



Millennium Challenge Account - Armenia

Struggling For Water

Lanjazat community, with the total population of 2100 people, is situated in Ararat Valley, where Armenia's most fertile lands are. Still, it faces serious problems in irrigating the lands that are good for farming. At least one big part of this village – the Northern district – was forced to use very expensive drinking water to irrigate their orchards. The rest of the village is using water from a pumping station. In order to help Lanjazat people, MCA-Armenia constructed an irrigation tertiary canal for the Northern district, in which the total length is 1.7 kilometers.

Anahit Yengibaryan, a veteran Lanjazat resident, is among those who actually benefited a lot from the construction of the tertiary. Her family has a big orchard with fruit trees and strawberry plants. The latter is cultivated for selling purposes. But drinking water was not what strawberries needed to grow better and to produce more crops. It contains chlorine and does not contain many of the components necessary for crops like berries, fruits and vegetables to grow and flourish.

“I personally take care of the orchard, especially the strawberries”,- Anahit says,-“We sell the strawberries in May, as this is an early variety. There is a possibility to have crops also in autumn. With bad irrigation we were unable to do that, but this year, as the irrigation water has become available, we harvested some strawberries in October too”.



Anahit Yengibaryan and her grandson Derenik in the strawberry orchard. Derenik is very much fond of strawberries.

Anahit Yengibaryan is pretty sure that the next agricultural season will be much more productive thanks to the availability of irrigation water. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Anahit and her daughter-in-law Gayane decided to plant more strawberry plants to get more crops next season which they take to the markets in the capital, Yerevan.

Currently MCA-Armenia has already finished the construction of tertiary canals in four communities with the total length of 6.5 kilometers. All the communities selected for the tertiary construction project become eligible under 15 percent co-financing condition of the overall construction costs. As a rule, Village Councils make a decision on application, address it to Water Users' Association and after revision and approval their requests are being submitted to MCA-Armenia.