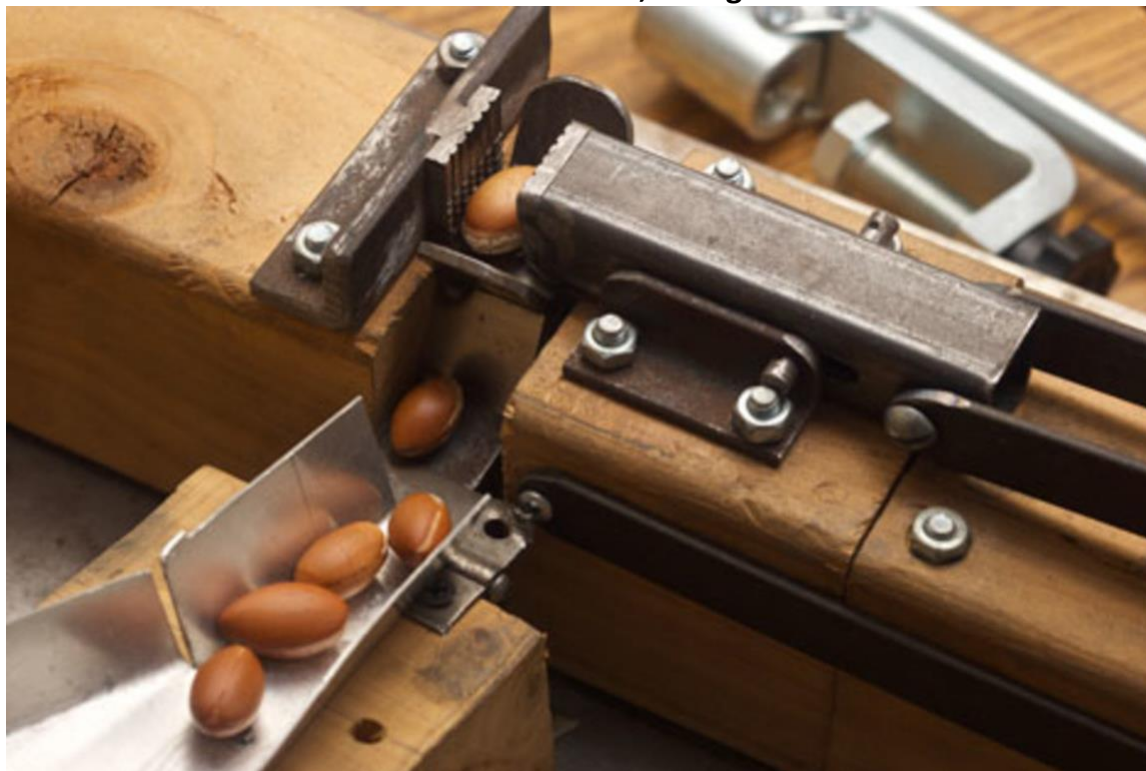


Nut Breaker Tool, Georgia



Georgia is located in the South Caucasus region. The population of the country is 3.4 million and 60% of them are involved in agricultural activities. One of the high value agricultural products produced in the country are nuts. 80% of hazelnuts produced in the country are exported to world market. Walnuts produced in Georgia are consumed in the country as it is widely used to prepare national dishes (e.g. eggplant with walnut, chicken in walnut) as well as local cookies called Churchkhela. Farmers are producing nuts in their farms and collecting them in the forest. One of the main activities for the farmers involved in the nuts production and collection is breaking of nuts to get high price for the produce. Price for the 1 kg peeled walnuts varies between 10-11 USD and for the whole walnuts 2.5-3 USD. Mostly rural women work breaking nuts and they spend several months starting from September till December-January. It is a very hard work for women and they work from early morning till night.

There are different types of equipment available on the market for nut breaking. Price for the equipment varies between \$2500-4000 USD. Small farmers are not able to pay this high price for the equipment so instead use women power for the work. A major challenge to the use of technical equipment is the maintenance costs and ability of the equipment to work with different size nuts, as they are collected from different species. Development of a new technical tool able to segregate and break different sized nuts will help local farmers to generate around 40% more income and reduce the difficult labor done by rural women.

In-Country Partner Organization: Tusheti Protected Areas Friends Association

Country/Community/Location: Georgia, Kakheti Region, Akhmeta municipality