

Day 2 One for the road...

On September 22, the forum participants headed off to visit Sardarapat museum and Nalbandyan village in Armavir marz.

The Sardarapat Memorial is located approximately 70 kilometers from Yerevan. When in 1918 Turkish troops crossed the border and attacked Alexandropol (today Gyumri) they intended to crush Eastern Armenia and seize Transcaucasus. There was a major battle at Sardarapat, where the Turkish Army was crushed and drawn back, which gave Armenia chance to declare independence on May 28, 1918. A memorial park was built on the battlefield, with massive lions placed on both sides of Sardarapat monument. The steps bring to a plaza with bell tower, the bells of which ring every year on the day of the historic triumph.



The group of CBM forum participants visited not only the memorial but also the Museum of Ethnography on the territory of the park. The skilled tour guides introduced the memorable history of the Armenian people and guided through the exhibition. The museum galleries exhibited archaeological materials from Neolithic to medieval times and a variety of national hand made works. The tour was fascinating for the group and the Georgian participants found a lot of similarities between the Armenian and Georgian cultures.

The Georgian as well as Armenian visitors had chance to see an exquisite collection of ancient and modern rugs and needlecraft, contemporary national fine pottery and jewelry.

The visit to Sardarapat was completed by outdoors lunch with the view of remarkable memorial of Armenian victory.





The group then followed to Nalbandyan village to visit and observe vermiculture and biohumus production at YES Youth Club. The forum participants were welcomed by YES youth club members' bread and salt, songs and table full of organic fruits.

The club members showed the forum participants the venue for producing biohumus with the help of Californian worms, shared the production techniques and methods.

Vermiculture farming and biohumus production is an educational and agricultural production project on the basis of Yes! Youth Club in Nalbandyan village in Armenia. The project established a vermiculture farm and started producing biohumus through 1 million mature Californian worms and cattle manure collected from village farms. The objective of the project is to enable the farm produce biohumus for sale. The farm is managed by the young farmers aged 14 and older after the training providing by specialists. The project is funded outside Heifer, by British organization and managed by Development Principles NGO.



As the Nalbandyan Youth Club trainers shared with the guests, biohumus has 5 times more nitrogen, 7 times more phosphor, 5 times more potassium, 2 times more calcium than the original organic material. Red worms make the best composters. They eat their own weight in organics daily. Biohumus contains a great number of ferments, vitamins, soil antibiotics, plant growth hormones, and other biologically active substances.



Packs of organic fertilizers was presented to Georgian participants as a gift.