



Questionnaire

Part II

**Information provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova
to the Questionnaire of the European Commission**

CHAPTER 11: AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

May 2022

The agricultural and rural development chapter covers a large number of binding rules, many of which are directly applicable regulations. The proper application of these rules and their effective enforcement by an efficient public administration are essential for the functioning of the Common Agricultural Policy. This includes the setting up of management and control systems such as a paying agency and the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), and the capacity to programme and implement rural development actions.

EU membership requires integration into the Common Market Organisation of a range of agricultural products, including arable crops, sugar, animal products and specialised crops.

The Member State decides which institution is responsible for the effective implementation of the *acquis*. However, the functions that the EU Member State must have the capacity to carry out - through the administrative structures they establish - are clearly specified in the *acquis*.

I. HORIZONTAL

1. Please provide, a general description of:

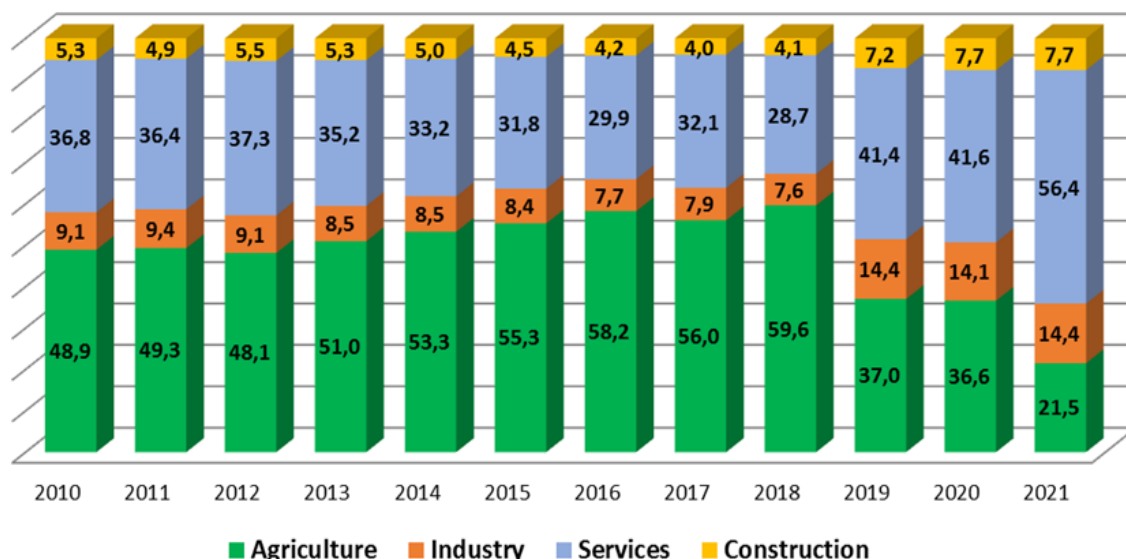
a) The current agriculture and rural development policy in your country.

The Republic of Moldova is a country with an agrarian economy, whose area consists of 3384.7 thousand ha, of which 63% are agricultural land (2129,6 thousand ha). With more than 2,6 million people, i.e. 57 % of the total population, living in rural areas, the Republic of Moldova is a predominantly less urbanised country.

Agriculture and agriculture processing industry remain some of the most important activities in the Republic of Moldova, contributing MDA [46,385 billion]¹ (EUR 2,361 billion). The employment in the agricultural sector consists of 181,200 workers in 2021, amounting around 21,5% of total employment in the labour market. This amount represents a significant decline in the 10 years as the share of the same indication was about 48,9%, in 2010.²

The reason for such a significant decrease is that until 2019, the calculation of persons employed in the agricultural sector included persons who practised agriculture as the main source of income in households, thus raising the share of those who worked in the agricultural sector. Nevertheless, the share of employment rate remains the highest in the Republic of Moldova (figure 1).

Figure 1. Structure of the population employed by economic activities, 2019 – 2021, %



Source: NBS

¹http://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/40%20Statistica%20economica16%20AGR_AGR010/AGR010080.px/table/tableViewLayout1/

² National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development for 2014-2020

Between 2017 and 2021, overall agricultural production increased in volume and value. The volume of plant production increased by 24%, while the volume of animal production declined by 24%. The value of agricultural production increased overall by 27%, with plant production increasing by 35,8% and animal production increasing only by 1,8%. Overall, real production increased by 8% between 2017 and 2021, being measured in USD. During this period, the share of cereals, sunflower, potatoes, and some other plant products in the total value of agriculture production increased significantly at the expense of animal products.

In 2020, a major drought led to significant declines in agricultural production, especially for wheat and maize crops which fell to roughly half of the average production over the past years. According to estimates made by the National Bureau of Statistics, the overall agricultural production increased again by nearly 50% in 2021 to volumes exceeding those of 2019, driven by particularly strong increases in crop production (Agricultural production, 2015-2021).³

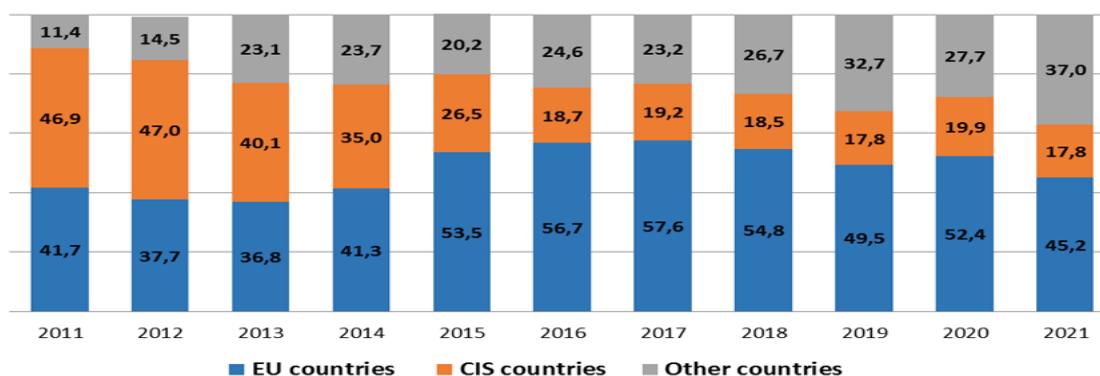
Agricultural enterprises play an important role in the agricultural sector, although their role varies significantly across different commodities. In 2021, they accounted for 58% of total crop harvests, with peasant (farmer) households accounting for 23%, and other households for 19%. While their share in the production of cereals and pulses (without maize) accounted for 77% and around 90% for sugar beet, tobacco, and rape, peasant farmers were the largest producers of fruits, nuts, and berries (51% of total production) and grapes (36%), while potatoes and vegetables were primarily produced by other households.⁴

In the area of foreign trade in agro-food products, there is the same trend as at the beginning of the previous decade, which only intensified after the signing of the Association Agreement/ DCFTA with the European Union in 2014. Thus, after signing the Agreement, share of trade with CIS states steadily declined, reaching record lows in 2021 (17.8%). At the same time, exports of agro-food production to other markets, especially the EU market, have grown rapidly. Thus, in the period 2014 - 2021 the share of agri-food production exports in EU countries increased from 41.3% to 45.2% and in other countries from 23.7% in 2014 to 37% in 202

³ Statistica Moldovei, Global agricultural production in 2021, 31 January 2022; and cross-linked longer press release in Romanian. Viewed at: <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=en&idc=168&id=7284>.

⁴ Statistica Moldovei, Activitatea agricolă în anul 2021, 31 January 2021. Viewed at: <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&id=7284&idc=168>.

Figure 2. Dynamics of the structure of agro-food exports of the republic of Moldova by group of countries, 2011-2021,%



Evolution of the agriculture-food sector

Plants production

- The general dynamics of the various categories of agricultural production in the period 1995-2021 showed rather distorted, mostly negative developments.
- The last 15 years have seen a change in the structure of agricultural crops, with an increase in the share of cereals to the detriment of fodder crops and vegetables.
- Productivity for phyto-technical crops in the last 10 years has a moderate dynamic with a general upward trend.

Animals breeding

- Livestock production has a slightly positive growth trend, but even so it is far from ensuring the level of self-sufficiency.
- In the last 10 years, there has been a clear trend of concentrating meat production in agricultural enterprises compared to production in households.
- In the case of milk production there is a sharp decrease of production in households, while in the case of agricultural holdings the growth is insufficient to cover the demand of the internal market.

Agro-food industry

- In the period 2011-2021, the agro-food exports of the Republic of Moldova increased by about 19 percent, which is above the level of increase in the total volume of exports. This increase was based on the

increase in exports to EU countries and to other countries outside the EU and the CIS. This increase took place despite a massive reduction in exports to CIS countries.

- The structure of agro-food exports by product categories in 2021 was dominated by exports of Products of the vegetable reign with a share of about 60.6% of the total agro-food exports, being followed by Food industry products (28.4%). Vegetable fats and oils products contributed about 8.4% and animal products by only 2.6%.
- The export of the main categories of agro-food products is mainly oriented towards EU countries, and only the exports of animals products are mainly aimed at countries outside the CIS and EU.

Do you have a (multiannual) strategy for the agriculture and rural development sector?

The National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development 2022-2027 (NSARD 2027) which is in the final phase of parliamentary endorsement⁵. The strategy represents the third consecutive planning document in the domain of agrifood and the second one with regard to rural development. NARDS-2027 corresponds to the provisions of the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030"⁶ and the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union.

The new Strategy starts from the general goal of contributing decisively to the implementation of pillars 1 and 4 of the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030", respecting the commitments on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

NARDS 2027 ensures the implementation of the provisions of Title IV, Chapter 12 - Agriculture and Rural Development, of the Moldova-EU Association Agreement, by aligning with the three general objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The strategy gives continuity to initiatives in the field funded by external partners. International donor programs and projects will continue to have a significant impact on both the development of the agro-industrial sector and the growth of institutional strengthening capacities.

The strategic vision of this document is to develop a competitive agro-food sector, focused on value chains with high potential, environmentally friendly and climate resilient, which strengthens food security and safety and provides better welfare and living conditions in rural areas.

⁵ <https://bit.ly/3EUsmVn>

⁶ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121920&lang=ro#

Based on the development needs related to inputs, agricultural processes, markets and community involvement in rural development, the Strategy defines three general strategic objectives, which aim to strengthen the potential of the resilient agricultural sector to climate change, promote smart, efficient and sustainable agricultural practices, the development of the local market and the increase of the export potential, as well as the support of a sustainable rural socio-economic development.

NARDS 2027 ensures the continuity of the activities provided by the previous Strategy (NARDS 2014-2020⁷ extended to 2021).

The main source of financing for the Strategy is the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas (NFDARA). The management of NFDARA resources, as well as the resources from development partners allocated for intervention measures in agriculture, is carried out through the Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA), and in the case of projects financed from external sources - through Implementation Units of Projects. Other funds, such as the National Regional Development Fund, the National Environment Fund and the Energy Efficiency Fund, also contribute to the financing of the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030".

The National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development for 2022-2027 was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, in a broad participatory process, with the methodological and technical support of the IFAD and Twinning Project "*Further support to agriculture, rural development and food safety in the Republic of Moldova*".

b) The administrative structure in place at the national and/or regional or local level (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Intervention/Paying Agencies, Advisory Bodies, Control Bodies, Audit authorities, etc.) involved in agricultural policy formulation, management/execution, monitoring, control and audit of the policy.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) has the mission to analyse the situation and problems in its areas of activity, to develop effective public policies in specific areas, to monitor the quality of policies and regulations and to propose justified state interventions to provide effective solutions in the areas of competence ensuring the best ratio between the expected results and the expected costs.

The Ministry performs the functions established by Government Decision no. 695/2017⁸ on the organisation and functioning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry with subsequent amendments and completions, in the following areas:

⁷ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=76222&lang=ro

⁸ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119185&lang=ro

- production of products of vegetable and animal origin;
- processing of products of vegetable and animal origin;
- wine and alcoholic beverages;
- plant protection and phytosanitary quarantine;
- organic production and products with designation of origin;
- veterinary medicine;
- selection and reproduction in animal husbandry;
- food safety;
- development and organisation of agricultural and agri-food markets;
- rural development programs;
- agricultural consultancy;
- land improvements and land fund.

The basic functions of MAFI are:

- elaboration of ex ante analysis, policy documents, drafting the normative acts, including those for ensuring the execution of normative acts and decrees of the President of the Republic of Moldova, after their publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with relevant representatives of civil society and the business community;
- Collaboration, in accordance with the national legislation, with high profile institutions from abroad in its fields of competence;
- Monitoring the score and position of the Republic of Moldova in the international indicators and rankings related to its specific fields and elaboration of proposals for their improvement;
- Monitoring the perception of citizens and economic agents regarding public policies, normative acts and state activity in the fields of activity specific to the Ministry and elaboration of proposals for its improvement;
- Monitoring the quality of public policies and normative acts in the specific fields of the Ministry's activity, including collaboration with the civil society and the private sector;
- Drafting normative acts and implementing international treaties of the Republic of Moldova, drawing up reports on their execution;
- Examination and approval of draft normative acts developed by other public administration authorities and submitted for examination;
- Elaboration and presentation of the budget proposals for Agriculture sector and subsectors, elaboration of the annual activity plan, as well as annual monitoring of the degree of implementation by elaboration and publication of the respective reports;
- Organising the systems of planning, execution, accounting and budget reporting within the Ministry;

- Coordination and monitoring of the activity of the administrative authorities and of the subordinated decentralised public services and of the public institutions in which the Ministry has the quality of founder;
- Exercising other specific functions.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry has a number of 73 units of civil servants, according to the staff statements, with an annual remuneration fund according to the legislation in force.

STRUCTURE of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry

Internal audit service

The mission of the Internal Audit Service (IAS) is to provide advice and assurance on the effectiveness of the internal control system managerial, offering recommendations for its improvement and contributing to improving the work of the Ministry.

Policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation department

DAMEP' s mission is to ensure the planning, development, monitoring and evaluation of public policy documents and planning documents, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public policies in the areas of activity assigned to the ministry.

Rural Development Policy and Programs Directorate

The mission is to ensure the process of planning, elaboration, implementation and monitoring of rural development policies, as well as their integration in the national public policy system, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public policies in the areas of activity assigned in the Ministry's competence.

Policy Department in the Plant Sector

Food industry service on the vegetable segment

The mission of the Directorate has as objective the elaboration and promotion of the state policy in the field of development of the vegetal products sector, the increase of the competitiveness of the vegetal products and the productivity of the plantations production-commodity of agricultural crops, as well as those for the production of seeds and planting material.

Plant Protection and Plant Food Safety Directorate

The mission of the Directorate is to develop, promote and implement the measures set out in public policy documents in the fields of plant protection, phytosanitary quarantine, management of plant protection products and fertilisers and food safety of plant origin, in the segment of pesticide residue control and nitrate content, harmonisation of the national regulatory framework in this field, with the requirements of Community legislation, international standards, including those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Wine and Alcohol Policy Service

The mission of the Service is to develop, coordinate and promote state policy in the wine sector (viticulture, viticulture and winemaking) and alcoholic beverages, other sectors of the alcoholic beverage industry to ensure their sustainable and efficient development.

Land Improvement and Land Fund Service

The mission of the Service is to develop, promote and coordinate normative acts and policies in the field of land improvement, land fund and water improvement.

Policy Department in the Livestock Sector

The mission is to ensure the elaboration and promotion of the state policy for a sustainable livestock sector development, by increasing its competitiveness and productivity, as well as ensuring the food security of the country.

Directorate of Veterinary Medicine and Food Safety of Animal Origin

The Directorate is responsible for developing policies in the field of veterinary medicine and food safety of animal origin, animal health and welfare.

Organic production service and products with designation of origin

The management has the mission to develop and monitor policies in the field of organic production and ensure their implementation.

Agricultural research, education and consultancy service

Mission of the Agricultural Research, Education and Consulting Service consists in organizing, coordinating and monitoring the activity of science and innovation

organizations and educational institutions within the competence of the Ministry, as well as developing, coordinating and promoting state policy in the field of science, education and rural extension services.

+10 support departments

Institutions under the Ministry:

Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture

The Agency's mission is to financially support agricultural producers and local communities for the development of the agro-industrial sector and rural development. The Agency performs the function of implementing the policy of subsidy and state intervention in the agro-industrial sector and in rural areas.

