



MILLENNIUM
CHALLENGE CORPORATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE
ACCOUNT - ARMENIA**



Partnership for Clean Irrigation Water

Norabats is a rural community located in Ararat valley that has 2000 residents. While their main occupation is farming these people have always faced problems with irrigation water and were forced to give up growing certain crops that require a lot of water, particularly vegetables. When the Norabats mayor Galust Galstyan learnt about the tertiary canal rehabilitation component of the Millennium Challenge Account Armenia Program (MCA-Armenia), he thought this was the community's chance to remedy the situation and so Norabats became one of the first communities to enroll into the MCA-Armenia Program by co-financing its construction providing 15% of its' construction cost. This further helps increase their sense of ownership and long term sustainability of the infrastructure.



To seal the excellent collaboration between MCA-Armenia and the community Ara Hovsepyan, MCA-Armenia CEO and Galust Galtyan, Norabats mayor signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the future care of the trees.

14 communities in Armavir, Ararat and Vayots Dzor Marzes are currently benefiting from the tertiary canal rehabilitation under MCA-Armenia's Infrastructure Activity. While Norabats is the first among these communities to receive water through the newly rehabilitated canal section, it is expected that many of these communities will be able to use their canals already during this irrigation season.



April 10 marked the completion of works and the opening of a 550 meter section of Norabats tertiary canal (all in all 2700 meters of canals will be rehabilitated by the Program in Norabats). MCA-Armenia selected this occasion for supporting the community in one more way. Program staff and partners, community members and U.S. government colleagues, environmental NGOs and construction contractors joint efforts to clean the area around the canal and plant 150 trees along its length. The spirit of the event and the enthusiasm of the participants were driven by the motto of the day-“We construct, we take care”. Inspiring posters placed in the middle of the community road talked about MCA-Armenia's environmentally responsible practices, about the importance of green areas, the harm of garbage disposal into the canals and the role that ordinary community members can play to bring forth attitudinal change. It was really rewarding to see young people from Norabats School and members of Sunchild Eco-club hanging around those posters and working diligently on their designated area.



The Norabats tertiary canal rehabilitation is an important but still small part of the nearly \$180 investment by the US Government in the MCA-Armenia Program which is aimed at reducing poverty through the economic growth of the agricultural sector. Major agriculture infrastructure rehabilitations include: rehabilitation of 17 irrigation pumping stations, 5 gravity-fed irrigation systems, 40 km of main canals, 250 km of tertiary canals, and the rehabilitation of the Ararat Valley Drainage System.

