



DECLARATION FOR STRENGTHENING THE POSITION OF FARMERS IN THE VALUE CHAIN

There are several areas in which North Macedonia's policy can intervene to improve the position of farmers in value chains, in line with the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). One key area is **input supply**, where farmers in the EU benefit from subsidies and support schemes that help them purchase essential agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and equipment. Ensuring similar forms of support would enable Macedonian farmers to reduce production costs and enhance productivity. Other key issues to address are fostering diversification with new business activities such as agro-tourism, enhancing quality of products, consolidating farms, establishing/strengthening cooperatives.

In terms of **processing and marketing**, farmers can benefit from grants and loans aimed at establishing or modernizing processing facilities, developing marketing strategies, and accessing new markets, either through direct interventions supporting individual farmers or through rural development programs that empower farmer associations and cooperatives.

Improving **distribution** systems is also crucial. Farmers in the EU benefit from infrastructure investments that enhance transportation networks, storage facilities, and distribution channels, allowing them to reach markets more efficiently and reduce post-harvest losses. North Macedonia could follow this example by prioritizing investments in rural logistics and cold-chain infrastructure.

In the area of **research and innovation**, policies should encourage farmers to adopt new technologies and sustainable practices through targeted programs, ensuring competitiveness and resilience in a global market. Similarly, **sustainability and environmental protection** should remain central policy objectives, with incentives for organic production, water-efficient technologies, and biodiversity-friendly practices.

Finally, **training and education** are vital for building farmers' capacity to manage their businesses, adopt modern production methods, and comply with evolving market and regulatory requirements. Access to continuous learning opportunities, workshops, and advisory services can help





farmers adapt to new challenges and fully benefit from integration into sustainable value chains. Together, these interventions would strengthen the role of Macedonian farmers across all stages of the agricultural value chain and align the national policy framework more closely with EU CAP principles.

Applying a **structured sustainability framework** to monitor and evaluate agricultural value chains enables an evidence-based, inclusive, and impact-oriented approach to value chain development. Such framework supports more informed decision-making for policymakers, development partners, producer organizations, and private sector actors by identifying specific economic, social, and environmental gaps and proposing actionable recommendations. Strengthening income tracking, improving representation of marginalized groups, and monitoring environmental performance not only enhances the resilience of producers, but also contributes to long-term viability of the entire value chain. In addition, the use of key performance indicators and standardized tools and monitoring practices ensures that progress can be measured consistently over time. This allows for adaptive management and the ability to target interventions more effectively. With adapting specific metrics to the unique dynamics of each specific value chain, stakeholders can systematically identify gaps, track improvements, and design interventions that are both context-relevant and impact-driven.

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