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## **BIOLOGICAL FARMING ASSOCIATION**

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## The 6th Forum of Members of the Biological Farming Association "Elkana"

<u>05.04.17, Tbilisi</u>



On 5 April 2017, in Tbilisi Marriott Hotel, the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum of Members of the Biological Farming Association "Elkana" was held, which was attended by 98 delegates – the Association Member Farmers and agricultural specialists from diffrent provinces of Georgia.

The Forum was opened by the Chair of the Board of the Association "Elkana" – Teimuraz Ghoghoberidze. He spoke of the organization's mission and its role for the development of organic farming in Georgia, agrarian biodiversity conservation and ecological developments in Georgian agriculture. Mariam Jorjadze, "Elkana" Director, reported to the Forum about the carried out activities and the achieved results. In the end of her report she thanked the Board Members and handed over to them memorable gifts.

The Forum participants approved the presented report and the amendments to be made in the organization's Charter, following which a new members of the Association's Board were elected.







In the second half of the day, the Forum participants discussed in working groups the factors impeding the development of biological farms, the possibilities of improving the Association's services and outlined the program directions of the future activity of "Elkana".



As initiated by the Association Member Farmers and agricultural specialists, the Forum considered the Government of Georgia's Resolution #588 of 24 March 2017 "On the Measures to Control the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)", the possible negative outcomes of such measures and unanimously adopted a respective appeal to the Government of Georgia.

In the end of the Forum, a Meeting of the Board was held, at which Ms Irma Davadze was elected as Chair of the Board.

Following this, the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum of the Farming Association "Elkana" finished its work.

The Biological Farming Association "Elkana" was founded in 1994. The Association facilitates the improvement of the socio-economic condition of the rural population of Georgia and environmental protection through fostering development of organic

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farming, introduction of agro-ecological practices, diversification of economic activity and increasing self-reliance of population in rural areas.

At present, the Association serves up to 2,000 farmers.

