



## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013



## Markets for Meghri (M4M) Project



### MAIN EVENTS

During this month Markets for Meghri (M4M) team in cooperation with the "Ecotechnology" LLC has initiated a project regarding the Aquasource biodegradable polymer usage in Meghri region. Aquasource is a new generation of materials that have the unique ability to absorb and retain moisture. It is able to absorb and bind in their molecules moisture from irrigation, precipitation, dew and fog. In the framework of this initiative, trainings have been organized for farmers of Meghri region after which injections have done under the 48 trees. On May 21<sup>st</sup>. with the cooperation of Syunik Marzpetaran, an introduction of the M4M project to the stakeholders and society was organized in Kapan. The aim of this Public Hearing was to represent the project's mission, scope, priorities and the main activities for one year to the local government representatives, mayors of Agarak and Meghri and community leaders. There was a very active and effective discussion between Government, project and business. The important recommendations were given by the participants that help staff to make project work efficient and more resulted. In early June M4M team organized an initial meeting with the donor organizations, local organizations and Government representatives who are involved in the agriculture development

process in the region, in order to launch the Agricultural Platform for Syunik marz. The main idea of the Platform is to organize bimonthly meetings with all stakeholders and discuss the issues related to the agricultural development in the region, defined by the participants. The other event which took place in early June was a meeting between fruit producers and potential buyers. The purpose of the meeting was discussion of potential cooperation between parties and elaboration of the joint working plan between fruit producers and processing and trading companies. Follow up of these two events will be provided in the next newsletter.

### PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING EVENTS

With the aim of continuous learning, experience exchange and further partnership development with the other SDC M4P projects, M4M staff members have participated in two events- Experience Exchange Tour held in Tajikistan and SDC South Caucasus Annual Learning Event 2013, held in Tbilisi. Another partnership project initiation is the DRR co-funding pilot project with UNDP. In the framework of this project the hail suppression net is already settled in Shvanidzor community.