

CURRICULUM VITAE

LASHA DOLIDZE

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION :

-- *Date of Birth* – February 1, 1975

-- *Nationality* - Georgian

-- *Marital Status* – Married

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS :

Project Manager/Advisor to the Minister with solid experience in the field of economic/agricultural development; one of the authors of the Strategy for Agricultural Development of Georgia 2015-2020; experience of running capacity development technical support activities in the field of agriculture and rural development, donor coordination, extension, agricultural and related statistics, institutional reform, specific aspects of agricultural development;

Experience in managing private sector support agricultural program with a portfolio of 25 million USD concentration on creation of/support to value adding enterprises in various agricultural sub-sectors;

Expert knowledge in the areas of agricultural development in Former Soviet Union countries, land reform and land management policies, agricultural information and data use for policy purposes, trade-related issues, and etc;

Strong academic background in economics, economic development, macroeconomics, institutional, rural and agricultural economics, statistics, environmental economics, and international trade relations;

Strong command of languages and software;

Co-founder of the international agriculture consultancy firm.

EDUCATION:

Currently

Student of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Papers Passed: 1.1 (Preparation of Financial Statements), 1.2 (Financial Information Management), 1.3 (Managing People – Exemption), 2.1 (Information Systems), 2.2. (Corporate Business Law – Exemption), 2.3. (Business Taxation), 2.4. (Financial Management and Control), 2.5. (Financial Reporting), 2.6. (Audit and Internal Review), P1 Governance, Risk, and Ethics, P3 Business Analysis.

09.2004 - 06.2005

Master of Arts in Development Economics

Center for Development Economics, Williams College, US

Major Subjects: Development Macroeconomics, Development Economics, Econometrics, Public Finance, Microfinance, Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management.

- 01.2001 - 04.2001** *Certificate of Joint Vienna Institute Comprehensive Course in Applied Market Economy, Vienna, Austria Organized by IMF, World Bank, BIS, EBRD, OECD, and WTO*
Major Subjects: Macroeconomic, Financial Analysis, Financial Intermediation, Private Sector Development, Trade Policy, Social policy,
 Policy Paper: "Georgia and WTO accession."
- 10.2000 - 11.2000** *Certificate of Joint Vienna Institute Introductory Course in Economics and Financial Analysis, Moscow, Russia Organized by World Bank*
Major Subjects: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Financial Analysis.
- 1992 - 1997** *Diploma with Excellence in International Economic Relations, Tbilisi State University, Georgia.*
Major Subjects: International Economic Relations, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Competitive Advantage of Nations, Accounting, Financial Analysis, International Organizations, International Law, Civil Law, etc.
 Diploma Work: "Developing Countries and Economic Growth."
- 1981 - 1992** *Diploma with Excellence, Secondary School #173, Tbilisi, Georgia*

PRIVTE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES:

- Since 08.2018** *Founder and Co-owner of the consultancy company Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PSA), incorporated in Massachusetts, USA*
The scope of the company includes provision of quality consultancy services to governments and non-state actors of developing countries in elaboration of general agricultural policies, as well as design, implementation, and analysis of specific policy measures and programs.

WORKING EXPERIENCE:

- 01.2017 - 03.2018** *Advisor to the Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture*
Responsibilities: *Leading the wok of the Working Group created by the Ministerial Decree for preparation of a plan for reform of the National Wine Agency; Recommendations for improvement of creation, storage, analysis and dissemination of statistical and analytical information within the Ministry; Recommendations for preparation and advancement of a strategy for agricultural extension in Georgia; Recommendations for measures targeted at attracting technical assistance and seed capital for innovative small businesses; Recommendations for improvement of coordination of donor activities in Agriculture.*

