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## Advancing resource efficient and cleaner production in Armenia

### The RECP methodology

**Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)** is the integrated and continuous application of preventive environmental strategies to **processes, products, and services** to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. RECP is all about producing with fewer resources while minimizing environmental impacts and increasing overall productivity. For **Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)**, the RECP methodology can effectively lower production costs whilst improving the SMEs' competitive advantage and applying environmentally friendly practices. RECP is also an effective tool to introduce and promote Circular Economy principles among SMEs.

### "SUN CHEERS" PE - FOOD PRODUCTION

#### Company overview



**Location:** Armavir Marz, s. Armavir

**Key products:** dried fruits, candies, chocolates, sweets

**No. of employees:** 15

**Main markets:** Armenia, Ukraine, USA, Russia

**Founding year:** 2021

"Sun Cheers" was founded in 2018 as a small family hobby that gradually grew into a stable and thriving business, employing numerous gardeners and staff. The business began with fruits from its own garden, and today, the company produces over 14 different products, including dried fruit sweets and chocolate-covered dried fruits. Its market spans to various regions of Armenia, including Yerevan, as well as abroad. Motivated to address production costs and improve product quality, the company participated in the RECP Green Clubs project under EU4Environment (2019-2024). This publication details the company's experience reported after the assessment exercise conducted in 2024.

### BENEFITS

1

4 RECP options  
focused on  
energy efficiency

2

Potential energy  
savings of  
94,860 kWh  
per year

3

Potential  
reduction of  
solid waste of  
44.4 tonnes  
per year

4

Potential savings  
of 12,728 EUR  
per year

Action implemented by:

# The project's approach

The RECP assessment examined the production site and identified several RECP options, out of which the following four were prioritised by the company:

**RECP option 1: Producing by-products from apricot waste (kernel and pulp):** The company already produces spirits such as vodka from the generated fruit waste, effectively managing waste and bringing economic benefits. The RECP experts also recommended producing kernel pulp oil, fuel briquettes, and compost as further methods to improve waste management.

**RECP option 2: Using wastewater for irrigation:** Based on the specific production processes, approximately 30% of the total water consumption could be reused for irrigation purposes.

**RECP option 3: Installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels:** A PV system with a capacity of 42 kWp (expected to generate over 63 MWh annually) is sufficient to meet the company's needs, including the demand of the modified drying device and the charging of electric vehicles.

**RECP option 4: Technology change and equipment modification:** Upgrades such as purchasing an electric vehicle and modifying the drying device are recommended, as well as options to optimise the convection of warm air and the elimination of humidity.

## SAVING ACHIEVEMENTS

### Main RECP actions

OPTION 1	Producing by-products from apricot waste (kernel and pulp)
OPTION 2	Using wastewater for irrigation
OPTION 3	Installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels
OPTION 4	Technology change and equipment modification

### Economic key figures

RECP OPTIONS	INVESTMENT (EUR)	SAVINGS (EUR/YR)	PAYBACK PERIOD (YR)
Option 1:	2,200	2,530	1.3
Option 2:	-	-	-
Option 3:	31,000	5,140	4.6
Option 4:	34,800	3,440	7.6

### Resource savings

RECP OPTIONS	MATERIALS (TONNES/YR)	ENERGY (KWH/YR)
Option 1:	-	-
Option 2:	-	-
Option 3:	-	48,000
Option 4:	-	46,860

### Total pollution reduction

RECP OPTIONS	TOTAL CO <sub>2</sub> -EQ (T/YR)	GENERAL WASTE (T/YR)
Total:	32.1	44.4

The introduction of RECP Green Clubs has been part of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action and executed by UNIDO. In this context, "Sun Cheers" PE joined the Clubs programme to be monitored under EU4Environment. Follow-up visits have also been conducted to check on the implementation of the recommended RECP options. EU4Environment helps the EU's Eastern Partnership countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts. For more details, visit: [www.eu4environment.org](http://www.eu4environment.org)

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