On behalf of:

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

of the Federal Republic of Germany

IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

PROGRESS

Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the Eastern Partnership Countries

PROGRESS REGIONAL ONLINE MEETING

Summary

Climate Resilient Agriculture: Good Practices in Eastern Partnership

Zoom Platform

21 May 2026

Organized by:

Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

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Introduction

The regional online exchange '"Good/Innovative Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices in Eastern Partnership Countries' was held on 21 May 2026 via Zoom, gathering 234 registered participants from 9 countries across the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region and beyond. The event was conducted with simultaneous interpretation into Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Ukrainian, and Romanian. The event was organized within the framework of the regional project 'Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the EaP region', a regional project funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Government (BMUKN) and implemented by GIZ as lead agency, in partnership with OECD, REC Caucasus, EBA Moldova, and the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IEF). The project supports Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine in aligning their agricultural and environmental policies with European Green Deal principles, with a focus on climate resilience, sustainable land use, and green economic development.

The meeting was the second in a two-part mini-series: the first event, held on 17 March 2026, presented good practices in climate-smart agriculture from Germany. This follow-up turned the lens to the EaP region itself, presenting practices developed and tested in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine that are more directly replicable across the region due to comparable agro-climatic conditions and institutional contexts.

Opening and PROGRESS Project Overview

The event was opened by Ms. Nino Rostomashvili (REC Caucasus), who provided technical instructions for the interpretation service and invited participants to complete the post-event feedback survey.

Ms. Franziska Schneider (GIZ/PROGRESS) provided a brief overview of the PROGRESS project, which supports Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine in their transition toward climate-oriented, resilient, and green economic development, in line with European Green Deal principles. She outlined the five thematic areas of good practice already identified by PROGRESS across the region: digital and precision agriculture; frost protection; renewable energy for climate adaptation; green ammonia and e-fertilizer; and in-vitro micropropagation.

Ms. Martina Kolb, PROGRESS Programme Director (GIZ), moderated the event. She recalled the March session on German good practices and explained the rationale for focusing on EaP-origin practices: while German examples are inspiring, practices from within the region are often more immediately transferable given comparable farm structures, market conditions, and institutional environments. She structured the session around five thematic focus areas: digital and precision agriculture; frost protection; renewable energy for climate adaptation (agrivoltaics); green ammonia and e-fertilizer; and in-vitro micropropagation.

Presentations: Good/Innovative Practices in EaP Countries

Presentations were delivered in alphabetical order by EaP country.

Armenia: Integrated Pest Management and Early Warning System. Ms. Syuzanna Sargsyan (AgriBloom Consulting LLC) presented an intensive apple orchard near Yerevan applying climate adaptation measures including anti-hail nets, drip irrigation, and water reservoirs. An Early Warning System (EWS) for pest and disease management reduced spraying frequency by 30-35%, delivering cost savings and lower pesticide loads.

Armenia: Pest and Nutrition Management Using Drone Spraying. Mr. Vardan Torchyan (ICARE Foundation) presented Sky Agro's agro-drone services, which have covered over 7,000 hectares and 600 farmers in Armenia. Equipment costs range from EUR 15,000 to EUR 30,000 per unit; service prices to farmers range from EUR 25 to EUR 45 per hectare. The pay-per-service model makes technology accessible to smallholders on fragmented terrain. Drone spraying reduces chemical and water use significantly compared to conventional machinery, generating savings of EUR 50 to EUR 150 per hectare per season depending on crop type and intervention frequency.

Azerbaijan: In Vitro Propagation of Fruit Plants. Ms. Aytaj Asgarova (Fruit and Tea Growing Research Institute) presented a microclonal propagation programme that yields 600-800 virus-free plants from a single parent plant per year. The Institute currently produces 1.5 million certified plants annually, providing climate-resilient planting material essential as conventional material becomes increasingly vulnerable to temperature extremes and emerging diseases.

Azerbaijan: Agricultural Insurance for Orchard Value Chains. Mr. Javid Ojaghi (Khazar University / Agrarian Insurance Fund) presented Azerbaijan's agricultural insurance system, which covers over 41 crop products with 50% government co-financing of premiums. The Fund has compensated farmers for approximately EUR 10 million in climate-related damages between 2021 and 2025.