- 07.2014 - 01.2018** **Team Leader/National Project Manager to the Project “Capacity Development of the Ministry of Agriculture” funded by EU and implemented by FAO**
Responsibilities: Overall day to day management of the capacity building/support program to the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia; Maintaining close liaison and communication with the EU, MoA and FAO in relation to the program implementation and development; Support to the MoA in relation to implementation of project activities and actions related to the Strategy of Agricultural Development of Georgia; Support to the MoA to establish a policy unit and monitoring and evaluation system for actions related to the Strategy for Agricultural Development and the EU funded Sector Policy Support Program; Support to the MoA in assessing training needs and designing a staff training and human resources development program; Support the MoA in mainstreaming natural resource management, and disaster risk management; Management of program finances within Georgia and including budgeting, authorization and overall control; Preparation terms of references for short and medium term consultants; Management and coordination of local team members, international and national consultants; Inputs into the coordination body of the overall ENPARD program; Support the MoA in further strengthening an effective donor coordination mechanism; Creation of agricultural data warehouse gathering the relevant information from the Ministry and its agencies, National Statistical Agency, GEOSTAT and other relevant sources; Regular collaboration with and institutional support of conduct of National Agricultural Census of Georgia; Regular institutional support to GEOSTAT with regard to improvement of methodology for conduct of surveys and improvement of data quality; Elaboration of methodology for collection of statistical and numerical information related to state programs; General promotion and representation of the project, objectives, outputs and results throughout Georgia and at regional and international forums; Providing support to ensuring coordination of the program with other donors through attendance at donor coordination.
- 08.2013 - 07.2014** **Deputy Team Leader/National Project Manager to the Project “Capacity Development of the Ministry of Agriculture” funded by EU and implemented by FAO**
Responsibilities: Overall day to day management of the capacity building/support program to the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia; Maintaining close liaison and communication with the EU, MoA and FAO in relation to the program implementation and development; General promotion and representation of the project, objectives, outputs and results throughout Georgia and at regional and international forums; Providing support to ensuring coordination of the program with other donors through attendance at donor coordination meetings and through direct contacts; General promotion and representation of the project, objectives, outputs and results throughout Georgia and at regional and international forums; Responsibility for overall preparation, quality and timeliness of inception, quarterly and final reports in close collaboration with the International Team Leader; Presentations to any project steering group established to oversee project progress in close coordination with the Team Leader; Facilitate that the project objectives and outputs are satisfactorily achieved.
- 02.2013 - 07.2013** **Policy Expert to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) funded program on Information Systems to Improve Food Security and Decision-making in the ENP-East Area**
Responsibilities: Consulting with all relevant governmental entities, donors, and the private sector on the potential changes/modifications to be made to the Strategy of Agricultural Development of Georgia, based on the amendments to the Action Plan for the main pillars of the strategy; Ensure that the changes requested by stakeholders are fully in line with the major strategic goals of increase in rural incomes and food security, maintenance of safe food supplies, increase of competitiveness of Georgian agriculture, and promotion of environmental sustainability; Finalizing the Strategy by incorporating all the changes requested and agreed into the strategy; Present the Strategy to the Ministry of Agriculture; Submit the document to the Minister of Agriculture for endorsement.

09.2011 - 07.2012

Agriculture Sector Component (ASC) Deputy Lead to the USAID funded Economic Prosperity Initiative (EPI)

Responsibilities: Participating in implementing of the overall EPI Ag team strategy; Directing, guiding and supervising staff operations; Participating in setting the annual budgets of the Component; Writing and submitting annual work plans, quarterly and annual reports; Developing, modifying, and implementing the ASC operational strategy in tight collaboration with individual staff members responsible in their relevant fields of operations; Overseeing the process of hiring and management of local field specialists assisting the implementation of Value Chain operations; Supervising the activities of the Administrative staff; Coordinating with other components on the issues of mutual interest; Identification and formalization inter component collaboration opportunities for the purpose of contributing to EPI high level results; Representing the ASC component at stakeholder/promotional/PR events directed towards stakeholder awareness enhancement/sector promotion activities; Setting the overall logistics of Knowledge Plots and Knowledge Centers operations, including determining their budget, geographic location, personnel requirements, and etc.; Setting and monitoring the annual PMP indicators, including regular checks against the targeted outputs and outcomes for the purpose of identification of gaps in implementation of program actions; Working for identification of investment opportunities and facilitate additional investment capital and working capital solutions to the producers and processors; Performing site visits and other due diligence on potential partners; Collaborating with wide range stakeholders such as Governmental Organizations, International Donor Organizations, NGOs, Farmers and entrepreneurs; Perform other duties related to Value Chain activities as requested by the EPI Georgia Ag Component Leader and/or Chief of Party.