Public Institution Agency for the Development and Modernization of Agriculture

The Agency's mission is to manage the assets transmitted by the Founder, the donations and / or loans, allocated to the Agency for administration, for the implementation of technical endowment measures for agriculture, based on state policies on modernization of the agricultural sector and the needs and demands of agricultural producers in the Republic of Moldova.

State Service State Centre for Attestation and Approval of Phytosanitary Products and Fertilisers

The State Centre has the mission to organise, coordinate the activities of research-testing-experimentation, approval and registration of plant protection products and fertilisers in order to reduce the risks and their effects on human health and the environment, according to the area of competence of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and the basic functions.

Public Institution Consolidated Unit for the Implementation and Monitoring of Projects in the Field of Agriculture, Funded by the World Bank

The purpose of the Unit is to ensure the efficient implementation of World Bank projects in the field of agriculture by administering, monitoring and coordinating the implementation of these projects in accordance with the requirements of international bodies.

Public Institution Consolidated Unit for the Implementation of the Programs of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

The Consolidated Unit for the Implementation of IFAD Programs (UCIP IFAD) was established by the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the implementation of IFAD programs, following the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the International Fund for Agricultural Development in 1996. to IFAD in agreement with the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

UCIP IFAD is responsible for the administration, implementation and monitoring of the activities of the Programs, as well as the coordination of activities with the institutions and organizations participating in the implementation of the Programs. The activities provided under the programs are implemented by UCIP IFAD in collaboration and / or through accredited service providers and participating financial institutions, depending on the specifics of the activities implemented.

Project Implementation Unit "Livada Moldovei-LM"

LM is a credit line offered by the European Investment Bank (EIB) to the Government of the Republic of Moldova, which in turn grants this loan to the participating commercial banks. The appropriations are intended for investments in the horticultural sector. The credit line became operational in 2016. Credit Livada Moldovei comes with assistance in the form of support and advice in developing investment projects. Loans from the Livada Moldovei Project and Technical Assistance are provided by the European Union through its bank, the European Investment Bank.

Public Institution Consolidated Unit for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Restructuring Program of the Wine Sector

The basic functions of the Institution are:

- implementation and monitoring of the Program;
- implementation and monitoring of loans for Program beneficiaries;
- the implementation and monitoring of the process of financing the leased goods for the beneficiaries of the Program, in partnership with the specialized partner institutions of the Program;
- providing financial resources through various financial instruments;
- providing business training and consulting services;
- providing support for technical assistance missions and international funding bodies and subsequent implementation of the recommendations received.

Public Institution National Vine and Wine Office

Mission:

- Implements state policies in the field of viticulture, viticulture, wine production and circulation, must-based products and wine-based products, wine by-products and products obtained by capitalizing on wine by-products;
- Promotes the marketing of wine products on domestic and foreign markets;
- Establishes rules and manages the use of the country brand for wines;
- Makes proposals for the development and improvement of legislation on the manufacture and movement of wine products;
- Performs sectoral analyses in order to ensure the strategic development of the wine sector;
- Manages the production of wine products with a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) and a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) in accordance with technical regulations approved by the Government;
- Monitors the production potential, including the establishment and deforestation of vineyards;
- Keep records of the wine sector.

Public Institution Sustainable Development Fund Moldova

FDD Moldova has the role of continuing the projects initiated under the Compact program, financed by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, by promoting the management model of funds for infrastructure investments, providing assistance to Associations of Water Users for Irrigation, facilitating access to financing and expansion of irrigated areas .

FDD Moldova is invested to manage, on behalf of the Government, the Loan Refinancing Fund formed within the activity Access to Financing in Agriculture following the implementation of the Compact Agreement and to ensure the monitoring and reporting of the impact of these investments in the post-Compact period. Where appropriate, FDD Moldova may manage other financial, investment and technical assistance agreements, in particular in the field of economic growth and infrastructure development and poverty reduction.

State Commission for Testing Plant Varieties

The role of the State Commission for Testing Plant Varieties is to correctly identify the varieties that will best achieve their production potential and quality in one or

another crop area, which would capitalize on the climatic potential of the specific area and locality. Specialists in the field test varieties according to well-defined methodologies, statistically process the obtained data and present the reports on each crop to the central office of the State Commission, where the main specialists analyze the results from all testing centers / sectors and prepare proposals for modification of the current assortment of varieties.

Special Service for Active Influences on Hydrometeorological Processes

The main activity of the Special Service is to organize and execute the works aimed at active influence on clouds in order to reduce damage caused by hail, as well as other works related to the field of active influences on hydro meteorological processes within the implemented and recognized technologies.

Educational and research institutions:

- State Agrarian University of Moldova
- Public Institution Center of Excellence in Horticulture and Agricultural Technologies from Țaul
- Center of Excellence in Horticulture and Agricultural Technologies from Țaul
- Public Institution College of Veterinary Medicine and Agrarian Economics from Brătușeni
- Svetlîi Agricultural Technical College Public Institution
- Public Institution Agricultural Technical College of Soroca
- Public Institution Center of Excellence in Viticulture and Vinification in Chisinau
- Public Institution Agroindustrial College from Rîșcani
- Public Institution "Gheorghe Răducan" Agroindustrial College
- Public Institution Agroindustrial College from Ungheni

Methodological Center for Education

The purpose of the Methodical Center activity consists in the methodological coordination of the activity of the technical vocational education institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, correlation and ensuring the didactic-methodical support according to the beneficiaries' options. The mission of the Methodical Center: To provide methodical assistance in the personal and professional development of teachers and managers in technical vocational education institutions and to promote performance and innovation in the training of agri-food specialists, through educational policies and strategies at national level, and through the evolution of the concept of quality.

Public Institution Research Institute for Field Crops "Selection"

The Public Institution Research Institute for Field Crops "Selection" as a diplomatic mission has the following responsibilities:

- Creation of new varieties and hybrids of field crops with tolerance to biotic and abiotic factors;
- Primary seed production in the initial crop improvement links;
- Development and improvement of field crop cultivation technologies within sustainable agriculture systems;
- Changing the system of sustainable agriculture, including organic farming, in line with the challenges facing modern agriculture;
- Training farmers and participating in the process of didactic education of students in different educational links.

Public Institution "Porumbeni" Institute of Phytotechnics

Ensuring the agricultural sector with hybrid maize seeds and higher organic seeds in quantities necessary and in accordance with OECD and ISTA requirements.

Public Institution Institute of Pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection "Nicolae Dima"

The mission of the institute: organizing and conducting fundamental and applied scientific research in the field of pedology, agrochemistry and soil protection; promoting the most effective methods and advanced technologies, predestined for agriculture.

Public Institution Scientific-Practical Institute of Horticulture and Food Technologies

Mission of IP Scientific - Practical Institute of Horticulture and Food Technologies is to carry out fundamental and applied research in the field of viticulture, vinification, fruit growing, vegetable growing and food technologies.

Public Institution Scientific-Practical Institute of Biotechnology in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine

The Institute's mission is to conduct basic and applied research in the fields of animal husbandry, biotechnology, veterinary medicine and food safety.

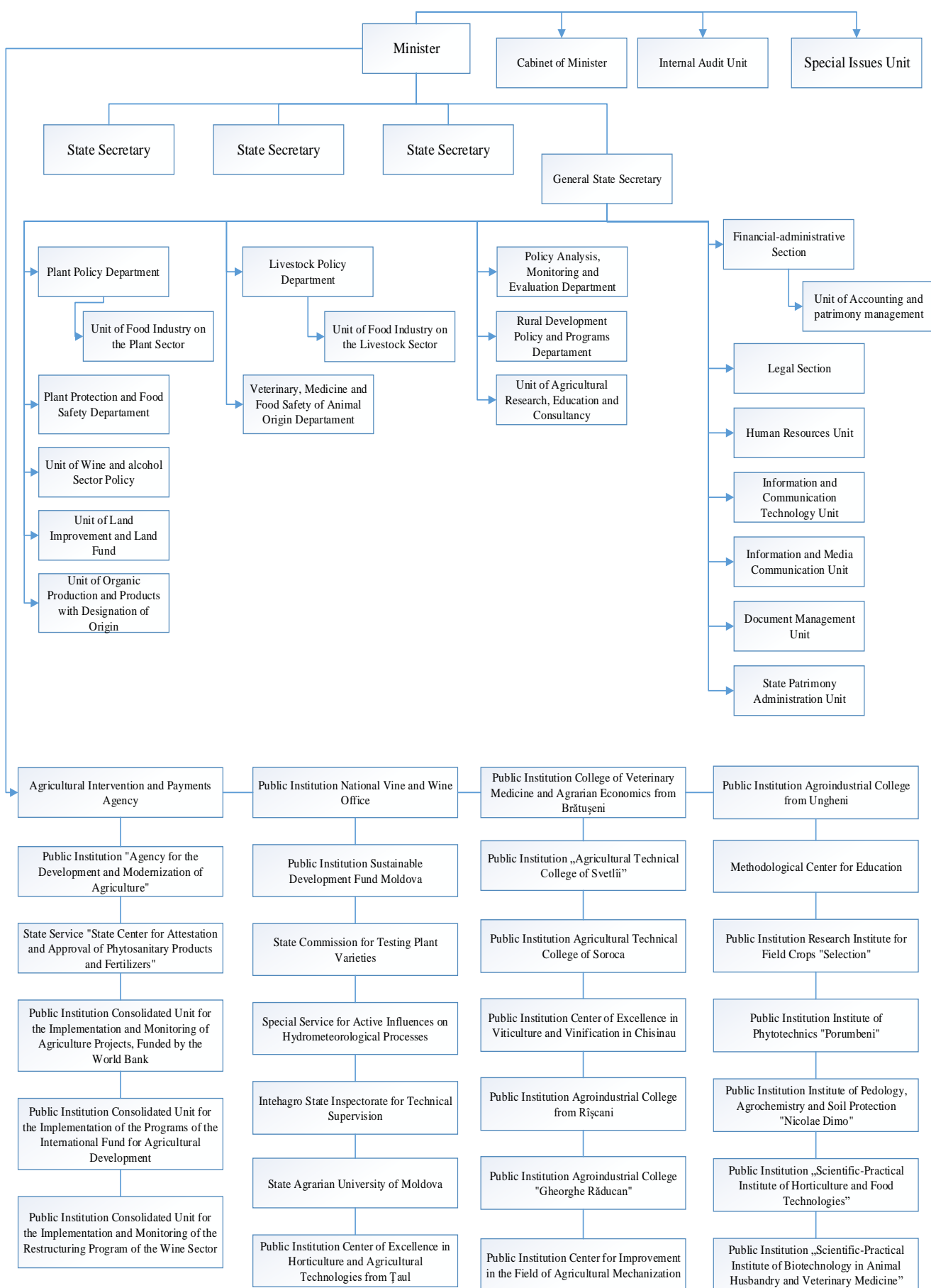
REORGANISATION

In 2017, as a result of the central public administration reform, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, 114 units, was merged with the Ministry of Environment by the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, becoming the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment.

In 2021, following the restructuring of the specialised central public administration, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment was reorganised by splitting it into three ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development and the Ministry of Environment.

Monitoring, control and audit of the policy:

- Ongoing monitoring within MAFI is carried out by the Policy Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation Department which mission is to ensure the planning, development, monitoring and evaluation of public policy documents and planning documents, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public policies in the areas of activity assigned to the ministry;
- Policy evaluation ex ante, midterm and ex-post evaluations are carried out by the external evaluators individually contracted and paid by donors (to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy);
- Policy implementation: Internal control system of the Paying Agency (internal audit, procedure management system, anti-fraud unit, quality control system ISO 9001, 37001, on the spot control unit).
- Audit of the policy: There are Internal Audit divisions as well as external audit missions carried out by the Court of Auditors from the Republic of Moldova.



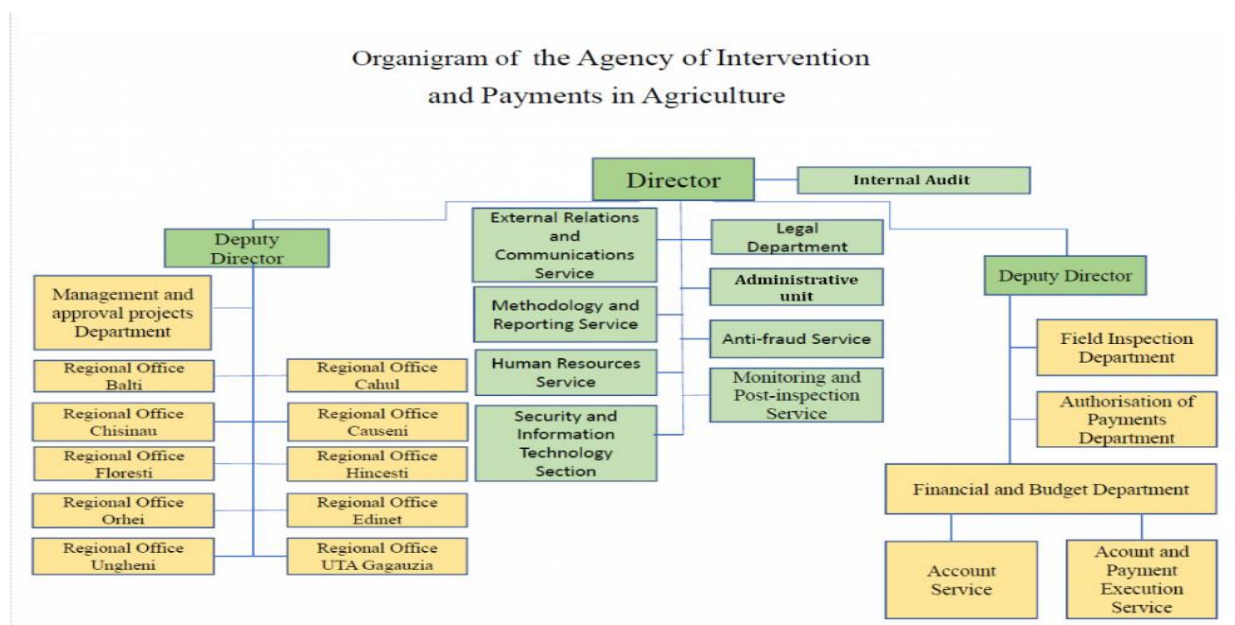
c) If there is a Paying Agency in charge of the financial management of agriculture and rural development policy please submit information on the way it operates. If no, please provide information on the institution in charge of the financial management of the agriculture and rural development policy of your country (Ministry of Agriculture, regional offices, marketing boards, agricultural chambers, etc.).

Yes, there is a Paying Agency in charge of the financial management of agriculture and rural development policy. This is the Agency for Intervention and Payments for Agriculture (hereinafter - AIPA) established in 2010. The Agency is subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

AIPA is responsible for the efficient management of the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund (hereinafter - NARDF), including the management of financial sources granted by development partners.

AIPA currently has:

- 1) the status of a legal entity under public law, has its own name, stamp with the State Coat of Arms of the Republic of Moldova, treasury accounts, the rights to administer property provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, as well as other attributes specific to public authorities, according to the legislation in force;
- 2) 10 regional subdivisions with the status of sections or services, responsible for receiving, first level verification, data capturing and forwarding of beneficiaries' applications to the central office.



AIPA's mission is to financially support agricultural producers and local communities to ensure agricultural and rural development.

AIPA implements the policy of subsidising and state intervention in the agro-industrial sector and rural areas in the following fields of activity:

1) post-investment subsidies (Government Decision no. 455/2017 on distribution of resources from the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund⁹):

- stimulating investments in agricultural establishments;
- stimulating investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products;
- stimulating investments in physical infrastructure and infrastructure of rural services;
- stimulating investment for women farmers and young farmers starting out their business for the first time, namely advance payments to support start-up projects (Government Decision No. 507/2018 approving the Regulation on the conditions and procedure for granting advance subsidies for start-up projects from the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund¹⁰);

2) advance payments for the implementation of rural development measures (Government Decision no. 476/2019 approving the Regulation on the granting of subsidies aimed at improving the standards of living and working in rural areas from the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund¹¹):

- direct payments (Government Decision no. 836/2020 approving the Regulation on direct payments per capita¹²);
- Subsidies for LEADER approach (Law no. 50/2021 on local action groups¹³ and Law no. 276/2016 on the principles of subsidies for agricultural and rural development)¹⁴.