Georgia: Digital Farming and Drone Services for Sustainable Production. Ms. Tamar Buadze (Agrometa-drone) presented a Georgian drone-service company that has served 450+ farmers across 20,000 hectares since 2022. The technology delivers a 30% reduction in chemical usage, 50% reduction in CO2 emissions versus conventional machinery, and 15-20% increase in crop yields. The company is developing proprietary software for data-driven planning and management of drone services.

Moldova: Biotechnologies, Digital Agriculture, and Anti-Frost Systems. Mr. Alexandru Perjan (EuroAlun / iHectar / Vitrohub) presented three complementary innovations: infrared frost protection technology, validated over two seasons and now eligible for subsidy in Moldova (approx. EUR 10,000 available for vineyard operators), which raised temperatures by 6 degrees Celsius during frost events, thus saving future yields from perishing; a fog generator system for frost protection; and a digital monitoring platform for climate-related risk management, which has trained over 250 practitioners.

Ukraine: Green Ammonia - Pathway to Best Practice in Horticulture. Ms. Olha Kravchenko (National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine) presented Ukraine's green ammonia initiative as a pathway toward domestically produced sustainable fertilizers, thus

reducing import dependencies. Discussion addressed environmental impact assessments, landscape preservation, and EU regulatory alignment for EU candidate countries.

Ukraine: Innovative Frost Protection - From Smoke to Smart Technologies. Mr. Vyacheslav Chobotar (Farming Enterprise, Vinnytsia Region, presenting live from field) demonstrated the evolution from traditional smoke fumigation to cryoprotectors deployed via drone, enabling rapid, uniform coverage across large areas during frost risk periods.

Ukraine: Agrivoltaics - Best Practices for Climate Adaptation and Recovery. Mr. Viktor Ivkin (Ukrainian Agrivoltaics Association) presented agrivoltaics as a dual-income strategy co-locating solar panels with crop production to reduce heat stress, water evaporation, and fertilizer requirements. Participants raised questions about legal frameworks for dual land use, which remain absent or unclear in several EaP countries.

Discussion

A Q&A session followed the presentations, moderated by Ms. Martina Kolb. Drone spraying attracted the highest participant interest: multiple attendees from different countries asked about service availability and expressed interest in partnerships with Georgian and Armenian providers. The moderator asked participants whether they used drone spraying and whether they believed reducing chemical use was feasible; the majority responded positively, citing cost and regulatory clarity as the main barriers.

Several participants shared experiences of late spring frosts in 2026 causing damage to apple, grape, and stone fruit orchards, making the presentations on infrared technology and cryoprotectors particularly relevant. On planting material, participants noted difficulty sourcing certified, virus-free materials locally; the Azerbaijan micropropagation model was highlighted as a regional solution. The agrivoltaics presentation prompted discussion on legal permissibility of dual land use, with the Ukrainian Agrivoltaics Association identified as a resource for guidance.

Conclusions and Next Steps

Ms. Martina Kolb closed the event by identifying five benefits of climate-smart technologies demonstrated during the session: adapting to climate change; protecting crop production; mitigating weather risks; increasing medium- and long-term profitability; and ensuring long-term business sustainability. She noted that the hidden costs of unsustainable practices, including physical effort, health impacts, and environmental pollution, are substantial but often underestimated.

Next steps confirmed at the close of the meeting:

- Ms. Nino Rostomashvili will distribute the save-the-date and invitation for next regional exchange organized by PROGRESS on EU import requirements for horticultural products, scheduled for 23-24 June 2026
- Ms. Aytaj Asgarova voiced her readiness to remain available for follow-up cooperation on in-vitro propagation with interested EaP counterparts
- Alexandru Perjan committed to sharing information and demonstration offers on fog generator and anti-frost technologies

- Ms. Tamar Buadze will provide the consortium with updates on agrodrone management software development, to be shared with the participants
- Ms. Olha Kravchenko will share updates on the green ammonia project, including on environmental impact, landscape preservation, and EU compliance
- PROGRESS / REC Caucasus will distribute presentation materials and video links to all registered participants
- All participants were asked to complete the evaluation survey for the event