

May 19, 2004

An Israeli Expert in the Village of Aygut

The Armenia Tree Project (ATP), Satsil NGO organized a seminar on potato growing in Aygut, located in the Gegharkunik region, on May 9. The seminar was conducted by Mr. Gadi Moses, an Israeli expert in potato farming technologies representing ECOTEX Ltd. Mr. Moses visited Armenia as guest of Satsil NGO, which is operating an agricultural consulting assistance project in the South Caucasus region conducted by the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture.

The seminar began with an overview of potato growing techniques employed by Aygut farmers. After understanding the problems villagers are currently facing in potato growing, Mr. Moses presented practical solutions to them and shared the Israeli farmers' experience.

"You have the best soil in the world: with a bit of learning you could multiply your yield," Mr. Moses encouraged the attendees.

With consulting experience in almost 40 countries around the world, Mr. Moses managed to enter into a dialogue with the villagers and assess their problems in a very practical way. The topics covered at the seminar included fertilizers used in potato growing and planting techniques. The community members were rather active in asking questions, particularly addressing maximizing yield and problems connected with different species of potatoes.

ATP has been implementing a Village Economic Development program in the Getik River valley, where Aygut is situated, since 2002. In this of sustainable mountainous development program, ATP is partnering with villagers and other international and local organizations to combat the linked problems of poverty and natural resource degradation. Among the contributors to date are USDA/MAP, World Food Program, Heifer International, Project Harmony, ORRAN, Boghosian Education Center, and Satsil.

The Armenia Tree Project was founded in 1994 during Armenia's darkest and coldest years with the vision of securing Armenia's future by protecting Armenia's environment. Funded by contributions from Diasporan Armenians, ATP has planted and rejuvenated over 531,000 trees at more than 500 sites ranging from Gyumri to Goris.