AIPA has the following duties:

- ensuring management of the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund and other funds aimed at rural support and development;
- reviewing the applications for subsidies, accompanied by the necessary documents, submitted by the applicants, and establishing their eligibility to receive financial support from the state;

⁹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114080&lang=ro

¹⁰ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=113789&lang=ro

¹¹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118590&lang=ro

¹² https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124163&lang=ro

¹³ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126245&lang=ro

¹⁴ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125183&lang=ro

- authorising, executing and verifying subsidies/direct payments allocated from the resources of the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund, as well as from other sources of financial support;
- performing field inspections of the investment objects in order to establish their eligibility;
- monitoring observance of eligibility criteria and conditions for granting subsidies and other forms of financial support by the beneficiaries after making payments;
- taking measures necessary for the recovery of subsidies to the state budget;
- publishing complete information of public interest regarding the management of sources allocated from the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund monthly on the official website of the Agency;
- keeping records of all payments made to the beneficiaries, through an information system, and, if necessary, preparing periodic summaries of expenses;
- organising information activities on the subsidy procedures, including through consultations;
- promoting projects financed from the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund;
- preparing procedure manuals for each support measure;
- ensuring administration of the Integrated Agricultural Information System and other information systems and databases necessary for its activity;
- managing the Prohibition List of agricultural producers;
- participating in the approximation of the regulatory framework governing agricultural subsidies with the practices of the European Union;
- cooperating with similar institutions in other countries, negotiating bilateral agreements of collaboration, exchange of experience and specialised information.

AIPA is headed by a director, assisted by two deputy directors, who are appointed, replaced, suspended or dismissed, in accordance with the law, by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry. The Director, Deputy Directors and Heads of Subdivisions shall be responsible for the decisions taken and for the activity of AIPA, within the limits of their competence.

d) What is the budget earmarked for the agriculture and rural development policy framework with a breakdown by category of the supports available (years 2020-2022)? Are there any programmes/projects financed by external donors in the area of agriculture and rural development?

The National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development (SNDAR) presents the long vision and priority directions for the sector and once adopted, the public

authorities develop sectoral strategies, taking into account the specific objectives and priority actions.

The sectoral strategy contains a plenary analysis of the sector, which includes priority policies. Therefore, programs are developed for the implementation of a sectoral strategy for all policy areas that are part of the agricultural sector (as appropriate). In order to ensure the synchronisation of public policy documents with the budgetary process, the programs are developed for the same field, which is reflected in the programs / sub-programs underlying the Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF).

The MFBF is a document that sets out the objectives of budgetary and fiscal policy and determines the resources and expenditures of the national public budget and its components, for a period of three years.

In the period of 2020-2022, 6,439,602.2 thousand Lei (EUR 328 million) were allocated for the Agriculture and Rural Development sector from the state budget, distributed on the priority programs of the agricultural field, as well as from other external sources.

| Agriculture and Rural Development | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Program/Sub-programs | MTBF 2020-2022 Allocations | | |
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Policies and management in the field of agriculture | 28.053,5 | 25.081,6 | 19.140,9 |
| Sustainable development of the phytotechnics and horticulture sectors | 317.203,8 | 260.560,9 | 481.916,4 |
| Animal breeding and health | 35.858,1 | 31.499,6 | 50.412,7 |
| Development of viticulture and vinification | 21.240,3 | 18.181,8 | 42.631,8 |
| Subsidizing agricultural producers | 1.258.254,2 | 1.436.344,6 | 1.750.000,0 |
| Food safety | 183.150,7 | 163.630,0 | 205.766,8 |
| Irrigation and drainage systems | 23.607,3 | 25.771,9 | 35.956,0 |
| Policies and management in the field of forestry | 3.263,1 | 00,0 | 10.000,0 |
| Forestry development | 11.000,0 | 00,0 | 00,0 |
| Valorization of new lands and increase of soil fertility | 1.076,2 | 00,0 | 00,0 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> per Sector | 1,882,707.2 (96 m EURO) | 1,961,070.4 (100 m EURO) | 2,595,824.60 (132 m EURO) |

In addition to the above-mentioned strategy budget, the agricultural sector is also financed by external donors, through the programs and projects listed below.

World Bank:

Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project (MAC-P). Implementation: 2012-2024. Budget: 62,5 mln USD.

Enhancing the competitiveness of the agro-food sector, food safety management, facilitating market access for farmers and promoting sustainable land management practices.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

Rural Program for Inclusive Economic and Climate Resilience (IFAD VI). Implementation: 2014-2021. Budget: 26,08 mln USD.

Improving the capacity of farmers to adapt to climate change; increasing the access of the rural population to loans, by offering timely and accessible financial products; producing productivity and competitiveness, increasing investment, developing increased market access.

Rural Resilience Project (IFAD VII). Implementation: 2017-2023. Budget: 23,7 mln USD

Improving the standard of living of the rural population in the Republic of Moldova and reducing poverty.

Project Talent Retention for Rural Transformation (IFAD VIII). Implementation: 2021-2027. Budget: 50,5 mln USD.

Promoting inclusive market connections through increased access to financial services and sales markets to promote rural transformation.

European Investment Bank:

Fruit Garden of Moldova Project. Implementation: 2016-2023. Budget: 120 mil. Euro.
The credit line is intended for investments in the horticultural sector.

Government of Japan:

2KR Unprivileged Farmers Assistance Project. Implementation: Circular fond.

Promoting economic and social development in the Republic of Moldova, by accumulating financial means from the sale of agricultural machinery and equipment.

Moldova Sustainable Development Fund:

2KR instalment sales program in high-performance irrigated agriculture of FPM Moldova in the post-compact period. Implementation: 2015-2025. Budget: approx. 86 mln USD.

Japan International Cooperation Agency:

Modernization of Agricultural Technology and Equipment. Implementation: 2020-2060. Budget: approx. 18 mln USD.

Improving agricultural productivity by providing agricultural machinery and post-harvest equipment to small and medium-sized private enterprises, with preferential conditions for agricultural enterprises run by women or young people (up to 36 years).

European Union:

Small Scale Irrigation System Development Program. Implementation: Circular fund. Twinning Project „Further support for agriculture, rural development and food security in the Republic of Moldova”. Implementation: 2020-2022. Budget: 2 000 000 Euro.

The project provides technical support for the development of a new policy framework in line with EU policy for agriculture and rural development, through SNDAR.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID):

High Value Agriculture Activity Project (HVAA). Implementation: 2016-2021. Budget: 20,96 mln USD.

Stimulating the process of transformation of HVA of the Republic of Moldova by expanding trade and consolidating market relations; improving post-harvest productivity and handling, and the ability of the private sector to meet the requirements of European and international standards.

Agricultural Registry for Wine and Vine. Implementation: 2017-2021. Budget: 2 mln USD

Establish a complete system of traceability and quality assurance in the wine industry by extending the Wine Registry to the national level and strengthening the capacity of local quality control organizations and institutions.

Czech Development Agency:

Institutional support in the organic agriculture sector in the Republic of Moldova. Implementation: 2017-2022. Budget: 610 000 Euro.

The project has four components: 1) Consolidated institutional structure in the field of organic farming; 2) Operational system for unified approval of inputs into agriculture ecology; 3) Strengthening the local laboratory in the field of organic farming; and 4) System established for recommending organic agro-technological procedures, species and varieties.

Swiss Foundation HEKS:

Developing rural communities through the LEADER approach and Local Action Groups. Implementation: 2017-2020

Improving the quality of life and living conditions of the rural population through the creation of Local Action Groups. Specific objectives: 1) To stimulate sustainable community development by creating Local Action Groups; 2) To strengthen the role of civil society in the decision-making process at local and national level (central state authorities).

USAID also implements a project on LEADER approach.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO):

Support for improvement of agriculture statistics. Implementation: 2019-2021. Budget: 287 000 USD.

Increasing the capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics in collecting, processing and disseminating statistics on agriculture.

Building MAFI administrative capacities for the implementation of agro-food products promotion policy. Implementation: 2019-2021. Budget: 300 000 USD.

Consolidation of the results obtained in the previous phase and contribution to the increase of marketing standards for berries. Enhance the export opportunities of the berry producers.

Comprehensive crop assessment and design of the sustainable drought response. Implementation: 2020-2021. Budget: 55 000 USD.

Strengthen national capacities to assess, monitor and effectively manage the impact of drought on crop production.

Mainstreaming Adaptation into Planning processes to reduce vulnerability to climate change at central and local level in the agricultural sector of the Republic of Moldova. Implementation: 2020-2023. Budget: 685 000 USD.

Increasing the resilience and adaptability of Moldova's agricultural sector to cope with the impact of climate change through a sustainable and inclusive approach.

Enabling a policy environment for integrated natural resources management and implementation of an integrated approach to achieve land degradation neutrality in Moldova. Implementation: 2019-2022. Budget: 1 666 895 USD.

Ensure effective management of agricultural land and trees in production landscapes so that they can perform the intended functions and continue to provide essential ecosystem services for the livelihoods of men and women, local and national development and environmental sustainability.

Technical support for gender-responsive and socially inclusive policies and interventions. Implementation: 2020-2021. Budget: 40 000 USD.

To support the improved rural livelihoods as a result of sound inclusive policies in agriculture and rural development.

Strengthening the capacity of smallholders in berry production - Phase II of TCP/MOL/3608. Implementation: 2020-2021. Budget: 55 000 USD.

The technical capacities of small farmers and extension services are being improved for berry production by setting up demonstration sites and building capacity.

Support to smallholder producers, in particular livestock farms. Implementation: 2021-2023. Budget: 265 000 USD.

To increase the resilience of smallholder farmers and to strengthen their position on the local market by enhancing productivity, better understanding the market opportunities and developing a more targeted approach to meet the quality requirements of processors and collectors.

e) Please advise if there are any types of cross-compliance or conditionality systems (for example reduction in agriculture support paid to farmers if environmental, animal welfare, public, animal or plant health standards are not complied with).

There are no cross-compliance or conditionality systems in the Republic of Moldova so far.

However, with the implementation of the new NARDS 2022-2027, a linkage between financial support schemes and national statutory requirements including the establishment of an appropriate sanctioning system is planned.

f) Please provide a description of your farm register (if it exists)

In the Republic of Moldova there is no farm register in the EU context like IACS available. However, in the subsidy process, the Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA) is in charge of running an Information System for recording data of applicants, applications, approved projects, OTSC results, payment claims, payment authorization and payments to the beneficiaries.

Some of the national legislation and methodology regarding the establishment of the needed farm register are already in place, according to Law No 276/2016¹⁵, art. 35.

In accordance with the plans of the Government for digitalization, a number of activities with respect to E-governance in MAFI and AIPA have started e.g. a roadmap for IACS has been prepared by EU experts under the current Twinning project. MAFI is currently establishing an E-governance task force group in order to coordinate the future digitization process in agriculture and rural development.

g) Is there a Farm Advisory service or any organisation providing information to beneficiaries/general public (on aid or project financing applications and on other general agricultural and rural development issues)?

¹⁵ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125183&lang=ro

Currently, advisory and extension services are delivered by private providers of agricultural advisory and extension services, selected annually by MAFI, based on specific competitions (by specific lots) and contracted for the provision of services according to specialized sectors/areas. According to the current procedures, local consulting companies, non-governmental organisations operating in the agricultural service and since 2021 some agricultural education institutions, such as the Centre of Excellence in Horticulture and Agricultural Technologies in Taul and the Centre of Excellence in Viticulture and Winemaking in Chisinau are entitled to become providers of advisory and extension services.

MAFI is currently developing the Program for the development of agricultural advisory and extension services for the years 2023 - 2027 based on a network of eight Public Institutions - Centres of Excellence and Agricultural Colleges. The general objective of the program is developing a modern and sustainable system of advisory and extension services in agriculture, which would ensure cohesion with the research and education community to ensure the technological transfer and the continuous support for rural businesses.

h) Do you have a network at national and/or regional level that gathers organisations and administrations involved in rural development and facilitates sharing of information and knowledge between rural development stakeholders?

There are two networks operating in the Republic of Moldova, namely, the **Rural Communities Development Network of Moldova and the National LEADER Network**, which is a success, because through them the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and other authorities have a constructive dialogue with the civil society for developing effective public policies..

The **Rural Communities Development Network of Moldova** (hereinafter - RDCR) was established in 2018 and registered as a legal entity with the Public Services Agency on June 4, 2021. Over 150 representatives from civil society organizations, private sector, agencies and services of the central and local public administration in the field of agriculture and rural development, founded the RDCR. The founding agreement was signed by 103 agricultural and rural organizations and institutions.

RDCR has been a member of the European Network for Rural Development since 2020.

The **goal** of the RDCR is to unite the organizations and administrations engaged in agriculture and rural development under an "institutional umbrella" to facilitate and strengthen the participation in the political dialogue in the national agro-rural context.

Mission and vision. RDCR aspires to improve the living and working conditions of the rural population. RDCR is a union of civil society and public authorities that

contributes to rural development and the promotion of fair, inclusive and effective policies through a constructive dialogue between agri-rural policy actors.

Objectives:

- Ensuring dialogue between actors engaged in agro-rural policies at national, regional and community level. The RDCR acts as a platform for all stakeholders to communicate with the relevant national authorities on agri-rural policy and initiatives for better performance of the agricultural sector and rural development.
- Promoting fair, inclusive and effective policies. The RDCR acts as a liaison between the public authorities and the representatives of the field interest groups. It helps strengthen the capacity of member organizations to provide feedback to the administration on the situation in the rural sector.
- Identifying and promoting the interests of network members. Promoting an efficient flow of information, exchange of knowledge, ideas and good practices between stakeholders by providing training, round tables, debate workshops, seminars and conferences.
- Promoting effective rural development tools, including the LEADER approach. Encouraging local actors to cooperate in multi-sectoral actions; encouraging communities to adopt a system based on participatory and inclusive policy-making, in line with the identified strategic development needs.
- Developing and strengthening the capacities of the platform members in areas of common interest. Strengthening and engaging the energy of all public organizations and stakeholders in the rural development process, thereby increasing the awareness and capacity of all actors, and thus promoting and supporting the efficient use of measures and funds in the national sustainable rural development policy.

Members of the network:

RDCR is open to all institutions, civil society organizations and public and administrative services, which are directly or indirectly related to agriculture and rural development in the Republic of Moldova.

The basic condition is to be able to participate in the RDCR activity and to accept its objectives and principles.

A wide range of actors involved in agriculture and rural development can become members of the RDCR. They can be broadly classified into three main groups:

- Central and local public administration, state institutions and agencies;

- Private sector organized by areas of interest;
- Civil society organizations.

RDCR is a transparent and open space for participation, constructive meetings, creative dialogue and cooperation between the public, private and social sectors and their actors.

All members are equally involved in the development of the RDCR structure and in the monitoring of its activities.

The members of RDCR include: Federation of Moldovan Farmers, National Federation of Farmers of Moldova, National LEADER Network, Moldova Organic Value Chain Alliance (MOVCA), Union of People's Craftsmen of Moldova, National Youth Council of Moldova, National Association of Rural, Ecological and Cultural Tourism of Moldova (ANTREC), National Institute for Economic Research etc.

Structure of the network:

The **General Assembly** is the supreme body of the RDCR which provides the strategic framework for the activity of the network. It is convened whenever needed, but not less than once a year. In exceptional cases, the Extraordinary Assembly is convened.

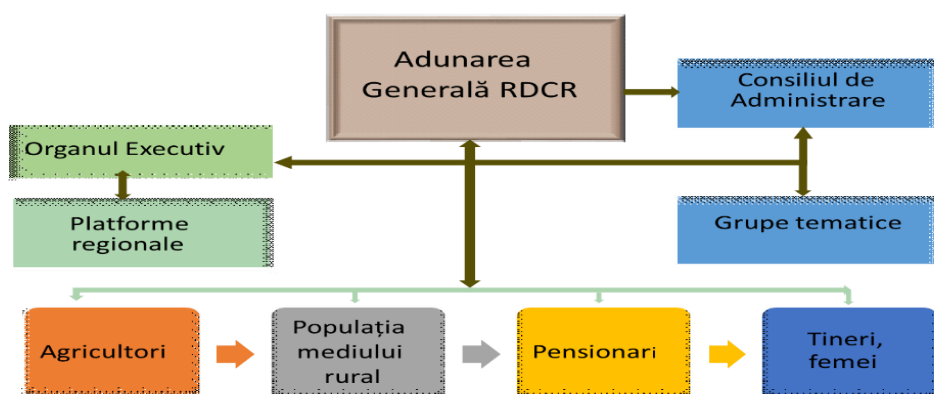
The **Steering Committee** is the operational body of the RDCR and consists of 15 members. It is elected by the General Assembly for 2 years and is convened at least once a quarter. The Steering Committee elects the Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and the Secretary from among its members at the first meeting. It develops RDCR's medium-term strategy and represents the Network in its relations with other entities.

