



Farmer-to-Farmer

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Dr. Aliyar Fouladkhah, an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at [Tennessee State University](#), completed a volunteer assignment implemented by [ACDI/VOCA](#) in Zugdidi, Georgia. During this assignment, he supported the Association for Agriculture Development (AFAD), a unique provider of agricultural extension services. Dr. Fouladkhah led a series of training courses with their staff and positioned AFAD to offer testing and better product safety in the region.

AFAD operates several facilities, including a laboratory, agricultural store, veterinary clinic, and training center. It is a hub for extension and agricultural education as well as a reliable partner for farmers, entrepreneurs, the state, international organizations, and the local civil sector. One service AFAD offers farmers is a microbiological analysis of water, food, meat, and dairy products, conducted in a well-equipped microbiology lab. To keep the lab running smoothly, AFAD trains lab personnel on how to prepare a sample, conduct microbiological testing, and constantly evaluate their procedures and safety measures to ensure the proper environment for substrate culture preparation, storage, and disposal of microorganisms.

Dr. Fouladkhah met with AFAD leaders and lab personnel to observe their current practices. The group had many active discussions about Georgia's capabilities for regional and global food production. Thanks to these trainings, AFAD can use their new knowledge to start testing commodities to ensure the safety of various products for export to new and existing markets. Dr. Fouladkhah also provided certification training in food safety and microbiology valued at \$10,950 to nine local specialists. Dr. Fouladkhah's assignment supported the F2F Program's goal to promote sustainable improvements in food security and agricultural processing. [#IVD2022](#)
[#InternationalVolunteerDay](#)

2022 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
ACDI/VOCA

Congratulations
Dr. Aliyar
Fouladkhah!

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