11.2010 - 09.2011

Agriculture Policy Manager to the Business Enabling Environment (BEE) Component of the USAID funded Economic Prosperity Initiative (EPI)

Responsibilities: Identifying major policy, legal, and regulatory constraints inhibiting development of agricultural sector in Georgia; developing and proposing actionable policy changes and responses addressing bottlenecks to development of agricultural sector comprising areas such as transfer of technology, access to finance, taxation, formation of land markets, development of measures necessary for export promotion, institutional capacity strengthening of the food safety system, development of rural infrastructure, and etc; Identification of specific legal and institutional constraints to development of wine sector in Georgia and formulation of necessary policy and regulatory changes thereof; liaising with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and major Donor organizations within the course of development of long term agriculture strategy for Georgia and other relevant legal and institutional reforms, and etc.

11.2008 - 11.2010

Deputy Project Manager of the Agribusiness Development Activity funded by the Millennium Challenge Georgia, implemented by CNFA Georgia

Responsibilities: Supervising and guiding the day-to-day activities of Value Chain and Enterprise Initiative Directors; Supervising and monitoring awarded projects through Project Mobilization and Implementation phases; Evaluation and scoring process of project applications; Managing the project development process, performing site visits and other due diligence activities to assess the economic viability of the potential partners; Ensuring compliance of project activities with Georgian legislation and USG regulations; Providing assistance on implementation of GAP, food safety, quality management systems; Liaising with and coordinating ADA activities with MoA and other state policy makers, donor projects in food and agriculture, as well as economic development areas; Tracing and monitoring domestic and international food and agriculture trade, regulation and policy practice changes and trends as they relate to ADA strategic goals; organizational and supervision activities as required, etc.

- 07.2007 - 12.2007** *Managing Director of the Agricultural Policy Analysis Unit (APAU) of the USAID funded AgVantage Project*
Responsibilities: Directing, overseeing and coordinating APAU policy, education and public awareness strengthening activities; Working with MoA and the relevant stakeholders on advocating and promoting the Ten Year Agricultural Development Strategy Document; Working with state and donor community actors on formulation of long term agricultural and agribusiness development strategy goals; Identification of key agricultural and agribusiness sectors of Georgia with complete advantage and formulation of policy initiatives their support and promotion; Identification of key infrastructure, human, financial, organizational, legal and technological shortcomings of Georgian agriculture and agribusiness for the purpose of formulation of the role of the government in their alleviation; Working on elaboration of public-private partnership schemes for advancement of agriculture and agribusiness in Georgia; Liaising with the Donor Community and the MoA for facilitating the development information flow and better formulation of policy measures and initiatives; Creating donor assistance database encompassing all international organizations, etc.
- 11.2005 - 07.2007** *Analyst to the USAID funded AgVantage Project*
Responsibilities: Participation in elaboration of the Ten Year Agricultural Development Strategy for the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia; Monitoring the policy developments affecting the agro-food sector; Research, evaluation and design of market-oriented agriculture development policies; Developing datasets and models related to the sector and/or specific agricultural commodities; Facilitating transfer of market-oriented concepts and analytical techniques to local specialists in government, research and educational institutions; Liaising with the donor community working in agriculture; Analytical activities of the AgVantage Project, etc.
- 06.2000 - 06.2004** *National Consultant to Economic service of the President of Georgia; Secretariat of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council (FIAC) under the President of Georgia*
Responsibilities: Participation in formulation of macroeconomic policy advice for the government of Georgia; Participation on creation of the first interactive donor assistance database in Georgia; Participation in elaboration of Country Assistance Strategies of various donors; Preparation of discussion papers and reports for the regular sessions of FIAC, etc.
- 08.1998 - 05.2000** *State Advisor to the Information Centre of Economic Reforms; State Chancellery of Georgia*
Responsibilities: Analysis of macroeconomic trends and preparation of weekly analytical information for the government of Georgia; Liaising with international donor organizations and local media, etc.

