



Armenian Farmers Like the U.S. Made Plastic Green Houses; Armenian Producers Ready to Meet the Demand

Following drip irrigation systems the U.S. made plastic greenhouses are probably one of the most favored improvements introduced under MCA-Armenia's Water to Market Activity (WtM) that provides training and technological knowledge to Armenian farmers.

U.S. made green houses in Armenia

Was it only a year ago that the first U.S. made double layer greenhouses appeared in Armenia? This is hard to believe as they start mushrooming all around the country, and not only through ACDI/VOCA (WtM Project Manager) efforts, but through such major donors as the United Nations Development Program and the World Vision. It was in early spring 2008 that ACDI/VOCA imported the 14 green houses from the U.S., which became the demonstration sites and through which farmers learned that these greenhouses are cheap and easy to construct, they can be of any size and are more durable, the plastic has an extended use and it is resistant to high winds, to name a few advantages only.

Other donors replicate our initiatives

One year later 13 such greenhouses appeared in the Lusadzor community of the Tavush marz with 13 more to be installed shortly. Lusadzor farmers who attended WtM trainings approached UNDP's Integrated community development program to help them to install these modern greenhouses as part of Lusadzor's development initiative. Interestingly, while WtM's 14 greenhouses are all over the country, farmer Aram Amirkhanyan from village Sarygyugh made them really popular in Tavush.

In Lori marz, seven greenhouses were established in seven different communities by the World Vision. Our colleagues from World Vision have always had a keen interest to learn what improvements and technologies MCA-Armenia's WtM Activity



introduces in the country so as to replicate the effective ones through their own Rural Economic Development Program. Plastic greenhouses is one of the innovations that World Vision liked and introduced to those communities of Lori that they think need to overcome poverty and social vulnerability. Extending the farming season through these greenhouses is one way to this end.

Greenhouses stirred interest in training

Farmer Garik Aslanyan learnt about the new greenhouses through the Ministry of Agriculture. He started probing and ended up visiting the scientific centre in Darakert where the first greenhouse was demonstrated. He liked the idea so much that immediately enrolled in WtM training courses to learn more about what irrigation technologies and what plants he could effectively cultivate in these greenhouses. Garik plans to install a plastic greenhouse on 1000 square meters by next February and he will start planting tomatoes and cucumbers.

Assistance to local producers

If UNDP and WV found local producers of the greenhouses through an open tender, Garik Aslanyan learnt about the AgroSevice OJSC from ACDI/VOCA and contacted them to order his greenhouse. But whoever the local producer, they all seek ACDI/VOCA's advice and expertise in making the constructions as close to the original as possible.