The **Support Unit/Secretariat** is the executive body that provides the function of secretary and coordinates the implementation of RDCR activities in cooperation with its members. It is selected by the Steering Committee from among the members of the Network. Currently, the secretarial function is provided by the Federation of Farmers of Moldova, FARM;

The **Council of the Regional Platform** consists of 11 members, 10 of whom are delegates of the "Regional Platforms" and one representative of the Steering Committee. The purpose of the Council is to form the consolidated position of the regional platforms and to promote the local voice to the decision-makers.

Thematic Working Groups are set up to discuss and exchange experiences, analyse issues and policies in specific areas of rural development, strengthen the capacity of members on issues of common interest, identify critical points of governance across sectors and promote solutions. There are standing working

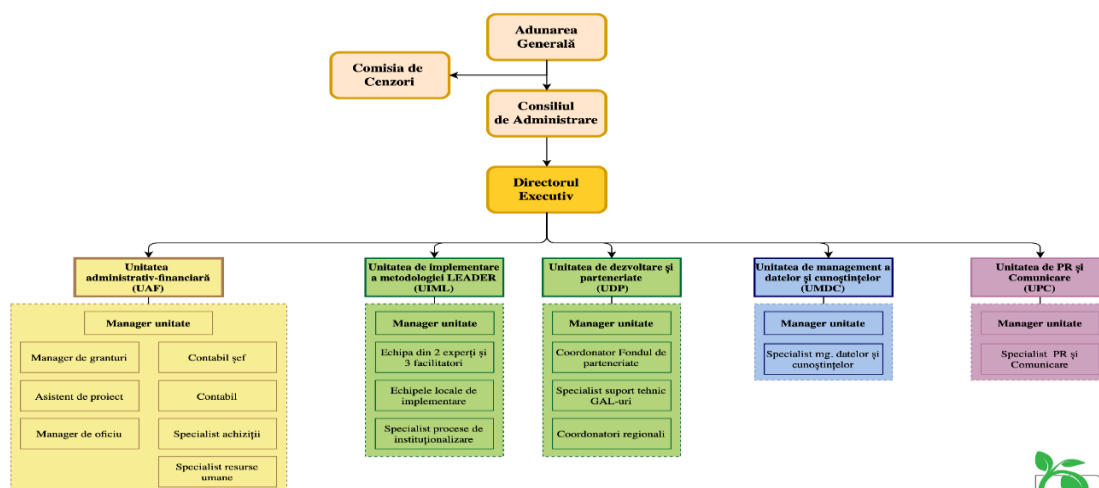
groups and ad hoc working groups. Ad hoc thematic working groups on specific topics are established at the request of members.



The National LEADER Network¹⁶ is a non-profit association established in January 2019 due to the joint efforts of Moldovan LAGs and organizations that facilitate the implementation of the LEADER approach in the country. The organization was established **to improve the quality of life in rural areas and to contribute to sustainable local development.**

The main purpose of the organization is **to promote the LEADER approach, as well as to support and represent Moldovan LAGs.**

Organigrama AO "Rețeaua Națională LEADER din Republica Moldova"



¹⁶The National LEADER Network <https://leaderin.md>

The National LEADER Network conducts the following activities:

Assistance to LAGs in their activities and development

The network provides daily support to LAGs in designing and implementing local development strategies, provides technical assistance and training in LAG capacity building, strengthening local development and empowering citizens. It develops new products and services according to the requirements of local communities (development of thematic LAGs, response to COVID-19, climate change, integration of the population at risk, etc.).

Creation of new LAGs according to the local LEADER methodology

Since 2020, the Network started to assist rural communities in the process of creating LAGs, following the LEADER methodology adapted to the local context.

Supporting and promoting the LEADER approach

The network supports and promotes the LEADER approach in the country. It addresses the needs of its members by collecting and developing common positions and statements for better rural development. Currently, the Network is involved in the development and implementation of the National LEADER Program.

International cooperation and networking

The network is actively working for better international cooperation between Moldovan and European LAGs and actively participates in various CS platforms, including: ELARD, PREPARE, EaP Civil Society Forum, etc.

Management of the Partnership Fund (regulation tool for LAGs)

Providing grants for the creation/strengthening of partnerships/mentoring initiatives and projects aimed at exchanges of experience between Moldovan LAGs and EU LAGs by organizing study visits, regional forums/joint local and regional initiatives, including fairs, etc.

Main objectives:

- providing support to Moldovan LAGs in ensuring compliance with LEADER criteria and principles and LEADER methodology;
- increasing LEADER coverage in the country - approx. 70% of rural areas by the end of 2024 (approximately 15 new LAGs);
- strengthening the Network as a sustainable and smart institution supporting and representing its members.

Activities financed through:

- basic funding provided in the form of grants for institutional development due to the strategic partnership with Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, funded by EuropeAid, Polish Aid and USAID (approximately 70% of the budget);
- membership fee paid by LAGs (approximately 10% of the budget).
- The Network team consists of 8 full-time and 6 part-time employees.

LEADER governing bodies:

General Assembly - the supreme governing body of the Association establishing the main directions of activity of the Association, examining and approving the annual budgets, the annual financial statements etc;

The Board of Directors - is the collective and strategic governing body of the Association, prepares the development strategy and outlines the main directions of the activity. The Council brings together 13 representatives of LAGs and 1 representative of LEADER facilitators and the Chairperson;

The Executive Director of the Association - represents the executive and administrative body of the Association, manages the daily activities of the organization and implements the mission, strategies and policies of the organization in practice;

The Censors Commission - is the body controlling the economic-financial activity of the Association.

i) Do you have a system in place that links scientific community and farming practice and promotes innovative solutions (comparable to European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agricultural productivity and sustainability)?

The Republic of Moldova does not currently have a system comparable to the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agricultural productivity and sustainability.

However, there are several public structures and institutions that ensure the promotion of innovative solutions created by the scientific community to agricultural practice. The structures that ensure the transfer of knowledge from the scientific community and agricultural practice in the Republic of Moldova are created by organizations in the fields of science and innovation, higher education institutions, consulting organizations and associations of agricultural producers, individual agricultural producers.

These organizations focus on building partnerships, connecting people in various fields and transferring knowledge to ensure the sustainability and productivity of research and innovation in agriculture.

The National Agency for Rural Development (ACSA); The National Federation of Farmers of Moldova (FARM), the National Federation of Farmers of Moldova (FNFM) and 55 Associations of supply chains and products, including rural development are those institutions mainly involved in innovation and knowledge transfer.

However, research and innovation organizations and educational institutions are the key structures that ensure the link between the scientific community and agricultural practice. As a result of the research programs and institutional activity, technological elements, varieties, new hybrids, phytosanitary products, etc. are developed, which are then transmitted directly to agricultural producers and interested persons through demonstration lots, supply and product clusters, theoretical seminars and practices, individual consultations, etc.,

In order to disseminate information on innovations and innovations in agriculture, research and innovation organizations systematically organize thematic workshops, webinars, etc., attended by representatives of research institutions as well as producers, farmers, representatives of consulting services and organizations, specialized in agricultural production.

Research results and innovations are promoted through the participation of research institutions and higher education institutions in various national and international scientific conferences. During these conferences, information and experience are exchanged between researchers in the country and abroad.

For the general public, the results of research, are published in various scientific journals, on official websites of the institutions, offers the opportunity to bring to the fore topics of interest, aimed at the results of scientific research, recommendations for farmers:

<https://isphta.md/revista-pomicultura-viticultura-vinificatia/>

<https://porumbeni.md/activitatea-institutului/publicatii>

<https://www.uasm.md>

<https://www.selectia.md/ro/publications>

<https://ipaps.md/book/>

<http://izmv.gov.md/ro/content/rapoarte-%C8%99tiin%C8%9Bifice-%C8%99i-publica%C8%9Bii>

Thematic programs on national television (<https://agrotv.md/>), provides direct discussion platforms, with representatives of the academic community and the agricultural sector, on innovative problems and solutions in agriculture, success stories, etc.

Information portal www.agrobiznes.md provides a direct communication platform between the agricultural producer and experts in the field. Any producer, farmer or interested person can ask the expert questions to get an answer. The AgTech Moldova platform is also created, an Agrobiznes initiative with the support of USAID APM, Tekwill and Helvetas, to promote IT technologies and innovations in agriculture in the Republic of Moldova.

Digital libraries are also available, which provide various scientific recommendations, technology guides, brochures, etc.,

<https://library.uasm.md/>

<https://biblioteca.agrobiznes.md/>

<https://www.ucipifad.md/ru/biblioteca/>

2. Please provide a description of measures including financial details or any other policies specifically applied in the sector of primary agricultural production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, as well as in the forestry sector. This should include support such as: direct and indirect input subsidies; social policy measures primarily directed to the agriculture sector; tax policy measures primarily directed to the agriculture sector; policies directed to privatisation of land and other factors of production (including the agri-food processing sector); measures which are aimed at developing a land market; credit subsidies; soft loans and guarantees (describing also the available financial institutions; risk management tools and others).

Government Decision no. 455/2017¹⁷ on the distribution of the funds of the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Environment.

In the context of facilitating the access of domestic producers to inputs, the state, through the subsidy mechanism, stimulates the lending of agricultural producers by commercial banks and non-bank lending organizations to access loans for current assets.

¹⁷ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130889&lang=ro

Field of action: Support is granted to agricultural producers who have obtained loans for the purchase of working capital in previous years and in the current year of subsidy from commercial banks and non-bank lending organizations registered in the territory of the Republic of Moldova and serve them under credit / loan agreements, for the purchase of the following current assets:

- Seeds, planting material;
- Fuel and lubricants;
- Fertilizers (mineral and organic), including plant and animal protection products;
- Fodder.

Compensation for agricultural producers.

Government Decision no. 734/2014¹⁸ on some measures to support fruit producers.

In order to reduce the negative impact on fruit growers as a result of restrictions imposed by the Russian Federation, the Government has allocated compensation to agricultural producers.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry has provided financial support to fruit growers in the following amounts per kilogram of production marketed to processing undertakings:

- plums, early varieties - 1.2 lei;
- apples, summer and autumn varieties - 1.5 lei.

Government Decision no. 290/2017¹⁹ for the approval of the Regulation on the granting of financial support to agricultural producers in order to reduce the consequences of late frosts in the spring of 2016.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, through the Agency for Intervention and Payments for Agriculture, has allocated the financial means from the account of the Government intervention fund, within the limits of the available allocations.

Government Decision no. 846/2020²⁰ on the approval of the Regulation on the granting of financial aid by the Government of the Russian Federation, intended to partially compensate for the damage caused by the drought of 2020 on maize and the preparation of the soil for the 2021 harvest.

¹⁸ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=18406&lang=ro

¹⁹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=99074&lang=ro

²⁰ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=18406&lang=ro

From the Government intervention fund, 59730.0 thousand Lei (equivalent to 3,05 million EURO) were allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, in order to partially compensate the damage caused by the 2020 drought to corn cultivation and preparation.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and the Environment, through the Agency for Interventions and Payments for Agriculture, has allocated financial assistance from the Government of the Russian Federation to partially compensate for the damage caused by the 2020 drought on corn crops and soil preparation for the year 2021.

Government Decision no. 582/2020²¹ for the approval of the way of granting the compensations for diminishing the consequences of the natural calamities on the harvest of the year 2020. .

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, through the Agency for Interventions and Payments for Agriculture, distributed 324 million lei from the National Fund for Development of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide compensation to reduce the consequences of natural disasters on the 2020 harvest.

Government Decision no. 27/2021²² for the approval of the Regulation on establishing the amount of diesel from external humanitarian aid granted by Romania, intended to support farmers affected by the 2020 drought.

The Agency for Intervention and Payments for Agriculture presented to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, as well as the Interdepartmental Commission for Humanitarian Aid, the list of potential beneficiaries of external humanitarian aid provided by Romania, up to 6000 tons of diesel, for its proper distribution.

Social policy measures primarily directed to the agriculture sector

Please see Rural Development Chapter IV, question 15.

Tax policy measures primarily directed to the agriculture sector

With reference to the fiscal policy measures aimed primarily at the agricultural sector, we mention that according to art. 96 of the Fiscal Code²³ no. 1163/1997, the following reduced VAT rates are set:

²¹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123792&lang=ro

²² https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125756&lang=ro

²³ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=79111&lang=ro

- **8%** - for the production of animal husbandry in natural form, live mass, pyrotechnics and horticulture in natural form, produced, imported and / or delivered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, such as dill and parsley, fresh or chilled sugar beet, etc .
- **8%** - for sugar beet sugar, produced, imported and / or delivered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

At the same time, in order to develop the agricultural sector in terms of fiscal policy, the reduced rate of income tax for peasant households was established - in the amount of 7% (general rate of 12%) (art. 15 letter c) of the Fiscal Code).

Therefore, we inform that agricultural employers (natural and legal persons) who practice during the management period not less than 95% of the activities stipulated in groups 01.1–01.6 of the Classifier of activities in the economy of Moldova, calculate and pay mandatory state social contributions in size of 24% for persons employed by individual employment contract, or by other contracts for the execution of works or provision of services.

It is important to mention that, in order to support the agricultural sector out of the 24%, 18% are paid by the employer and 6% are paid from the state budget (point 1.5 of Annex no. 1 of Law ²⁴no. 489/1999.

Policies directed to privatization of land

The right to privatization of land in the Republic of Moldova was declared on May 29, 1991 by introducing the respective amendment in art. 11 of the country's Constitution. Land ownership was also included in the country's new 1994 constitution.

In this context, on December 25, 1991, the Parliament approved the new Land Code²⁵ (No. 828/1991) which has become a major piece of legislation to regulate land privatization. According to the Land Code, based on the principle of social equity, 1.5 million ha of agricultural land have been divided into approximately 1.2 million citizens.

The Land Code established the procedure for allocating the urban land sectors for houses and for the lands of private households (art. 11); the procedure for establishing the agricultural land fund, the number of persons with the right to privatize land and the way of establishing the size of the land for each participant in the privatization (art. 12); the procedure for the use by the participants in the privatization of the land quotas and the goods that belonged to them from the former kolkhozes and sovkhoses (art. 13).

²⁴ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=131032&lang=ro#

²⁵ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130650&lang=ro

According to the Land Code, land privatization is based on a set of principles such as the limited number of participants in land privatization who contributed with personal work and those who worked in the social sector in rural areas.

At the same time, the land reform in the Republic of Moldova began in 1992 (the year of the declaration of independence of the Republic of Moldova), when the private ownership of plots of land near individual households began to be transferred to private property, amounting 350 thousand ha or 10.3% of land. This process accelerated considerably in 1998, receiving the status of a legalized project entitled "National Land Program".

The "National Land" program liquidated the former collective organization of agriculture and created an agricultural sector based on private property with hundreds of thousands of individual landowners and a high level of fragmentation of agricultural land.

In order to solve the mentioned problems, the Government approved the National Program "Earth" by decision no. 1022 of October 6, 1998 "On the Progress of Agrarian Reform" with the support of the United States Agency for International Development implemented the pilot project "Earth" in 72 collective households in 31 districts of Moldova. The methodology applied in these households was totally based on the existing legislation in Moldova.

As a result of the process of privatisation and restructuring of collective households: 98.7% of the agricultural land was privatised, 98.7% of the eligible persons received land titles; 1034 collective households have completed the privatisation process; 864 collective households were liquidated.

Measures aiming at developing land market

Please see Rural Development Chapter IV, question 15

Soft loans and guarantees

Farmers in the Republic of Moldova benefit from financial guarantees for accessing loans to commercial banks through the Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF) which is managed by the Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium Enterprises Sector (ODSMES).

