Establishment of Quality Assurance Mechanisms of Vocational Education Specifics in Organic Farming and Its’ European Approaches to Georgia's Example

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Georgia, a small country located at the intersection of Europe and Asia, is a former Soviet republic that is home to Caucasus Mountain villages and Black Sea beaches. Georgia covers a territory of 69,700 square kilometers, and its population is about 3.9 million.

**Georgia** is one of the oldest [wine regions](#) in the world.

Wine-making in Georgia, 8000-year tradition
GEORGIA
AN ANCIENT DREAM ON THE CAUCASUS
GTU consists of 12 faculties: Civil Engineering; Power Engineering and Telecommunications; Mining and Geology; Chemical Technology and Metallurgy; Transportation and Mechanical Engineering, Architecture; Urban Planning and Design; Informatics and Control Systems; Law and International Relations; Engineering Economic, Media Technology and Social Sciences; Business Technology; Agricultural Science and Biosystems Engineering; International Design School.
Agricultural Science and Bio Systems Engineering
Since 2013 Georgia started VET sector reform. Poor image of vocational education from soviet time, abolished system, required fundamental intervention for achieving the goals on the way to approximation to EU education system.

With the technical assistance from EU, new vision of reforming the VET programs has been formed anticipating the introduction of flexible, competence based modular programs. Principles of development of modular programs are: orientation on learning outcomes, practice, use of modern methods of teaching and assessment, credit system, accumulation of credits and transfer.
Organic Farming - Bio and Ecological processes

Organic Farming - A system of production of agricultural products based on ecological processes, which promotes the sustainability of natural balance and bio-diversity in ecosystems.

The organic farming is an alternative for today's agriculture. To move from the traditional agricultural industry to organic farming means to restore and protect soil fertility, local Georgian varieties of plants and animals, avoid many ecological disasters, to care for our future and our future generations.
Reality
The Perspective

Money

Society

Industry
The aims of Organic Farming

- Bio agro-production involves the natural performance of plants, animals and landscapes.
- It aims to improve the quality of management of agriculture and maintain the environment.
- Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of genetically sensitive species of plants and animals that are endangered by food and agriculture;
- Bio agro-production has ecological, economic and social efficiency compared with conventional.
The Main Principles of Organic Farming

- The Principle of Healthy
- The Principle of Ecology
- The Principle of Fairness
- The Principle of Care
Organic Farming - The Closed System

Diagram:
- Food, fibre and fuel for human and livestock use and consumption
- Balancing nutrient supply
- Biological active soil
- Biological lime, organic fertilizers and compost
- Disease management
- Crop and animal health
- Weed management
- Pest management
- Diverse crop and livestock rotation
- Species, variety and breed selection
- Diverse species balance

Methods:
- Physical methods
- Biological controls

Patterns:
- Temporal and spatial patterns
- Hedges, margins and other habitat areas
SUPPORT FOR ORGANIC PRODUCERS IN EUROPE

The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
From 2015, all EU Member States must use 7% of direct payments to finance Farmers for sustainable agricultural practices (greening).
If you are an organic farmer, you will not need to change your practices to comply with greening.

Information on organic farming under the new CAP
EC co-financing is available to organic farming associations, farmers' unions, environmental organisations and other stakeholders to support them in planning organic farming under the new CAP to the public, farmers, and others active in rural areas.

School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme (SFVS) and School Milk Scheme (SMS)
The EU funds voluntary schemes enabling schools to source organic products and integrate organic-related topics. This funding possibility encourages ties between schoolchildren and organic farming and helps ensure the viability of organic products in the long-term.

Rural development programmes (2014-2020)
New support for small farmers for conversion to, and maintenance of, organic farming practices.
Member States can allocate additional support to organic farmers and operators through a series of funding opportunities to promote, for example, cooperation in food, the development of quality schemes for agricultural products, creation of producer groups or organisations, etc.

Fishing and Aquaculture
Support for conversion of conventional aquaculture production methods into organic aquaculture through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Research and Innovation
Support for groups of farmers, researchers, advisors, businesses, NGOs, etc. from rural areas to work together on innovative projects through the LIFE AGRI funding is provided through the EINF and Horizon 2020, the biggest ever EU Research Innovation programme.

Promotion of EU organic farming
EU funding for trade-oriented organisations to support raising awareness of EU organic production, control and trace organic products.

All kinds of promotion activities on internal market and in countries outside the EU are considered. Usually the EU funds up to 75%, the applicant at least 25%, and Member States co-finance the remainder.
Fifth level vocational qualification in Organic farming

Fifth level vocational qualification in Organic farming were created in 2018, Georgia and it will be given to VET students, who will cover up to 120 credits of the program “Organic Farming” (16 credits for general modules, 62 credits for common professional modules, 30 credits for concentration(s) and independent elective modules - in total 12 credits, which should be selected from 36 credits modules). 2 concentrations were created: for the specialists of plants and livestock.
### Learning outcomes:

1. Organize and manage organic farming;
2. Organize grain biomass crops;
3. Organize vegetable, vegetable and technical crops production;
4. Organize the biomass of fruit and subtropical crops;
5. Plant biomass in the closed ground;
6. Plan the biosafety and carry out the biocontics of bee products;
7. Organize biomedical and grape bio products;
8. Comply with biosafety procedures;
9. Implement the sale of bio production.

1. Organize and manage organic farming;
2. Organize a biomaterial farm;
3. Bio (eco, organic) farming methods to build and maintain agricultural animals;
4. Take care of bird breeding in the bio farm;
5. Plan the biosafety and conduct biocontics of bee products;
6. Plan a bio tuber
7. Exercise fish farming;
8. Comply with biosafety procedures;
9. Implement the sale of bio production.
Conclusion

In 2018, new professional qualifications have been established in vocational education. One of the most important parts of the state program for the development of bio-agro-production in Georgia is the educational strategy of biogrous enterprises, which includes:

1. Some of additions to the school program;
2. Vocational education (VET colleges);
3. Adult education (qualification training courses, retraining);

It is a pleasure to see some progress in this field in professional education - new qualification in organic farming has been approved, the relevant guidelines have been prepared and the shifts are observed in higher education too.

Development of organic farms is vital for Georgia, since bio agro production is the future of agriculture, its tomorrow's day.
Thanks for your Attention!