workers, help them to improve their life conditions. Today, he is constructing new houses for his workers and is going to provide comfortable habitation for them.
The main difference and advantage of this member-borrower is the aspiration not only to expand his business but also to diversify it in order to reduce the risks. Due to the credits borrowed from Farm Credit Armenia and his diligence, the businessman has doubled the size of his assets and continues to put efforts in further growth.
Harutyun Hovhannisyan is one of our member-borrowers who has continued to develop the family business, founded by his father namely in the sphere of greenhouse farm and gardening.

The prosperous business was established in the beginning of 1980s and was one of the greenhouses constructed under the new technologies and quality requirements of those times. The farmers managed to develop their businesses thanks to their effective business programs, which resulted in long and thorough work.

Mr. Hovhannisyan is one of the borrowers of Farm Credit Armenia who started his cooperation almost 7 years ago building a road to success parallel to the cooperative’s growth. He has already been financed by Farm Credit for 16 times. The first significant financial support from Farm Credit was in 2008 in the amount of 8.5 mln drams of investment, which was used to establish 2 hectares of Vineyard and the installation of a drip system in the greenhouse of 1500 m2.

The next big step in the way of success was the construction of boiler house and installment of a heating system in the greenhouse. These costs accounted for more than 6 mln drams, so Farm Credit helped with these additional installations.
In 2011 a big investment was required for the construction of a new glass greenhouse of 620 m². In 2014 a new greenhouse was built by Mr. Hovhannisyan when he borrowed 6 mln drams of credit from the cooperative. Besides the capital investments, Mr. Hovhannisyan was credited by Farm Credit for also working capital expenditures. The more recent credit was invested in the renovation of old greenhouses this year.

In total, Farm Credit Armenia allocated 70.4 mln drams to this farm and the result was acquiring and installing new high-powered technical equipment, expanding his business by building new greenhouses, and adding 2 hectares of Vineyard.
Agricultural Statistics

In response to a request from the Armenian Government, the USDA proposed to assist the National Statistical Service (NSS) of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) of the Republic of Armenia in conducting the first agricultural census in the Republic of Armenia. The Armenian Agricultural Census, which was deployed in Oct. 2014 will ultimately provide comprehensive information on the agricultural sector and provide important indicators in the fields of poverty monitoring, food security, planning of agricultural development, gender statistics, and improving current agricultural statistics. The last agricultural census conducted in Armenia was in 1920. The United Nations recommends that countries conduct an agricultural census once every 10 years.

USDA has worked with NSS, MA, other organizations within the Armenian Government, non-governmental organizations, and international organization (such as Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Bank) to identify data needs for the Agricultural Census of Armenia. USDA worked with NSS and MA to design and implement the Armenian Agricultural Census. The Agricultural Census was conducted by NSS with assistance from MA. NSS will disseminate official statistics with the results of the census. The USDA provided the methodological training, statistical consultation, and assisted with designing questionnaires and preparing instructions for the Agricultural Census.

Implementation and Activities

USDA’s technical assistance consisted of in-country activities such as training and workshops, and technical assistance. USDA provided a team of experts from NASS to work in Armenia with NSS and MA. Teams of NASS statisticians implemented multiple trips to Armenia since 2014 and will continue to make trips into 2017.
NASS has done the following:

- Taught Armenian colleagues methodology and procedures for collecting, analyzing, summarizing and disseminating agricultural census data, following statistical guidelines of the United Nations and international statistical standards.
- Worked to strengthen linkages between NSS and MA staff to improve the capacity of NSS and MA staff to collect accurate agricultural data.
- Provided training and statistical consultation for conducting surveys and collecting data.

Specific accomplishments in 2015 include: developing procedures for data entry and editing of data from the Agricultural Census; evaluating procedures for data entry and editing; developing procedures for statistical analysis of data from the Agricultural Census; and evaluating procedures for imputation of erroneous or missing data from the Agricultural Census.