CGF has signed partnership agreements with all 11 commercial banks in the country, and the guarantee products cover up to 80% of the amount of credit requested by farmers, the value of guarantees ranging from 500 thousand MDL for start-up companies to 7 million MDL for companies exporting. At the same time, in the context of the health and energy crisis, all guarantees issued in 2022 are

exempt from the payment of the guarantee fee for the first year of action of the guarantee, and the maximum guarantee quota for all active companies has been increased to 80% contracted credit.

As of 31.12.2021, CGF's portfolio included 527 active guarantees, amounting to MDL 412.9 million, (21 m EURO) which facilitated the disbursement of loans amounting to MDL 1073.5 million, (55m EURO) of which 228 guarantees were granted to agricultural companies, which represents 43.26% of the total number of active guarantees.

In total, since the launch of CGF, agricultural companies have been granted 469 financial guarantees amounting to MDL 217.03 million, (11 m EURO) which have facilitated access to loans amounting to MDL 555.89 million (28 m EURO).

3. Please describe the land cadastre system and the mechanism of its implementation, administering and monitoring. Is there any system for the identification of agricultural parcels?

The land cadastre is kept by the local public administration authorities on paper and contains information about all the lands within the borders of the administrative-territorial unit (including separate information on irrigated and drained land), about their distribution to the owners, the categories of land and soil, the characteristic of the agricultural lands regarding their quality, etc. and is drawn up annually according to the situation from January 1st.

The mayoralties of the villages, communes, cities draw up and approve the cadastral register of the lands (centralized cadastral file), presenting it to higher authorities by January 10th.

The district councils, the mayoralties of the municipalities draw up and approve the cadastral register of the lands (centralized cadastral file), presenting it to the Land Relations and Cadastre Agency by February 1st.

Legislation:

- Law No. 1247/1992 on state regulation of the land ownership regime, state land cadastre and land monitoring²⁶;
- Government Decision 24/1995 on the approval of the Regulation on the content of the documentation of the general land cadastre²⁷.
- The Land Relations and Cadastre Agency develops and presents to the Government of the Republic of Moldova the cadastral register of lands

²⁶ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109453&lang=ro

²⁷ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=85524&lang=ro

(republican centralized cadastral file), information on changes in land areas according to categories of use and on changes in agricultural land, until March 15.

Management and Monitoring

The services for the regulation of the land ownership regime of the local public administration authorities are kept up to date in accordance with the situation on the land, the cadastral register of the landowners and the cadastral register of the lands (centralized cadastral file). The monitoring of the Land Cadastre is carried out by:

- The Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre - the central specialized authority responsible for the elaboration and implementation of the state policy in the field of land relations and land monitoring;
- District land and cadastre services;
- Local Public Authorities.

In the Republic of Moldova there is no LPIS system established as in the EU. However, in the subsidy process there are some area based interventions in place, where the parcels can be identified on the Information Portal of the Real Estate Cadastre "E-Cadastre", managed by P.I. Public Service Agency.

4. Is there any Geographical Information System(s) used for the purpose of management and dissemination of the agricultural policy? If any exists, please describe it and detail its purposes.

Currently there is no Geographical Information System(s) in place for the purpose of management and dissemination of the agricultural policy in the Republic of Moldova.

In accordance with the plans of the Government for digitalization, a number of activities with respect to E-governance in MAFI and AIPA have started e.g. a roadmap for IACS has been prepared by EU experts under the current Twinning project. MAFI is currently establishing an E-governance task force group in order to coordinate the future digitization process in agriculture and rural development.

5. Please inform on the existence of microeconomic instruments providing an overview of farm economics, in particular on the income of agricultural holdings, sectoral analysis and distribution of direct payments (income support paid directly to farmers) comparable to the EU Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN). If they exist, please describe them, including their structure and legal basis.

Currently, there are no microeconomic instruments like FADN, providing an overview of farm economics, in particular on the income of agricultural holdings, available in the Republic of Moldova.

The establishment of a functioning FADN system is part of the MAFI activity plan under the NARDS 2022-2027

II. MARKET POLICY

6. Please provide an overview of the policies applied for each of the products or product categories listed at d) below covering:

a) The aims and the main elements of any product-specific agricultural policy measures applied: market intervention (buying-in, public/private storage, etc.), production quotas, production or export levy, tax, import duties and equivalent charges and other border measures, such as tariff rate quotas and other preferential imports production control, etc.

b) The management of import tariff rate quotas explaining whether a system of import/export licences is used, and whether such a system provides for securities (bank guarantees).

c) The management and control of production subsidy schemes describing the procedure for registration of farmers' plots in the national farm register, procedure for lodging applications, data to be submitted, administrative and on-the-spot controls to be performed and sanctions to be applied.

There are no market interventions and production quotas in the Republic of Moldova. The export taxes system is not applied.

Customs clearance and its equivalents and other measures at the border are regulated by the following legal documents:

- Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part²⁸.
 - In the Annex XV „ELIMINATION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES” the quotas are set at the 0% VAT quota applied to EU imports
- DECISION NO 1/2020 OF THE EU-REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE IN TRADE CONFIGURATION of 23 January 2020 concerning the update of Annex XV (Elimination of customs duties) to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part²⁹, amended the tariff rate quotas.
- Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Turkey, signed in Chisinau on 11.09.2014³⁰
 - In Annex III, List I sets out the quota goods with the 0% TV quota applied to imports from Turkey

²⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A22014A0830%2801%29>

²⁹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9942bff6-48f4-11ea-b81b-01aa75ed71a1/language-ro/format-HTML>

³⁰ <https://me.gov.md/ro/content/acord-de-comert-liber-intre-republica-moldova-si-republica-turcia>

- Strategic partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, signed in Chisinau on 24.12.2020³¹
 - ANNEX II-D sets out the quotas with a 0% TV quota applied to imports from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

When importing goods, the following calculations are applied:

- The **customs duty** is applied according to the Law approving the Combined Nomenclature of Goods no. 172/2014³²;
- **Fee for customs procedures** - provided for in Annex no.2 to the Law on customs tariff no.1380 / 1997³³;
- **Value added tax** - according to art.96 of Title III of the Fiscal Code no.1163/1997³⁴
- **Excise duty** - 115.02 lei/litre (5,9 EURO) of absolute alcohol on import of indentured ethyl alcohol with a minimum alcoholic strength by volume of 80%; ethyl alcohol and other denatured distillates, with any alcoholic strength by volume according to Annex no.1 to Title IV of the Fiscal Code no.1163 1997.

Preferential rates

- Association Agreement between the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community, and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part
 - Preferential taxes

Industrial products: On the date of provisional entry into force of the Agreement³⁵, the EU abolished all tariffs on Moldovan industrial products, while Moldova began to phase out tariffs on certain products during a transitional period of 3-5 years, such as certain types of plastics and similar products, furniture, various textiles (e.g. carpets and clothing).

Moldova has eliminated tariffs for these products by September 1, 2019.

Agricultural products: The agreement also reduces tariffs on agricultural products. Moldova has agreed to eliminate tariffs on most of its agricultural

³¹ <https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/b02604-en.pdf>

³² https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=128495&lang=ro#

³³ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118616&lang=ro

³⁴ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130206&lang=ro#

³⁵ <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/ro/content/zona-de-liber-schimb-aprofundata-si-cuprinzatoare-ue-moldova>

products after a transition period of up to ten years. This is relevant, for example, for: wines, some food preparations.

Also, the EU has eliminated tariffs on agricultural products from day one, except for specific sensitive products.

For sensitive products, the parties have set tariff quotas.

Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Turkey

Preferential taxes

Industrial products: On the date of entry into force of the Agreement, Turkey abolished import duties and charges having equivalent effect on Moldovan industrial products, while Moldova has gradually phased out import duties and taxes with equivalent effect for certain products over a transitional period of 3-5 years (according to Annex II of the Agreement).

Note: Moldova has eliminated tariffs for these products by November 1, 2020.

Agricultural products: Regarding the agricultural products, the parties concluded a controlled liberalization within the limits of mutually beneficial conditions, as well as taking into account the real sector development priorities of each party. Thus, according to Annex III to the Agreement, for about 30 product groups, the parties granted each other tariff quotas.

Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Moldova

Preferential taxes

Industrial Products: On the date of provisional entry into force of the Agreement, the Parties have eliminated all tariffs on industrial products.

Agricultural products: The agreement also reduces tariffs for agricultural products. The UK has eliminated tariffs for agricultural products, with the exception of specific sensitive products.

The Republic of Moldova has agreed to eliminate certain customs duties on agricultural products, as set out in Annex II-D, in accordance with the following procedures:

a) the customs duties for the items in staging category '10-A' in the Republic of Moldova's Schedule shall be eliminated in 10 equal annual stages starting on 1 January 2015 and customs duties for such products shall be fully eliminated from 1 January 2024.

b) the elimination of customs duties for products in staging category '10-S' (products subject to a 5-year standstill) shall be eliminated in 10 equal annual stages, starting on 1 January 2019 and customs duties for such products shall be fully eliminated from 1 January 2028.

For sensitive products, the parties have set tariff quotas.

(a) Republic of Moldova also applies the tariff rate quotas for certain agricultural products (meat, bulk milk and sugar).

Regarding the mechanism of sugar imports quotation on a preferential basis, it should be noted that the sugar industry in the Republic of Moldova is a closed value chain and represents a priority segment in the country's agricultural policy. As a result, mechanisms have been established for prevention of unfair competitive practices through excessive import of products that would lead to stagnation of the development of domestic producers.

Thus, the tariff commitments of the Republic of Moldova for positions 1701 and 1702 were modified after the WTO negotiations held in 2007-2009.

The reduced customs duties, stipulated in the Note to Chapter 17 of the Law 172/2014, reflect the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to the WTO Member countries, according to the list CLI - Republic of Moldova (communicated to the members by G/MA/TAR/RS/150 and certified by WT/Let/655) approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova by Law no. 301/2008 amending and supplementing Annex no.1 to Law no.1380-XIII/1997 on customs tariff.

According to Chapter 4, Section I of the Annex to Law no. 172/2014, as well as the provisions of Government Decision no. 400/2015 for the import of bulk milk, the Republic of Moldova applies preferential customs duty of 0%, within the established tariff quota of 5000 tons per year. The tariff quota management system is carried out in accordance with the updated list of domestic dairy processors, prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and is based on the principle of "first come, first served" (FIFO), based on registration of customs declaration in the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA).

Import licenses

Law no. 1031/2000 regulates the management of the import tariff quotas in preferential regime³⁶.

The foreign trade policy of the state is achieved through tariff-customs regulation (application of customs tariffs for export and import), the introduction, in the established manner, of exceptional duties (special, anti-dumping and countervailing) and through non-tariff regulation (especially quotation and licensing) of foreign trade activity in accordance with the laws, normative acts of the Government, as well as with the international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party. The use of other methods of state regulation of foreign trade activity is prohibited.

Quantitative restrictions on exports and imports are established by the Government only in exceptional cases, in accordance with this law and with the international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party.

The Republic of Moldova applies import restrictions to goods that have to meet special conditions or formalities prior to their entry into the country, according to the Law no 160/2011 on authorization regulation of entrepreneurial activity³⁷.

Restrictions are controlled with "permissive acts". The import licenses are required for the import of ethyl alcohol alcoholic products; tobacco; plant protection products; toxic chemical substances; civil arms; pyrotechnic articles; cryptographic methods and technical protection of information; gasoline, diesel oil and/or liquefied petroleum gas; strategic goods; goods subject to sanitary veterinary control; medicinal products; narcotic drugs; psychotropic substances and precursors.

In the Republic of Moldova, the import/export licenses system does not provide bank guarantees.

7. Where individual measures are applied to more than one product category, please detail the information under each product concerned. The description should include the following information: (i) name of the policy measure with a description of the scheme and the objective and (ii) eligibility criteria for the measure and the funding allocated a) Arable crops, specialised crops and products:

- Cereals;
- Oilseeds and protein crops;

³⁶ Law no. 1031/2000 regulates the management of the import tariff quotas in preferential regime, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=66729&lang=ro

³⁷ Law no 160/2011 on authorization regulation of entrepreneurial activity, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=97971&lang=ro

- Rice;
- Sugar;
- Dried fodder, seeds, hops;
- Olive oil and table olives;
- Flax and hemp;
- Fruit and vegetables;
- Processed fruit and vegetable products;
- Bananas;
- Wine;
- Live plants and products of floriculture;
- Raw tobacco;
- Ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin;
- Apiculture products;
- Silkworms;
- Cotton.

The legal framework for the organization of the markets for agricultural and agri-food products by natural and legal persons producing, storing, processing and/or marketing these products, at national or production area, on internal and/or external markets, and their functioning markets is approved by Law no. 257/2006 on the organization and functioning of the markets for agricultural and agro-food products³⁸.

The list of agricultural and agro-food products for which product councils are set up is approved by Government Decision no. 630/2007³⁹.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry develops the strategy and agricultural market policies and ensures the implementation of the legal framework and specific regulations in collaboration with the partner bodies of the product council.

The product council has the following objectives:

- Stimulating, promoting and developing the activity on each sub-sector for the benefit of the partners of the sub-sector;
- Analysing the market, based on the information from the sub-sectors, regarding the demand for the main agricultural and agro-food products,

³⁸ Law no. 257/2006 on the organization and functioning of the markets for agricultural and agro-food products, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=25970&lang=ro

³⁹ Government Decision no. 630/2007 on the approval of the list of agricultural and agro-food products for which product councils are set up, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=103254&lang=ro#

the annual appreciation of the production potential, the quantification of the offer, the estimation of the costs and the prices;

- Proposing legislative measures to regulate the market for each sub-sector products;
- Proposing financial support mechanisms and beneficiaries of these mechanisms;
- Monitoring the results of the implemented measures, the balance of the professional agreement on the product;
- Developing activities for the promotion and information of the partners on the actions, programmes and measures taken;
- Ensuring consultation aimed at approving the draft normative acts initiated by other public institutions;
- Estimating the reference price for the products:
 - Cereals and processed cereal products;
 - Oilseeds and processed products;
 - Sugar beet, sugar and processed products;
 - Potatoes and processed products;
 - Fresh and processed vegetables-fruits;
 - Grapes, wine, wine-based products and processed products;
 - Cereals for beer, hops, beer;
 - Pigs, pork and processed products;
 - Poultry, poultry meat, eggs and processed products;
 - Cattle, beef and processed products;
 - Sheep and goats, meat, sheep's milk and goat's milk, wool and processed sheep and goat products;
 - By-products from animal husbandry;
 - Milk and dairy products;
 - Textile plants and processed products;
 - Medicinal and hetero-oil plants and processed products;
 - Tobacco and tobacco products;
 - Seeds and planting material, flowers, ornamental plants and landscape architecture;
 - Bee honey, other bee products and processed products;
 - Other agricultural products and products processed therefrom.

The state also stimulates activities aimed at promoting local agricultural and agro-food products through the subsidy policy, as a market intervention and as a measure to enhance competitiveness of agricultural producers.

Government Decision no. 455/2017⁴⁰ on the distribution of sources from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund

Sub-measure 1.9 Stimulating promotional activities

Scope: Allocation of funds to support agricultural producers, producer groups, including through professional agricultural associations, for participation and organization of exhibitions, fairs, competitions, including in the marketing networks on the foreign market, in order to increase competitiveness and the promotion of local agricultural and agro-food products, for expenses incurred, starting with November 1st of the year preceding the subsidy year, for:

- Compensation for the costs of participation and organization in exhibitions, fairs, agri-food competitions, including in the marketing networks on the foreign market, except for the expenses covered by other institutions and development partners:
 - Exhibition space rental;
 - Construction of the presentation stands, banners, panels;
 - Participation fees;
 - The costs of the samples used in the promotion process;
 - The acquisition of media space for the dissemination of information for the promotion of agricultural and agri-food products;
- Reimbursement of expenses for the registration of products with a protected geographical indication, designation of origin of products and a traditional specialty guaranteed;
- Compensation of costs of HACCP, GlobalGap, GMP, ISO certification.
- The amount of support is up to 50% of the cost of expenses.

8. For i) Beef and veal, ii) Milk and milk products; iii) Pigmeat, iv) Sheepmeat and goatmeat; v) Poultrymeat, vi) Eggs; vii) Apiculture; viii) Fruit and vegetables; ix) Wine; x) Floriculture; xi) Olive oil and table olives; xii) Sugar beet - please provide a description of:

a) The existing regulatory requirements and the arrangements for their administration and enforcement including legislative basis (name and reference of relevant legal act); objectives and general description of the legislation; degree of approximation to EU legislation; participation in international standard schemes; description of administrative and enforcement arrangements (including resources, human, financial, and infrastructure, and if possible the administrative organisational chart).