SHORT TERM EXPERT ASSIGNMENTS:

- 11.2018 - present** *Senior Fellow to the Economic Policy Research Center*
Responsibilities: Preparation/leading of research efforts of the Economic Policy Research Center in the directions of macroeconomic policy, collaboration of Georgia with international organizations, institutional development, analysis of specific governmental targeted programs, and etc.

- 08.2012-10.2012** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Pre-election Project “Political Parties Economic Platforms jointly implemented by Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC), ISET Policy Institute, Liberal Academy Tbilisi (LAT), and Transparency International Georgia (TIG) funded Policy, Advocacy, and Civil Society Development in Georgia (G-PAC) program of USAID/ East-West Management Institute (EWMI)*
Responsibilities: Preparation of analytical comments on macroeconomic and agriculture policy-related sections of election platforms/programs of six political parties participating in Parliamentary Elections on October 1, 2012
- 08.2012 - 01.2013** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Diaspora Investment Study funded by German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)*
Responsibilities: Participation in development of a study to identify potential of Georgian Diaspora to help economic development of Georgia through investment, introduction and transfer of modern knowledge, know-how and skills; Identifying and proposing policy measures to effectively capture and use the potential of Georgians living abroad for economic advancement of Georgia.
- 07.2012 - 10. 2012** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the project “Price of the State” funded by USAID/GPAC Program*
Responsibilities: Participation in analytical exercise measuring societal costs of maintaining the state and efficiency of delivery of public goods such as order, public health and education, social safety net, and other budgetary expenditures in relation to resources (taxes, fines, debt, etc.) extracted by the state from general public.
- 07.2011 - 01.2013** *Research Program Manager to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Project “Georgian Economic Outlook” funded by Open Society Institute Georgia*
Responsibilities: Participation in preparation of regular analytical reports on major developmental trends such as pace of economic growth, FDI trends, dynamics of monetary and fiscal policy indicators, employment, remittances, etc.
- 07.2012 - 08.2012** *Short Term Expert to the Project “Building the Local Capacity and Deepening the Regional Cooperation with the Purpose of Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation in Georgia and South Caucasus” Funded by the European Union and Implemented by the NGOs Mercy Corps and Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)*
Responsibilities: Preparation of baseline social and economic profiles within the context of the global climate change for the following 6 municipalities of Georgia: Dedoplistskaro, Sagarejo, Signaghi, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, and Ninotsminda.
- 07.2011 - 07.2012** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Project “Threats and Challenges for Sustainable Economic Growth – Concept for National Security Council funded by USAID/GPAC program”*
Responsibilities: Participation in preparation of the analytical concept paper outlining major developmental threats and opportunities too Georgian economy including macroeconomic shortcomings, fiscal and external debt problems, unemployment, and agriculture. Formulation of actionable policy responses to the threats and challenges identified to the National Security Council of Georgia.
- 11.2010 - 04.2012** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Project “Civil Society Involvement in Millennium Challenge Second Compact Development” funded by Open Society Institute Georgia*
Responsibilities: Participation in development of the document “Comments on Constraints Analysis Document by Government of Georgia” focusing on potential sources of macroeconomic instability, access to finance, agriculture, health, roads, and education.

