Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin

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AGRICOOP

Cooperation through Tech-Based Practices to Struggle Invasive Species and Climate Change for a Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture

BSB01005 AGRICOOP

PILOT SITE FIELD VISIT AND ASSESSMENT REPORT

BATUMI-GEORGIA

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AGRICOOP (BSB01005) – Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme

BSU (PP3) Pilot Site No. 1 – Gelauri, Kobuleti

Plant genetic resources collection plots of the Institute of Phytopathology and Biodiversity, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University. Kobuleti, Georgia

Attribute	Description
Designation	Plant genetic resources collection plots of the Institute of Phytopathology and Biodiversity, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University (BSU)
Project status	AGRICOOP PP3 Pilot Site No. 1 (PZ-01); designated site for the Climate and Pest Detection Station (CPDS)
Location	Gelauri settlement, suburban Kobuleti, Kobuleti Municipality, Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Georgia
Coordinates	41.811239° N, 41.790375° E
Area	Approximately 3 ha
Ownership	LEPL Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University – Institute of Phytopathology and Biodiversity
Citrus collection	Approximately 120 cultivars, hybrids, forms and mutants of three genera: *Citrus*, *Fortunella* (kumquats) and *Poncirus* (trifoliate orange)
Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L.)	Approximately 45 local and introduced cultivars (e.g. 'Anakliuri', 'Chkhikvistava', 'Khachapura', 'Tonda di Giffoni', 'Giresun') and approximately 20 additional forms
Kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa*)	More than 30 seedling and grafted forms
Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.)	Young collection of highbush cultivars
Maize (*Zea mays* L.)	Fifth priority crop of the project
Other collections	More than 80 apple and pear cultivars; dozens of feijoa (*Acca sellowiana*) forms; grapevine; cereals; four *Camellia* species and approximately 130 cultivars of *Camellia japonica*; medicinal and aromatic plants
Pests recorded in 2026	*Aleurothrixus floccosus*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, armoured scales (*Chrysomphalus dictyospermi*, *Lepidosaphes beckii*), *Phytoptus avellanae*, *Halyomorpha halys*, *Metcalfa pruinosa*
Planned equipment	One CPDS station and one smart trap

Description

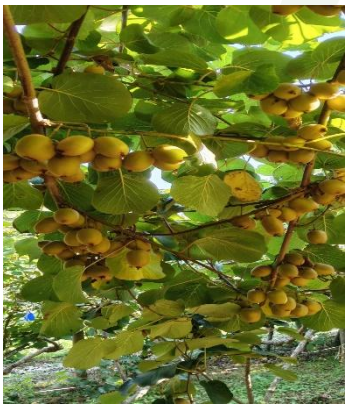
Pilot Site No. 1 of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University (PP3) under the AGRICOOP project consists of the plant genetic resources collection plots of the BSU Institute of Phytopathology and Biodiversity. The plots lie in Gelauri settlement on the outskirts of Kobuleti, cover approximately 3 hectares and are owned by the University.

The plots hold a diverse gene pool of pome-fruit, subtropical, nut, medicinal and ornamental plants. The citrus collection comprises about 120 cultivars, hybrids, forms and mutants of three genera: *Citrus* (including lemon, sweet orange, mandarin, citron, grapefruit, bergamot, pomelo and satsuma), *Fortunella* (Marumi, Nagami and Meiwa kumquats) and *Poncirus* (trifoliate orange). The hazelnut collection includes about 45 local and introduced cultivars and about 20 additional forms. The site also maintains more than 30 seedling and grafted forms of kiwifruit, more than 80 apple and pear cultivars, dozens of feijoa forms, four *Camellia* species with about 130 cultivars of *Camellia japonica*, a young collection of highbush blueberry, grapevine, cereal crops, and medicinal and aromatic plants.





The site therefore holds all five priority crops of the project in one place: citrus, hazelnut, blueberry, kiwifruit and maize. This combination is uncommon and has two scientific uses. First, the breadth of cultivars and forms makes it possible to compare how susceptible or tolerant different genotypes are to invasive pests. Second, the range of host plants makes it possible to follow pests as they move between hosts over the growing season. Several species surveyed in 2026, notably *Metcalfa pruinosa* and *Orosanga japonica*, first develop on ornamental and wild vegetation before moving onto crops. During the 2026 season, field monitoring at the site recorded the woolly whitefly (*Aleurothrixus floccosus*), the hazelnut bud mite (*Phytoptus avellanae*), the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) and *Metcalfa pruinosa*.







On 12–13 November 2026, BSU hosted the Third AGRICOOP Consortium Meeting in Batumi. The second day, 13 November, was spent on a field visit to Pilot Site No. 1, the Institute's collection plots on the outskirts of Kobuleti. Partners from Georgia, Türkiye and Bulgaria toured the plant genetic resources, discussed monitoring arrangements and assessed whether the site is suitable for farmer demonstrations. They also jointly selected the location of the Climate and Pest Detection Station (CPDS), taking into account crop composition, pest pressure, climatic exposure, representativeness, connectivity, security and permit requirements.



From the next growing season, the station and smart trap will send real-time climatic and pest-population data to the MAPPEST mobile application. This will support data-driven early warning and allow farmers to apply control measures at the right time and with fewer chemical inputs.



Prepared by: PP3 – Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Batumi, Georgia · November 2026