

Dear Supporters and Friends

Have you ever wondered how many kernels of wheat does it take to make one loaf of bread?

ATG was established in 1989 to help empower the impoverished rural population of Armenia and Karabagh. Not just with handouts, but with a sustainable and methodical approach, ATG has sought to make the small and mid size farmers vital and productive economic entities in their communities. With your help we have achieved a milestone, for which we thank you for your trust and support!

Improving Armenia's agricultural infrastructure has been our priority. ATG has reached farmers in over 326 villages, by transferring knowledge and technology, providing proper training, and supplying them with the highest quality seed possible. Thanks to your support, these farmers are producing their own seed grown in Armenia, and supplying them to their countrymen.

With a renewed focus on rural economic development in Armenia, we ask your help in transferring Armenia's monoculture wheat production system by introducing soil building legumes into crop rotation with wheat. Although ATG has introduced crop rotation system through alfalfa and other seeds, there is still a shortage of seeds of adapted crops that will fit in rotation with wheat. Monoculture practices lead to well documented problems such as weeds, insects, disease and soil fertility and quality issues.

This year we are focusing on three very important elements of our Seed Multiplication Project, which will help transform Armenia's agricultural industry to a higher and more efficient level. These components are:

1- Introducing No-Till farming technology to the Armenian wheat growers. This technology will provide the Armenian farmers an economic advantage over imported wheat by decreasing production cost by up to 65% and increasing yield volumes and subsequently increasing household income. While reducing production cost, the technology will promote agriculturally sound, economically superior and environmentally safe farming practices.

2- Continue our progress by introducing diversity in farming to improve soil quality and crop yields and maximize the wheat yield of every single kernel being sown in the soil.

3- Educate the farming community of Armenia and others who may be exposed to the use of pesticides to reduce the health risks associated with mishandling pesticides.

We urgently need your help to accomplish this vital task to benefit the Armenian farmers and their families!

Our objective is to maximize the wheat yield of every single kernel being sown in the soil and secure enough bread for the Armenian population. Every dollar that you donate will be used efficiently to meet our objectives. Please join us with your donation to improve wheat production in Armenia, and the well being of the farmers and their families. Your continuous support will help us achieve our objective!

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Nubar Tashjian
President, ATG

Varoujan Der Simonian
Executive Director, ATG



Next time you visit St. Hovhanness the 13th century Monastery at Gandzasar, make sure you purchase one or two of the jars as souvenirs. You will enjoy the heavenly flavor of this blessed honey, while helping the Monastery and the nearby Vonk Village to generate additional income to provide for their families. ATG provided beehives to the monastery in 2002, and now is helping them market this all-natural organic honey.

How many kernals of grain does it take to feed a nation?

ATG in partnership with USAID/RPX direct feeding program, distributed 75 MT of concentrated vegetable soup with high protein content to 17 institutions, including orphanages, hospitals and nursing homes, where some 4,500 citizens are benefiting from this 16 months supply of vital nutrition.



Wall of Appreciation

Dear Reader, ATG desires to honor each of you who have contributed your resources, time and expertise to the ATG Mission of assisting the people of Armenian over the past 18 years.

A Wall of Appreciation shall be permanently installed at our ATG office displaying the names of each benefactor – no matter the amount or services provided. Your charitable contributions have helped feed and save the lives of thousands of people during the most difficult times of their lives.

This WALL willn be easily seen by all who visit our office. It is only proper that our donors names be available to all those wishing to learn the source of our benefactors, which will be prominently displayed on the wall of appreciation.



ATG FIGHTING POVERTY & HUNGER

Growing Armenia's Economic Independence • Winter 2007

The impact of the ATG nursery on the Artsakh economy.



- Alleviating poverty by creating jobs and generating income
- Producing young vines for both table and wine grape growing
- Empowering farmers to help feed their families



Pictured are some of the workers at Kheramort village where ATG established the grape nursery in 1999 to assist its population who work hard in rebuilding their homes and reestablishing their lives in this war torn border village.

Hundreds of acres...

Hundreds of acres, such as this one, are being planted and rejuvenated each year from the new seedlings provided by the nursery. Pictured Alan Asadoorian at right, a grape expert from Fresno who visited Artsakh and met with Vladimir Zakeyan, ATG-NK director to review the current progress and make recommendations to improve their working conditions while increasing their production.

