



PROGRESS

Promoting Green Deal Readiness
in the Eastern Partnership

On behalf of:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany



PROGRESS REGIONAL EXCHANGE EVENT

AGENDA

**Climate-Smart, Conservation Agriculture as a Tool for
Biodiversity Preservation in the Eastern Partnership
Countries**

Yerevan, Armenia (Hybrid)

20 October 2026

CBD COP17 side event – 13:15 PM (GMT +4)

Organized by:

Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC
Caucasus)

In collaboration with PROGRESS consortium partners: EBA
Moldova, GIZ, OECD and IEF

Side event to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the
Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17)

**Funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the
German Federal Government (BMUKN)**



Introduction

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine - spans a wide range of landscapes, from the plains and wetlands of Moldova and Ukraine to the mountains, orchards and farmland of the South Caucasus, where agriculture and biodiversity are closely interlinked. Farming communities across the region depend on the healthy soils, pollinators and water that these ecosystems provide; biodiversity is therefore not separate from agriculture, but an integral part of it.

A changing, drier and more unpredictable climate increasingly affects both ecosystem health and agriculture-dependent livelihoods across the EaP countries. Late frosts, hail, extreme temperatures and shifting pest and disease ranges place growing stress on fruit and cereal production, with the impact felt most acutely by rural farming households.

Under the PROGRESS programme - Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the Eastern Partnership Countries - this event highlights ongoing initiatives, innovative approaches and technological advancements that support the protection of agricultural biodiversity across the region, drawing on field evidence from across the Eastern Partnership, including the demonstration pilots implemented in the South Caucasus. Convened as a side event to CBD COP17, the event contributes to the first review of collective progress under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, putting forward field-tested practices and the evidence behind them (see 'Policy alignment', below).

Objectives

- Climate resilience – show how farmers across the Eastern Partnership are adapting to climate pressure through practices that protect agricultural biodiversity and keep ecosystems intact, rather than wearing them down.
- Climate-smart practices - share climate-smart practices that conserve agricultural biodiversity in the field, including efficient irrigation; integrated pest management - a broader framework combining crop rotation, resilient varieties and targeted, reduced use of chemical inputs, rather than a single stand-alone practice; climate-resilient and local varieties; and biodiversity-friendly land management such as buffer zones and biodiverse field margins.

- Policy connection – connect these field-tested approaches to the agricultural biodiversity, genetic-diversity and ecosystem goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Guiding questions

The event is structured around three guiding questions:

- Which climate-smart practices protect agricultural biodiversity on the ground in the EaP pilots, and why?
- How do these practices conserve crop and associated diversity, from varieties and pollinators to soil life, in terms that can be measured?
- What policy, finance and market signals help farmers and businesses adopt them at scale?

Policy alignment

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework - Target 10 (sustainable management of areas under agriculture to enhance biodiversity), Target 4 (maintaining the genetic diversity of cultivated and domesticated species and their wild relatives), and Target 11 (restoring, maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services such as pollination and soil health).
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of the Eastern Partnership countries.
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), as the framework for conserving and sustainably using crop diversity.
- The European Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy, as reflected in Eastern Partnership green transition commitments.

Agenda

Moderation: Ms. Nune Harutyunyan, REC Caucasus

Time	Session
13:15 – 13:25 (10 min)	1. Opening and setting the scene Framing the link between climate-smart agriculture and agrobiodiversity conservation, and the relevance of the discussion under the Global Biodiversity Framework at COP17. Ms. Olga Weigel, Sector Coordinator Climate and Energy, Just Transition (GIZ Armenia)
13:25 – 13:40 (15 min)	2. Consortium partner perspectives A short round of consortium partner input on the policy landscape, before the floor passes to local support structures. Ms. Olga Olson, OECD, Recent developments in policy frameworks for climate change adaptation and resilience in agriculture, with implications for biodiversity, in the Eastern Partnership countries (7 min) Mr. Oleksandr Diachuk and Ms. Galyna Trypolska, IEF Ukraine, Wartime Biodiversity Losses, Current Policy Frameworks, and the Path to Soil and Agricultural Restoration in Ukraine (7 min)
13:40 – 14:45 (55 min)	3. Moderated panel discussion with local support structures (facilitated by Ms. Nune Harutyunyan) Local public and private support structures share what adoption has looked like in their own countries. REC Caucasus will then reflect on the impact and lessons learned of the practices and the importance of knowledge exchange across the Eastern Partnership. Discussion questions and panellists: <i>What has adoption looked like for local public and private support structures in your country, and what has helped or held it back?</i> Mr. Arthur Grigorian, Director of International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education (ICARE) Foundation (Armenia) (5 min) Mr. Levani Kvariani, Almond and Walnut Growers Association (Georgia) (5 min) Mr. Oleh Vovkotrub, Deputy Head of the Institute of plant protection, National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine Ms. Mariana Rufa, Executive Director, EBA Moldova <i>What is the impact of implementing climate-smart agricultural practices on biodiversity conservation and how can agriculture go hand-in-hand with ecosystem restoration?</i> Ms. Marika Kapanadze, REC Caucasus (5 min) Open discussion (in-person participants and panellists) (20 min)

14:45 – 14:55 (10 min)	4. Key takeaways, scaling opportunities and closing Ms Sophiko Akhobadze, REC Caucasus Brief feedback survey for online and hybrid participants; in-person participants may share feedback on site.
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PARTICIPANTS

As a side event to CBD COP17, this session examines real experience on agricultural biodiversity directly into the Convention's first global review of collective progress under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Its primary audience is CBD COP17 delegates and observers, alongside international organisations and donors following the Framework's implementation; the practitioners presenting this evidence farmers, field experts, local support structures and scientists from across the Eastern Partnership ensure the discussion centres what has worked on the ground.

The event will be co-organized by REC Caucasus with support from the PROGRESS consortium partners - EBA Moldova, GIZ, IEF and OECD.

ABOUT PROGRESS

[PROGRESS](#) supports Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine in their transition toward climate-oriented, resilient, and green economic development, aligning agricultural and environmental practices with the principles of the European Green Deal. By fostering innovative technologies, tools, and methodologies, PROGRESS accelerates sustainability, strengthens climate resilience, and enables long-term greenhouse gas mitigation, all underpinned by improved framework conditions. Its vision is to contribute to long-term climate mitigation and sustainable development in line with the EU Green Deal objectives and the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C pathways across the Eastern Partnership countries.

PROGRESS is implemented on behalf of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Government of Germany. Within the Federal Government, the IKI is anchored in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN). Selected project is also the responsibility of the Federal Foreign Office (AA). PROGRESS is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, as the lead agency, in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC), the European Business Association (EBA) Moldova and the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IEF).

Website: [Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the Eastern Partnership Countries](#)