⁴⁰ Government Decision no. 455/2017[#] on the distribution of sources from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114080&lang=ro

Regarding description of administrative and enforcement arrangements (including resources, human, financial, and infrastructure, and if possible the administrative organisational chart) please see chapter 12, question no. 1

- *Law 306/2018 on food safety*⁴¹ The law aims at achieving a high level of protection of human health and consumer interests in relation to food safety, taking into account the diversity of food supply, including traditional products, ensuring the efficient functioning of the national market. At the same time the law:
 - Lays down the general principles governing the area of foodstuffs and animal feedingstuffs in general and their safety in particular;
 - Establishes and defines the areas of competence of the National Food Safety Agency regarding the safety of food and feed throughout the food chain;
 - Establishes and defines the areas of competence of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection regarding public health and the supervision of certain categories of foodstuffs with an impact on the health of the population, within the competences established by this law;
 - establishes the rights and obligations of food business operators involved in the production, processing, storage, transport, distribution and marketing of food and feed;
 - Strengthens the legal and institutional framework for food and feed safety.

The main objectives of food regulations are:

- the protection of human life and health, the interests of the consumer, the prevention of fraudulent or misleading practices, of counterfeit foodstuffs;
- The application of the basic principle of food safety policy - "from fork to fork";
- Ensuring fair practices in the food trade, taking into account animal health and welfare, plant health and environmental protection;
- Facilitating trade between the Republic of Moldova and other countries with food products that meet the requirements of this law.

The provisions of this law apply to all stages of the food chain.

Law 306/2018 applies to all foodstuffs, including fortified foods, food supplements and other types of foodstuffs intended for placing on the domestic market.

⁴¹Law 306/2018 on food safety, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122838&lang=ro

The provisions of the Law do not apply to primary production intended for domestic consumption or to foods that are prepared, handled or stored for domestic consumption.

Harmonization. The law transposes the following EU legislation:

- Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the EU Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety,, as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/745; and
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 931/2011 of 19 September 2011 on the traceability requirements set by Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council for food of animal origin.
 - *Law 119/2004 on plant protection products and fertilizers* ⁴²

This law establishes the legal basis and the state policy governing the activities with plant protection products and fertilizers; regulates the conditions for their research, testing, experimentation and state approval, manufacture, import, transportation, storage, sale and use in a manner that is harmless to humans, animals and the environment; the state surveillance and control over the compliance with the legislation in force; determines the rights and obligations of enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens, the duties of the competent authorities in the area; the facts constituting violations, as well as the liability for committing them.

The fundamental principles of the state policy in the field of activities with phytosanitary products and fertilizers are:

- Priority of human health and environment protection over the economic efficiency of the use of plant protection products and fertilizers;
- State supervision over their approval, manufacture, import, transportation, storage, sale and use;
- Using scientific and practical data as the basis for the use of plant protection products and fertilizers by beneficiaries of land with any form of ownership;
- Optimized use of plant protection products and fertilizers by extending the application of biological methods of plant protection and other environment friendly processes;
- Safety of plant protection products and fertilizers for humans, animals and the environment in the process of their manufacture, research, testing,

⁴² Law 119/2004 on plant protection products and fertilizers, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107644&lang=ro

experimentation and application, observing the requirements laid down by national standards, plant protection regulations and other normative acts;

- Promoting a uniform state policy in the area.

Harmonization. The law transposes art. 1 and 3 of Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides and art. 3 and 59 of the Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC.

- *Government Decision no. 1325/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard to establish the minimum requirements for the protection of calves for the purpose of breeding and fattening*⁴³.

The normative act aims at establishing welfare requirements and minimum standards for the protection of calves for breeding and fattening, in order to guarantee the rational development of production.

Harmonization. The Government Decision transposes Council Directive 2008/119/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves (codified version), as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017.

- *Government Decision no. 711/2014 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard to establish the conditions of animal health and public health and sanitary-veterinary certification of imports of raw milk, dairy products, colostrum and colostrum products intended for human consumption*⁴⁴.

The normative act establishes public and animal health conditions, as well as certification requirements for the import of batches of raw milk, dairy products, colostrum and colostrum products, including the model list of countries from which the import of batches of these products is allowed, depending on the heat treatment.

Harmonization. Partially transposes Commission Regulation (EC) No 605/2010 of 2 July 2010 laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification

⁴³ Government Decision no. 1325/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard to establish the minimum requirements for the protection of calves for the purpose of breeding and fattening, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110453&lang=ro

⁴⁴ Government Decision no. 711/2014 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard to establish the conditions of animal health and public health and sanitary-veterinary certification of imports of raw milk, dairy products, colostrum and colostrum products intended for human consumption, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110241&lang=ro

conditions for the introduction into the European Union of raw milk and dairy products intended for human consumption, as amended last time by Implementing Regulation (EU) no. 209/2014 of the Commission of March 5, 2014.

- *Government Decision no. 859/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the minimum criteria for the protection of pigs intended for breeding and fattening*⁴⁵.

The normative act establishes minimum requirements for the protection of pigs at the stages of the production cycle, such as ensuring minimum maintenance areas, forming batches of growing pigs, cutting tusks and tails, as well as other animal health measures.

Harmonization. Transposes Council Directive 91/630/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs as amended by Council Directive 2001/88/EC of 23 October 2001 and Commission Directive 2001/93/EC of 9 November 2001 as last amended by Council Regulation 806/2003/EC.

- *Government Decision no. 686/2018 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard on animal health conditions and certification for trade (import and export) with sheep and goats*⁴⁶.

The normative act establishes the animal health and certification conditions for the import and export of sheep and goats.

Harmonization. Transposes Council Directive 91/68/EEC of 28 January 1991 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in ovine and caprine animals.

- *Government Decision no. 773/2013 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard establishing the marketing requirements for poultry meat*⁴⁷.

The normative act establishes requirements and standards for the marketing of poultry meat.

⁴⁵ Government Decision no. 859/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the minimum criteria for the protection of pigs intended for breeding and fattening, available in Romanian at:https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110353&lang=ro

⁴⁶ Government Decision no. 686/2018 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard on animal health conditions and certification for trade (import and export) with sheep and goats, available in Romanian at:https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108819&lang=ro

⁴⁷ Government Decision no. 773/2013 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard establishing the marketing requirements for poultry meat, available in Romanian at:https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130549&lang=ro

Harmonization. Transposes Commission Regulation (EC) No 543/2008 of 16 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards for poultrymeat.

- *Government Decision no. 415/2009 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the protection of chickens intended for meat production⁴⁸.*

The legislation lays down rules for the protection of chickens intended for meat production, in particular animal welfare rules in intensive farming systems.

Harmonization. Transposes Directive 2007/43/EC of 28 June 2007 laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production

- *Government Decision no. 811/2018 approving the Methodology for analysis and testing of heat-treated milk for direct human consumption⁴⁹.*

The Decision sets out the reference methods for analysis and testing to determine the dry matter, the fat content, the degreased dry matter content, the total nitrogen content, the protein content and the density of heat-treated milk. intended for direct human consumption, both from domestic production and from imports.

Harmonization. Transposes Council Decision 92/608/EEC of 14 November 1992 laying down methods for the analysis and testing of heat-treated milk for direct human consumption.

- *Government Decision no. 1208/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the sale of eggs for human consumption⁵⁰.*

⁴⁸ Government Decision no. 415/2009 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the protection of chickens intended for meat production, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114297&lang=ro

⁴⁹ Government Decision no. 811/2018 approving the Methodology for analysis and testing of heat-treated milk for direct human consumption, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108979&lang=ro

⁵⁰ Government Decision no. 1208/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the sale of eggs for human consumption, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130496&lang=ro

The normative act regulates the sale of eggs for human consumption in the Republic of Moldova.

Harmonization. Transposes Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008 of 23 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards for eggs, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 163 of 24 June 2008, as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/2168 of 20 September 2017, as well as transposes Part VI of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007.

- *Government Decision 1191/2010 approving the Sanitary Regulation on the maximum permitted residue limits of plant protection products from or on food and feed of plant and animal origin* ⁵¹.

The Government Decision directly addresses the public health issues and establishes the need to ensure a high level of consumer protection, containing harmonized provisions on maximum permitted residue limits for plant protection products from or on food and feed of plant and animal origin.

The provisions of the Regulation apply to products of plant and animal origin or to certain parts of the products concerned (fresh or frozen fruit; nuts, fresh or frozen vegetables, legumes, seeds and oleaginous fruits, cereals, tea, coffee, infusions and cocoa, hops, spices, plants used in the production of sugar, products of animal origin - terrestrial animals, fish, fish products, crustaceans, molluscs and other fishery products of sea or freshwater, animal feed) and intended for use as food or feed animals, and is mandatory for all economic operators.

This Regulation shall not apply to products of plant and animal origin or to certain parts of the products concerned and intended for use as food or feed, where it is duly demonstrated that they are intended for:

- the manufacture of products other than food and feed;
- sowing or planting;
- activities authorized by law for testing on active substances.

The maximum residue limits of plant protection products established in accordance with this Decision shall not apply to products which are intended for export to third countries and which are treated before export, if it is satisfactorily demonstrated

⁵¹ Government Decision 1191/2010 approving the Sanitary Regulation on the maximum permitted residue limits of plant protection products from or on food and feed of plant and animal origin, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114320&lang=ro

that the country of destination claims or accepts the treatment in question, in order to prevent the introduction of harmful organisms into its territory.

Harmonization. Partially transposes Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC, point 1, and establishes the regulatory framework in this area.

- *Government Decision 115/2013 on the control of nitrates in foods of plant origin*⁵²

The normative act establishes:

- Nitrates control rules in foodstuffs of plant origin;
- Methods of sampling for the official control of nitrate content in foodstuffs of plant origin;
- Methods of analysis for the official control of nitrate content in foodstuffs of plant origin.

Harmonization:

- transposes point 1 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuff as last amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/685 of 20 May 2020 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1882/2006 of 19 December 2006 laying down methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of nitrates in certain foodstuffs
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- Transposes the provisions of art. 8 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006/EC of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs (published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 364 of 20 December 2006), as well as the provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1882/2006/EC of 19 December 2006 laying down methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of nitrates in certain foodstuffs.

ix) wine

Objectives and general description of the legislation; the degree of approximation to EU law

*1) Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006*⁵³

⁵² Government Decision 115/2013 on the control of nitrates in foods of plant origin, available in Romania at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123312&lang=ro

⁵³ Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006, available in Romanian at:

The law establishes the legal, economic and social basis for the viticulture and winemaking sectors, regulates the relations in the activity of production, processing and marketing of viticulture propagating and planting material, table and wine grapes, wines and other must and wine-based products, wine by-products and the products obtained based on wine by-products.

The law stipulates that wine is a food product, and wine from directly producing hybrids is intended for family consumption only.

The law regulates the wine-growing areas for the production of commercial products, which include regions, centres and terroirs. Vineyards for the production of commercial products may only be established using vine varieties registered in the Catalogue of Plant Varieties and the Common Catalogue of Vine Varieties of the European Union).

The classification of wine products complies with EU requirements as follows:

- wines;
- products derived from grape musts;
- products derived from wine;
- wine by-products;
- products derived from the use of wine by-products;
- aromatised wine products.

Wines are classified as follows:

- wine with a protected designation of origin;
- wine with a protected geographical indication;
- wine without a protected designation of origin and without a protected geographical indication, but with a varietal designation, called a varietal wine;
- wine without a protected designation of origin, without a protected geographical indication and without a varietal designation, called wine.

The law stipulates the obligation to register in the Vine and Wine Register when carrying out any activity in the wine sector (production of grapes, production-merchandise, production and marketing of wines). The Vine and Wine register is kept by the National Office of Vine and Wine.

The law provides for the obligation to demonstrate traceability in the wine sector at all stages of the production chain, to keep records and to submit declarations on the yields, production or stocks. The declarations are submitted to and processed by the National Office of Vine and Wine. It is not in line with EU law.

2) *Government Decision no. 356/2015 approving the Technical Regulation "Organization of the wine market"*⁵⁴

The Decision lays down the general rules on the organization of the wine market, the rules on production potential, the specific requirements for the production of wine products, the stages of organization of the manufacture and marketing of wine products with Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), development and approval of the specifications, specific rules for the production of organic wine products, authorized technological processes and restrictions in oenology, requirements for labelling and traceability of wine production, as well as procedures for assessing the conformity of wine products.

It is harmonized with the Community regulatory framework and transposes:

- Articles 92-95, Art.119-120, Part IV of Annex II and Part II of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013,
- partly Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 of 10 July 2009 laying down certain detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 as regards the categories of grapevine products, oenological practices and the applicable restrictions
- Commission regulation (EC) No 607/2009 of 14 July 2009 laying down certain detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 as regards protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 436/2009 of 26 May 2009 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 as regards the vineyard register, compulsory declarations and the gathering of information to monitor the wine market, the documents accompanying consignments of wine products and the wine sector registers to be kept- Articles 29b, 29c, 29d of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control

When marketing wine grapes, wine growers are required to hold a certificate of compliance with the rules for the use of plant protection products and fertilizers and a certificate of safety until the start of the grape harvest campaign.

⁵⁴ Government Decision no. 356/2015 approving the Technical Regulation "Organization of the wine market", available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114795&lang=ro

The Act lays down specific requirements for wine products, the categories of which are set out in the Annexes to the Technical Regulation Organization of the wine market.

3) Government Decision no. 741/2017 approving the Regulation on the definition, description, presentation and labelling of aromatised wine products⁵⁵

The Decision lays down rules on the definition, description, presentation and labelling of aromatised wine products, specific requirements for technological processes and methods of analysis for obtaining aromatised wine products, stages of organization, manufacture and marketing of aromatised wine products with protected designations of origin or protected geographical indications, as well as requirements for traceability and conformity assessment procedures.

It is harmonized with the Community regulatory framework and transposes:

- point 5, Part IV of Annex II and points 1 and 3-9, Part II of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007;
- partly Regulation (EU) no. 251/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91.

4) Participation in international standard schemes:

The Republic of Moldova is a member of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) and according to the national regulatory framework in the wine sector pro, certain oenological practices, oenological means and values of wine quality parameters shall comply with the indices prescribed by the OIV.

The national normative framework establishes that the provisions of the international treaties shall prevail if the international treaties covering the winemaking area, to which the Republic of Moldova is a party, lay down provisions different from those of the national law.

⁵⁵ Government Decision no. 741/2017 approving the Regulation on the definition, description, presentation and labelling of aromatised wine products, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101895&lang=ro

Description of administrative and enforcement arrangements (including human, financial, financial and infrastructure resources and, if possible, administrative organization chart)

Implementation of the provisions of the national regulatory framework in the wine sector:

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry:**
 - Wine and alcohol sector policies service;
 - Public Institution "National Office of Vine and Wine".
- **National Food Safety Agency (please see also chapter 12, Q1):**
 - Directorate for Safety and Quality Control of Wine Products, Ethyl Alcohol, Beer and Alcohol Production;
 - Public Institution "Central Testing Laboratory for Alcoholic/Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Canned Products".

The wine and alcohol sector policy service employs three civil servants responsible for drawing up regulations ensuring harmonization with EU policy, planning wine sector support measures, drawing up a set of actions and administrative procedures related to geographical indications, cooperation with international organizations and other activities related to the wine and alcoholic beverages sector.

IP "National Office of Vine and Wine", is a public institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, with the status of a legal entity, founded in 2013. The Office implements state policies in the field of viticulture, production and circulation of wine, products derived from musts and products derived from wine, wine by - products and products obtained from the use of wine by - products; promotes the marketing of wine products on the internal and external market; regulates the production of wine products with a protected geographical indication (PGI) and a protected designation of origin (PDO); monitors the production potential, including the establishment and deforestation of vineyards; keeps the wine register. The activity of the Office is financed by the Vine and Wine Fund, formed on the basis of public-private partnership (the allocation from the state budget is equal to the amount of contributions made by the sector). The Office employs 20 people. The governing bodies of the Office are the Steering Board and the Director. The Coordinating Council is composed of 15 members, of which 5 are representatives of the state authorities and 9 representatives of the private sector.

