

Sustainable Development of the Hazelnut Sector in Georgia

Irma Khvedeliani

irma.khvedeliani278@ens.tsu.edu.ge

Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Doctoral Program of Applied Ecology, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
0179, Georgia, Tbilisi, I. Chavchavadze Ave. N1

This seminar provides a comprehensive review of the historical, economic, and agro-ecological dimensions of hazelnut sector development in Georgia. It examines systemic efforts and process dynamics, leading to conclusions and policy-oriented recommendations for advancing sustainable growth.

Hazelnut is among the most sought-after commodities on the global market, with production steadily increasing and diversifying each year. For Georgia, the sustainable development of this sector is of strategic importance, as hazelnut constitutes to one of the country's principal agricultural export products. Its economic weight is considerable, generating significant economic benefits: hazelnut cultivation serves as a primary source of income, particularly in western regions, where household welfare and prosperity are closely tied to the sector's performance.

Georgia's climatic advantages create favorable conditions for expanding hazelnut production and for generating products with strong commercial attributes and competitive value for international markets. The diversity of micro-zones further enables the cultivation of ecologically clean products, while local varieties demonstrate distinctive commodity qualities and global competitiveness.

Building upon these natural advantages, Georgia has the potential to scale up industrial production, enhance the quality to "Premium class" standards, establish a recognizable national brand, and secure niche positions in the global trade. Integrating sustainable development principles into the hazelnut value chain—supported by digital innovations—can yield not only positive social and environmental outcomes but also significant commercial and trade benefits.

Realizing the sector's full potential requires a comprehensive and rational approach, encompassing targeted policy support, strategic investment, and the strengthening of both technical and human capital capacities.

References

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