- 01.2009 - 02.2009** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Project “Economic Challenges of Georgia and Governmental Strategy Against Crisis”*
Responsibilities: Providing analytical input on macroeconomic threats to Georgian economy, economic growth and its sustainability; Analysis of investment flows to Georgia and implications of its banking sector’s dependency on foreign capital markets; Analysis of increasing foreign debt trend, as well as volume and sustainability of remittances from abroad, risks of currency misalignment; Formulation of relevant recommendations to policy makers, etc.
- 05.2008 - 10.2008** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Project “Monitoring The Millennium Challenge Program”*
Responsibilities: Providing analytical input on dynamics of fund usage allocations within the framework of MCG Program and recommending measures for speeding up the fund usage rates, etc.
- 04.2008 - 05.2008** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Project “50 Days Program of the Government of Georgia – Analysis and Conclusions”*
Responsibilities: Providing analytical input on costs and benefits of creation of free economic zone in Poti and special budgetary funds; Analysis of new tax initiatives of the government and perspectives of proposal of creation a global financial center in Georgia; Assessment of a paradigm of macroeconomic development of Georgia proposed by the government of Georgia; Analysis of external debt management policy of Georgia; Analysis of government’s cheap loan program and 100 Agricultural Enterprises Initiative; Analysis of a proposed pension reform and formulation on relevant recommendations to the policy makers, etc.
- 05.2007 - 12.2007** *Leading Expert to the Economic Policy Research Center within the framework of the Project “Medical Assistance Program for the Population Below the Poverty Line”*
Responsibilities: Providing analytical input on viability of the program for medical assistance to the population below the poverty line; Analysis of health care spending trends in GDP and their comparison to those in Countries in Transition; Analysis of insurance business development trends in Georgia and its perspectives to participate in state funded health insurance services for the poor, etc.
- 01.2008 - 05.2008** *Team Member of the UNDP Project “Support to the Kakheti Regional Development Strategy,” Co-author of the Kakheti Food and Agriculture Diversification and Development Study*
Responsibilities: Analysis of the present state of Kakheti’s economy within the context of Georgia’s recent economic development; Outlining comparative advantages of the region and its diversification perspectives; Outlining perspectives of the region’s agriculture in view of rising world prices on food; Formulation of recommendations aimed at alleviation of potential environmental threats to the region of Kakheti; Coordination of inputs of other team members; Formulation of recommendations on policy decisions aimed at support of the region’s economic development, etc.
- 05.2006 - 08.2006** *National Expert of the UNDP Project” Enabling Activities for the Preparation of Georgia’s Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)”*
Responsibilities: Participation in preparation of Baseline Study of Agriculture of Georgia; Review of the donor funded projects underway in agricultural and agribusiness sector of Georgia and their role in sustainable development facilitation process; Analysis of trends in agriculture sector (share in GDP, budget allocation) for the last 10 years with a special focus on the problems in the priority regions of Kvemo-Svaneti Region and Dedoplistskaro Rayon; Identification of sensitivity and vulnerability indicators for agriculture sector of the priority regions and their preliminary assessment; Preparation of presentations and reports on the subject matter, etc.

TRAININGS DELIVERED AND LECTURING

- 06.2007 *Trainings to selected Tbilisi hospital directors, within the framework of Primary Healthcare Reform Project Funded by UK Department for International Development and implemented by Oxford Policy Management*
Topics covered: Benefit Criteria for Capital Expenditure Proposals; Capital Budgeting; Budgeting Process in Healthcare; Resources Planning and Budgeting; Cost Budgeting in Healthcare; Monitoring Budgeted Performance
- 02.2004 - 06.2004 *Lecturer in Auditing and Assurance Services to the International Black Sea University*
Subject Area: Purpose and Function of Audit and Assurance Engagement; International Standards of Accounting and Auditing; Audit Report Preparation Techniques; Case Studies, etc.

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Georgian - mother tongue; English, Russian – fluent, German – intermediate

COMPUTER SKILLS:

Familiar with Microsoft Windows, MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access, Stata, MS PowerPoint, e-mail and internet program, etc.

INTERESTS (HOBBIES):

Arts, Long distance running, Hiking, Music, Contract Bridge