Directorate for Safety and Quality Control of Wine Products, Ethyl Alcohol, Beer and Alcohol Production within the National Food Safety Agency is responsible for carrying out state controls in the field and has the task of ensuring through surveillance and control activities compliance with the legislation on the

manufacture and wholesale of ethyl alcohol, alcohol production, wine products and beer. There are 10 civil servants in the Directorate.

IP "Central Testing Laboratory for Alcoholic/ Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Canned Products", the founder of which is the National Food Safety Agency, coordinates and organizes activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of public policies in the following areas of competence: 1) providing analysis services on food safety and quality of raw materials and alcohol production; 2) organizing laboratory and sensory analyses for alcohol and food production; 3) providing services for assessing the conformity of alcohol and food production. The governing bodies of the Laboratory are the board and the director. The financing of the Laboratory is ensured from the own resources obtained from the provision of services and from the financial means received from the state budget.

b) Agricultural marketing requirements and standards (grading, sizing, mandatory/voluntary standards), labelling requirements (especially origin labelling) and the checks performed on imports/exports to assess compliance with these requirements (e.g. procedures, certificates, sanctions)

i) Beef and veal, iii) Pork, iv) Sheep and goat meat; v) Poultry meat:

Government Decision no. 696/2010⁵⁶ approving the Requirements on the production, import and placing on the market of meat - raw material.

The legislation lays down mandatory criteria for the quality, food safety, presentation, labelling and consumer information which, to ensure the protection of human life, health and safety, must be observed when producing, importing and/or placing on the market animal meat as raw materials for the meat products industry and marketing for consumption, both from domestic production and from imports.

Harmonisation. Transposes Commission Regulation (EC) No 101/2013 of 4 February 2013 concerning the use of lactic acid to reduce microbiological surface contamination of bovine carcasses, Government Decision no. 624/2020⁵⁷ approving quality requirements for meat preparations and products.

The normative act establishes rules for packaging, labelling, transportation, for meat preparations and products from both domestic production and imports and does not apply to products manufactured in individual households for own consumption, to meat preparations and products manufactured in public catering

⁵⁶ Government Decision no. 696/2010[#] approving the Requirements on the production, import and placing on the market of meat- raw material, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=103341&lang=ro

⁵⁷ Government Decision no. 624/2020 approving Quality requirements for production and imports meat preparations and products, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130444&lang=ro

establishments, food preparations and products with a maximum meat content of 5%.

Harmonisation. Partially transposes Annex I, point 1 (point 1.10, point 1.14, point 1.15), point 7 (point 7.1 and point 7.6); Chapter V, Section I, II and IV of Section V of Annex III and Section VI of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin, as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1243 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019.

i) Beef and veal, iii) Pork, iv) Sheep and goat meat:

Classification of carcasses is regulated by Law no. 27/2017 on the classification of beef, pork and sheep carcasses 58, which is compatible with the provisions of art. 2 para. (3), art. 3, art. 6 para. (1) and (2), art. 7 para. (1), art. 8, art. 13 para. (1) - (3), art. 14 para. (1), art. 21 para. (2), art. 22 para. (1), art. 26 para. (2), art. 28, 29, art. 30 para. (1) and (2), art. 33 para. (1), annexes 1, 3, 6, 7 and partially compatible with the provisions of art. 1, art. 2 para. (1), (2) and (4), art. 5, art. 6 para. (3), art. 7 para. (2), art. 11 para. (1) and (2), art. 12, art. 13 para. (5), art. 15 para. (1), art. 16 para. (1), art. 20, art. 21 para. (3), art. 22 para. (2), art. 23 para. (1), art. 24 para. (1) and (2), art. 25 para. (2), art. 30 para. (3), art. 31, 32, art. 33 para. (2) and art. 36 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1249/2008 of 10 December 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Community scales for the classification of beef, pig and sheep carcasses and the reporting of prices thereof, is also compatible with Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organization of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) no. 234/79, (CE) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007. The law establishes the legal and economic basis of the national system for the classification of beef, pig and sheep carcasses, as well as the relations between state institutions and economic agents operating in animal husbandry and slaughter activities.

i) Beef and veal:

Government Decision no. 1406/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the labelling of beef and beef products⁵⁹.

⁵⁸ Law no. 27/2017 on the classification of beef, pork and sheep carcasses, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=98613&lang=ro

⁵⁹ Government Decision no. 1406/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the labelling of beef and beef products, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124081&lang=ro

The normative act provides for the obligation to apply the labelling of beef and beef products.

Harmonisation. Partially transposes Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the Council and of the European Parliament of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 (Title II "Labelling of beef and beef products") and fully transposes Commission Regulation (EC) No 1825/2000 of 25 August 2000 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) no. 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the labelling of beef and beef products and Commission Regulation (EC) No 275/2007 of 15 March 2007 amending Regulation (EC) No 1825/2000 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the labelling of beef and beef products.

ii) Milk and dairy products:

Government Decision no. 158/2019 approving quality requirements for milk and dairy products⁶⁰.

The normative act establishes the quality, packaging, labelling and transportation requirements for drinking milk and dairy products from both domestic production and imports.

Harmonisation. Partially transposes: Part III, Part IV and Appendix II of Part VII of Annex VII to Regulation (EEC) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 of 20 December 2013 as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/2393 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2017, CODEX STAN GENERAL 206, (updated 1999), Codex STAN 207-1999 for milk powders and cream powder (updated 2018), Codex STAN 208-1999 for cheeses in brine (updated 2018), CODEX STAN 221-2001 for unripened cheese, including fresh cheese (updated 2018), Codex STAN 243-2003 on fermented milks (updated 2018), Codex STAN 279-1971 for butter (updated 2018), Codex STAN 281-1971 for evaporated milks (updated 2018), CODEX STAN 282-1971 for sweetened condensed milks (updated 2018); Codex STAN 283-1978 for cheeses (updated 2018), Codex STAN 284-1971 for whey cheeses (updated 2018), Codex STAN 289-1995 Standard for whey powders (updated 2018).

⁶⁰ Government Decision no. 158/2019 approving quality requirements for milk and dairy products, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=113282&lang=ro

vi) Eggs:

Government Decision no. 1208/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the sale of eggs for human consumption⁶¹.

The normative act regulates the marketing of eggs for human consumption in the Republic of Moldova and does not apply to eggs intended for human consumption and sold directly to the final consumer by the economic operator at the place of production and/or in a local public market or by itinerant trade in the region of production, the area of which is established according to point 3 of the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard.

Harmonisation. Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008 of 23 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards for eggs, published in Official Journal of the European Union L 163 of 24 June 2008, as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/2168 of 20 September 2017, as well as transposes Part VI of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organization of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) no. 234/79, (EC) no. 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007.

vii) Beekeeping:

Government Decision no. 661/2007 approving the “Natural Honey” Technical Regulation⁶².

The normative act establishes the minimum requirements for the quality, food safety, presentation and labelling, which must be observed when producing and marketing natural honey for human consumption, both from domestic and imported production, and does not apply to honey produced in individual households for own consumption.

Harmonisation. Transposes Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey

Government Decision no. 306/2011 approving the Zootechnical Standard applicable to assessment of bee families, breeding and certification of beekeeping breeding material⁶³.

⁶¹ Government Decision no. 1208/2008 approving the Sanitary-Veterinary Standard regarding the sale of eggs for human consumption, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130496&lang=ro

⁶² https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114172&lang=ro

⁶³ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114328&lang=ro

The normative act aims at improving the genetic quality and increasing the productivity of bee families for the benefit of beekeepers, users of beekeeping breeding material. It regulates the procedure for the record keeping of bee families and the classification thereof, the assigned class I indirectly determining the market value of the genetic material.

Harmonisation. The normative act does not transpose European Union legislation.

Government Decision no.768/2020 approving the National Programme for the development of beekeeping in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2021-2025 and the Action Plan for the years 2021-2022 on its implementation⁶⁴.

The general objective is to increase the number of bees, increase the productivity of hives and develop the range of bee products by applying modern technologies and promoting professional beekeeping in order to increase production and export volume to 8.2 thousand tons in 2025.

The specific objectives for the development of the beekeeping sector and the achievement of the general objective are:

- increasing the beekeeping heritage and increasing the productivity of apiaries, so that in the next 5 years the number of bee families will be doubled up to 300 thousand families;
- improving the local beekeeping genetic fund and the health status of bee families, ensuring 50% of the annual demand for local genetic material by 2025;
- diversification of beekeeping production and strengthening of the processing and production capacity of value-added beekeeping products through cooperation and the creation of regional beekeeping centres, reaching by 2025 about 80% of the annual volume of global beekeeping production with value-added beekeeping products (monofloral honey, wax, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, therapeutic products, etc.);
- promoting the culture of honey consumption and stimulating local trade and export of honey, tripling the consumption of honey per capita and maintaining the rate of 90% of export production until 2025;
- stimulating the practice of professional beekeeping by strengthening the capacity of beekeepers and increasing the number of young specialists in the sector, reaching at least 15% of beekeepers to have at least 150 families and to double the number of specialists trained annually in the sector by 2025.

⁶⁴ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123890&lang=ro

LABELLING

Law no. 279/2017 on the provision of food information to consumers⁶⁵.

The normative act:

- Establishes the mandatory food information to ensure a high level of consumer protection, taking into account differences in their perception and need for information, while ensuring the proper functioning of the market of the Republic of Moldova;
- defines the general requirements and responsibilities governing food information, in particular food labelling;
- applies to food business operators at all stages of the food chain, where their activities relate to informing consumers about food, as well as to all food intended for the final consumer, including food delivered by public catering establishments, as well as food intended to be provided to them;
- applies to catering services provided by transport companies.

Harmonisation. The law transposes Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004 as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015,

Sanitary-veterinary certification procedures

In accordance with Law no. 221/2007 on veterinary health activity⁶⁶ the trade with and internal movement of live animals and germinal products of animal origin is carried out based on veterinary health certificates, which are issued by official veterinarians on the basis of the following conditions:

- strict observance by veterinarians of ethical and professional rules;

⁶⁵ Law no. 279/2017 on the provision of food information to consumers, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122833&lang=ro

⁶⁶ Law no. 221/2007 on veterinary health activity, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125191&lang=ro

- non-admission of the inclusion in the veterinary health certificates of some data that are not authenticated by the official veterinarian who issues the certificates;
- compliance with the international requirements regarding the principles of issuance of veterinary health certificates.
- Internal movement, import, transit, export, placing on the market and trade in live animals shall be carried out on the basis of the following documents:
 - the sanitary-veterinary certificate;
 - the movement form (F2);
 - individual passport for cattle;
 - the sanitary-veterinary authorization for the means of transport (in case of transport with a means of transport).

Harmonisation. The normative act does not transpose European Union legislation.

To ensure sanitary veterinary certification of animal movement and apply the concept of zoning and regionalization, the regional food safety subdivisions define or qualify the health status of animals on animal farms and epidemiological areas or regions of the Republic of Moldova in relation to specific animal diseases, established by ANSA on the basis of the Programme of Strategic Actions for the Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Animal Diseases, the Prevention of the Transmission of Diseases from Animals to Humans and the Protection of the Environment, under the conditions provided by veterinary legislation and the legislation on veterinary safety of products of animal origin.

In accordance with ANSA Order no. 158/2013, veterinary specialists shall have satisfactory knowledge of veterinary health legislation applicable to the animals or products to be certified, and shall be informed about regulations to be observed when issuing certificates, conducting tests and performing examinations before certification. Veterinarians shall not include in the health certificate veterinary information which they do not personally know or cannot verify.

The veterinary certificate is issued for goods subject to state veterinary sanitary control and supervision, as follows:

- the certificate is completed in the state language by using a clear terminology;
- if necessary, the certificate shall be accompanied by the official translation into the language of the country of destination, transit or certificates in accordance with the models of those countries, completed in the prescribed manner.

The certificate should not include words and sentences that could be misinterpreted.

The veterinary certificates are printed on standard forms, in accordance with the models established by ANSA and are issued in strict records to the territorial subdivisions for food safety. Reports on the use of blanks shall be submitted to the Agency monthly. The series (letters) and the serial number (digits) are applied on the blanks of the sanitary-veterinary certificates.

The regional food safety subdivision shall issue veterinary certificates for animals in its epizootiological territory only if the provisions set out herein and the provisions of other regulations on trade in animals have been complied with. Such certificates shall be signed by the authorized veterinarian, the full name printed and stamped.

The veterinary certificate shall be issued for each animal individually or for several animals of the same species and category if they belong to the same owner. The quantities of animals are expressed in number of individual animals, except for fish which are expressed in kilograms, and of bees in number of families. Such certificate is valid for 72 hours from the date of issue.

The National Food Safety Agency has the following procedures for carrying out official controls:

- General Procedure PG-19/01 "Preparation and performance of official control over the areas of competence of ANSA".
- General Procedure -13/02 "Preparation and conduct of official controls on food safety holdings"
- Specific procedure CODE: PS / SA-MSD-02/01: Audit of the HACCP system in the food business units.
- General procedure CODE: PG-08/01: Sampling of foodstuffs'.
- Specific procedure CODE: PS / SA-PA-03/01: Certification of foodstuffs of animal origin for export.
- General procedure PG-12/01: Action taken on non-compliant foodstuffs.

viii) Fruits and vegetables:

- *Law no. 237/2018⁶⁷ on the control of compliance with quality requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables.*

⁶⁷ Law no. 237/2018 on the control of compliance with quality requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109775&lang=ro

The law establishes the procedures, organization and conduct of control of compliance with quality requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables.

The purpose of the law consists in strengthening the legal and institutional framework for carrying out the control aimed at determining the conformity of products with quality requirements in the activity of natural or legal persons producing, storing, processing, sorting, packaging, importing, exporting and/or marketing products.

The control is performed by the National Food Safety Agency based on the risk assessment criteria.

Harmonisation. The law No. 237/2018 partially transposes Chapter II of Title II, Annex III and Annex V to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors.

The list of fruits and vegetables for which specific quality requirements are provided is approved by Government Decision no. 32/2022 approving the List of fresh fruit and vegetables subject to control of compliance with the quality requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables and the amendment of Government Decision no. 929/2009 approving the Quality and marketing requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables.⁶⁸

- *Government Decision No. 929/2009 approving the Quality and marketing requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables.*⁶⁹

The decision lays down minimum quality and marketing requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables intended for human consumption included in the following tariff headings 0702 00 00; 0705; 0709 60 100; 0803 10 100; 0805 10; 0805 10 200; 0805 20; 0805 20 100; 0805 20 300; 0805 20 500; 0805 20 700; 0805 40,000; 0805 50; 0805 50 100; 0805 50 900; 0806 10 10; 0808 10; 0808 30; 0809 30; 0809 30 10; 0810 10 00; 0701 90; 0703 10; 0703 20; 0704 90 100; 0704 10,000; 0706; 0707 00; 0709 30,000; 0709 93 100; 0807 11,000; 0807 19,000; 0809 10 00; 0809 21 00; 0809 40 05, according to the Combined Nomenclature of Goods, approved by Law 172/2014.

⁶⁸ Government Decision no. 32/2022 approving the List of fresh fruit and vegetables subject to control of compliance with the quality requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables and the amendment of Government Decision no. 929/2009 approving the Quality and marketing requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129866&lang=ro

⁶⁹ Government Decision No. 929/2009 approving the Quality and marketing requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129938&lang=ro

The general marketing requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables to which no specific marketing requirements apply are:

Fresh fruit and vegetables must be:

- whole;
- healthy (products affected by rot or deterioration, due to which they become unfit for consumption are excluded);
- clean, practically without visible foreign matter;
- without pests;
- without damage caused by pests affecting the pulp;
- without abnormal external moisture;
- without foreign smell and or taste.

The development and condition of the products must allow them to:

- resist during the transportation and handling;
- arrive at the place of destination in a satisfactory condition.

The products must be sufficiently developed, but not overdeveloped, the fruit must be satisfactorily ripe, but not too ripe. The development of the products and their stage of maturity must enable them to continue the ripening process and reach a satisfactory degree of ripening.

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside:

- identification - packer and or consignor: the name and address that can be replaced by the unique IDNO code, assigned by the state registration body, with the indication in the immediate vicinity: "packer and/or consignor" (or equivalent abbreviations);
- nature of the product:
 - the name of the product;
 - variety name (optional);
- origin of the product - the full name of the country of origin and, possibly, the production area or the national, regional or local name, this mention being made in the language of the country of origin or in any other language understood by consumers in the country of destination.

The Decision also lays down specific requirements for tomatoes, lettuce, chicory and garden chicory with whole leaves, bell peppers, bananas, citrus fruits, table grapes, apples, pears, peaches and nectarines, strawberries, kiwis, plums, apricots,

sour cherries and sweet cherries, melons, carrots, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, garlic and potatoes.

The requirements do not apply to:

- products manufactured in individual households for own consumption;
- products that are in transit or that are temporarily stored as goods that transit the country;
- products intended for industrial processing;
- products intended for domestic processing, provided that the marking "intended for domestic processing" is present;
- the products delivered by the manufacturer to the conditioning units or to storage;
- products subject to cutting or shaping to make them "ready to eat".

Harmonisation. The quality and marketing requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables partially transpose Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EC) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sector, and transposes Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1333/2011 of 19 December 2011 laying down marketing standards for bananas, rules on the verification of compliance with those marketing standards and requirements for notifications in the banana sector.

- *Government Decision no. 174/2009 approving the Technical Regulation "Fruits of nut crops. Quality and marketing requirements"*⁷⁰.

The Act lays down minimum quality and marketing requirements for nut fruit, nut fruit kernels intended for marketing for human consumption and green walnuts for processing (almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios, roasted almonds and pistachios), both from domestic production as well as from imports.

Harmonisation. Transposes Commission Regulation (EC) No 175/2001 of 26 January 2001 laying down the marketing standard for walnuts in shell, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1284/2002 of 15 July 2002 laying down the marketing standard for hazelnuts in shell.

⁷⁰ Government Decision no. 174/2009 approving the Technical Regulation "Fruits of nut crops. Quality and marketing requirements", available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109678&lang=ro

- *Government Decision no. 1523/2007 approving the Technical Regulation “Dried (dehydrated) fruits and vegetables”.*⁷¹

The technical regulation “Dried (dehydrated) fruits and vegetables” establishes minimum requirements for quality, food safety and presentation of the product, which are to be observed in the manufacture and/or marketing of dried (dehydrated) fruits and vegetables for human consumption, both from domestic as well as imported production (refers to the following products: Dried, whole, cut, sliced, crushed or ground vegetables, but not otherwise prepared; manioc, arrowroot or salep, Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes and similar roots and tubers with high starch or inulin content, , dried, whether or not sliced or in the form of pellets; Bananas, including plantains, dried dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens; Dried citrus fruits; Dried grapes (raisins); Dried fruits, other than those under heading 0803 to 0806; mixtures of dried fruit or nuts (0813); Dried or crushed or ground fruits of the genus *Capsicum* or of the genus *Pimenta*; Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, other than products under heading 2006; Vegetables, fruits preserved by sugar). The requirements do not extend to dried (dehydrated) fruits and vegetables prepared in individual households for own consumption.

Harmonisation. No data on harmonisation.

- *Government Decision No. 1402/2007 approving the Technical Regulation “Quick-frozen fruits, berries and vegetables”*⁷².

The Technical Regulation "Quick-frozen Fruit, Berries and Vegetables" sets out the minimum quality, food safety, presentation and labelling requirements to be met in the manufacture and or marketing of quick-frozen fruit, berries and vegetables from both domestic production, as well as imported. (Products falling within tariff headings 0710; 0811; 0814 00 000; 1212; 2004, according to the Combined Nomenclature of Goods, approved by Law 172/2014). These requirements do not apply to quick-frozen fruit, berries and vegetables, produced in individual households for own consumption.

Harmonisation. The act is not harmonised, it contains national provisions.

⁷¹ Government Decision no. 1523/2007 approving the Technical Regulation “Dried (dehydrated) fruits and vegetables”, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=111725&lang=ro

⁷² Government Decision No. 1402/2007 approving the Technical Regulation “Quick-frozen fruits, berries and vegetables”, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=22860&lang=ro

- *Government Decision No.216/2008 approving the Technical Regulation “Jams, jellies, marmalades, purees and other similar products”*⁷³.

The technical regulation "Jams, jellies, marmalades, purees and other similar products" establishes minimum requirements for the quality, food safety, presentation and labelling of products, which must be observed in the manufacture and or marketing of jams, preserves, jellies, marmalades, sweetened chestnut purees, magiuns, jams, candied fruits, fruit and berry pastes, fruit and berry purees, mashed or crushed fruit and berries and fruit sauces, both locally produced and imported. (Refers to products falling within tariff headings 2006 and 2007, in accordance with the Combined Nomenclature of Goods, approved by Law 172/2014). The Technical Regulation requirements do not apply to bakery products,

Harmonisation. The Technical Regulation establishes the necessary framework for the application of Council Directive 2001/113/EC of 20 December 2001 on fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut puree intended for human consumption.

- *Government Decision No. 1111/2010 approving the Technical Regulation "Juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption"*⁷⁴.

The technical regulation “Juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption” establishes minimum requirements for the quality, presentation and labelling of products, which must be observed in the manufacture and/or marketing of juice products intended for human consumption, both locally produced and imported. (Refers to products falling within tariff headings 2009 and 2202, in accordance with the Combined Nomenclature of Goods, approved by Law 172/2014). The provisions of the Technical Regulation refer only to preserved products and do not apply to products manufactured in individual households for own consumption.

Harmonisation. The technical regulation "Juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption" establishes the necessary framework for the

⁷³ Government Decision No.216/2008 approving the Technical Regulation “Jams, jellies, marmalades, purees and other similar products”, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109704&lang=ro

⁷⁴ Government Decision No. 1111/2010 approving the Technical Regulation "Juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption", available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114317&lang=ro

application of Council Directive 112/2001/EC of 20 December 2001 on fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption.

- *Government Decision No. 840/2021 approving the Horticulture Development Programme for the years 2021-2025 and the Action Plan for its implementation*⁷⁵.

The goal of the programme is to increase the competitiveness and resilience of the horticultural sector by increasing the value of production and deepening the integration of the value chain in order to contribute to the sustainable rural development.

The basic objectives set in order to develop the horticultural sector until 2025, according to the Programme are:

- improving market access by:
 - Elimination or reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers for the export of horticultural products, reaching at least 2025 agreements for free trade or reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers until 2025;
 - Development of financial and information support tools for exporters, so that in the next 5 years exports of horticultural products will increase by about 64%;
 - Promoting the domestic consumption of horticultural products, so that by 2025 the presence on the local market of local horticultural products will increase by 45% (832 thousand tons);
 - Development of organic horticulture, ensuring an increase in cultivation areas with organic horticultural products by about 10% by 2025;
- accelerating development through investment and innovation, by:
 - Facilitating access to quality inputs, so that the share of horticultural areas in the total sown areas (223.4 thousand hectares) cultivated with horticultural crops reaches 15% by 2025;
 - Development and diversification of production infrastructure, so that in the next 5 years the profit of the horticultural sector will increase by about 50%;
 - Modernization and efficiency of production technologies for mitigating climate resilience on the horticultural sector, so that by 2025

⁷⁵ Government Decision No. 840/2021 approving the Horticulture Development Programme for the years 2021-2025 and the Action Plan for its implementation, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124291&lang=ro

the area of irrigated land for horticulture will increase to 91.1 thousand ha and up to 241.8 ha - the area of protected land;

- Facilitating integration of value chains for horticultural products, ensuring an increase in refrigeration and vegetable storage capacity by 338 thousand tons and sorting and packaging capacity - by 45 thousand tons by 2025;
- competitiveness of the workforce, by:
 - connecting the education and rural extension system to the priorities of the horticultural sector, the employment rate in the sector reaching by 2025, at least 50% of the total specialists, and the degree of continuous training of specialists in the horticultural sector to increase annually by at least 200 by specialists;
 - Connecting the research system to the priorities of the sector;
- Business competitiveness;
 - Revising and improving the legal framework, so that by 2025 the horticultural sector will rely on relevant regulations, transparent and in line with European Union legislation;
 - Modernization and consolidation of the institutional framework.

For the most part, those responsible for implementing the programme are:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry;
- National Food Safety Agency;
- Agency for Intervention and Payments for Agriculture;
- State Commission for Plant Variety Testing;
- Public Institution "Investment Agency";
- State Agrarian University of Moldova;
- Scientific-Practical Institute of Horticulture and Food Technologies;
- local public authorities;
- technical vocational education institutions;
- 10 profile associations.

Harmonisation. The Horticulture Development Programme for the years 2021-2025 and the Action Plan for its implementation is not harmonised, it is a national program that aims to develop the horticultural sector. The development of the program took into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) with the promotion of good practices in agriculture, the principle *from pitchfork to fork*, the implementation of quality management systems and other practices promoted by the EU.

- *Government Decision 205/2009 approving the Technical Regulation “Fresh and dried legume products. Marketing requirements”⁷⁶.*

Technical regulations “Fresh and dried legume products. Marketing requirements” sets out the marketing requirements for fresh and dried legume products intended for direct human consumption.

The group of fresh and dried products includes:

- fresh products:
 - fresh beans with pods, *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. and *Phaseolus coccineus* L.;
 - peas which, depending on the type of consumption, are classified into two groups:
 - shelling peas (round peas, wrinkled peas) intended for consumption without the pod, *Pisum sativum* L.;
 - mange-tout peas and sugar snap peas intended for consumption with the pod, *Pisum sativum* L. var. *Macrocarpon* and *Pisum sativum* L. var. *Saccharatum*;
- dry products:
 - shelled or unshelled beans, *Phaseolus* spp, *Phaseolus mungo* L., *Phaseolus coccineus* L.;
 - beans *Vigna*, *Vigna unguiculata* L.;
 - Lima beans, *Phaseolus lunatus* L.;
 - peas, *Pisum sativum* L.;
 - chickpeas, *Cicer arietinum* L.;
 - common grain, *Faba bona* Medikus L.;
 - flat lentils, *Lens culinaris* Medikus L.

The requirements of the Technical Regulations do not apply to fresh and dried legumes produced in individual households for own consumption or to products transiting or temporarily stored as goods transiting the country.

Harmonisation. Transposes Commission Regulation (EC) No 2561/1999 of 3 December 1999 laying down the marketing standard for peas, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 912/2001 of 10 May 2001 laying down the marketing standard for beans, published in the.

ix) wine:

⁷⁶ Government Decision 205/2009 approving the Technical Regulation “Fresh and dried legume products. Marketing requirements”, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114290&lang=ro

National regulations also include the conditions for marketing and labelling of wines.

Wines placed on the market, including imported wines, are subject to conformity assessment for compliance with organoleptic, physico-chemical, microbiological and harmlessness indices. The assessment of conformity by the certification procedure is carried out by accredited certification bodies. Before being placed on the market, samples of the wine products are submitted to the conformity assessment bodies for verification that all the indices prescribed in the national regulations are complied with. In case of a positive decision (the product corresponds to all indices) the economic operator receives the certificate of conformity that accompanies the product placed on the market. In case of non-compliance, the economic operator receives a negative decision and refuses to place the product on the market.

Mandatory and optional indications are used for labelling. The "Labelling" section in the normative acts referred to below provide for a series of mandatory mentions, such as: the name under which the product is marketed; the name of the PGI or PDO for the protected designation product; alcohol concentration; the nominal volume of the product expressed in cubic decimetres (dm³), litres (l), cubic centimetres (cm³) or millilitres (ml); country of origin of the product and the words "Made in the Republic of Moldova" or "Product of the Republic of Moldova" - for the product made in the Republic of Moldova; packing date (day, month, year); the word "contains sulphites" or the word "contains sulfur dioxide" - for wine and wine products.

The registered denominations are protected against any misleading indication on the label or packaging as to any the provenance or origin of the product, liable to convey a false impression as to its origin, even if the true origin of the product is indicated or if the protected name is translated or accompanied by an expression such as "style", "type", "method", "as produced in", "imitation" or similar; other restrictions also apply.

The exported wines must meet the requirements of the importing country and the requirements are set out in the delivery contracts.

Placing on the market, labelling, conformity assessment (including classification of wine products with PGI and PDO) shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in

- The law no. 57/2006 of the vine and wine⁷⁷,

The law establishes the legal, economic and social basis for the viticulture and winemaking sectors, regulates the relations in the activity of production, processing and marketing of viticulture propagating and planting material, table

⁷⁷ Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126287&lang=ro

and wine grapes, wines and other must and wine-based products, wine by-products and the products obtained based on wine by-products.

The law stipulates that wine is a food product, and wine from directly producing hybrids is intended for family consumption only. The classification of wine products complies with EU requirements as follows: a) wines; b) products derived from grape musts; c) products derived from wine; d) wine by-products; e) products derived from the use of wine by-products; f) aromatised wine products.

Wines are classified as follows: a) wine with a protected designation of origin; b) wine with a protected geographical indication; c) wine without a protected designation of origin and without a protected geographical indication, but with a varietal designation, called a varietal wine; d) wine without a protected designation of origin, without a protected geographical indication and without a varietal designation, called wine.

It is not in line with EU law.

- *Government Decision no. 356/2015 approving the Technical Regulation "Organisation of Vine and Wine market"*⁷⁸.

The Decision lays down the general rules on the organization of the wine market, the rules on production potential, the specific requirements for the production of wine products, the stages of organization of the manufacture and marketing of wine products with Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), development and approval of the specifications, specific rules for the production of organic wine products, authorized technological processes and restrictions in oenology, requirements for labelling and traceability of wine production, as well as procedures for assessing the conformity of wine products.

It is harmonized with the Community regulatory framework and transposes:

- Articles 92-95, Art.119-120, Part IV of Annex II and Part II of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013,
- partly Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 of 10 July 2009 laying down certain detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 as regards the categories of grapevine products, oenological practices and the applicable restrictions
- Commission regulation (EC) No 607/2009 of 14 July 2009 laying down certain detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC)

⁷⁸ Government Decision no. 356/2015 approving the Technical Regulation "Organization of the wine market", available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114795&lang=ro

No 479/2008 as regards protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 436/2009 of 26 May 2009 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 as regards the vineyard register, compulsory declarations and the gathering of information to monitor the wine market, the documents accompanying consignments of wine products and the wine sector registers to be kept
- Articles 29b, 29c, 29d of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control.
- Government Decision no. 741/2017 approving the Regulation for the definition, description, presentation and labelling of aromatised wine products⁷⁹

The Decision lays down rules on the definition, description, presentation and labelling of aromatised wine products, specific requirements for technological processes and methods of analysis for obtaining aromatised wine products, stages of organization, manufacture and marketing of aromatised wine products with protected designations of origin or protected geographical indications, as well as requirements for traceability and conformity assessment procedures.

It is harmonized with the Community regulatory framework and transposes:

- - point 5, Part IV of Annex II and points 1 and 3-9, Part II of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007;
- - partly Regulation (EU) no. 251/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91.

⁷⁹ Government Decision no. 741/2017 approving the Regulation on the definition, description, presentation and labelling of aromatised wine products, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101895&lang=ro

Placement of wine without geographical indications and denomination of origin on the market

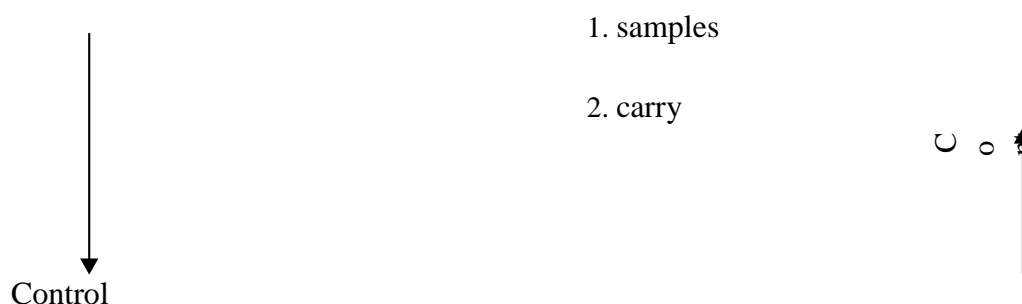


Chart 1. Placement of wine with geographical indications and denomination of origins on the market



Chart 2. Stages of manufacture and sale of wine products with PDO / PGI

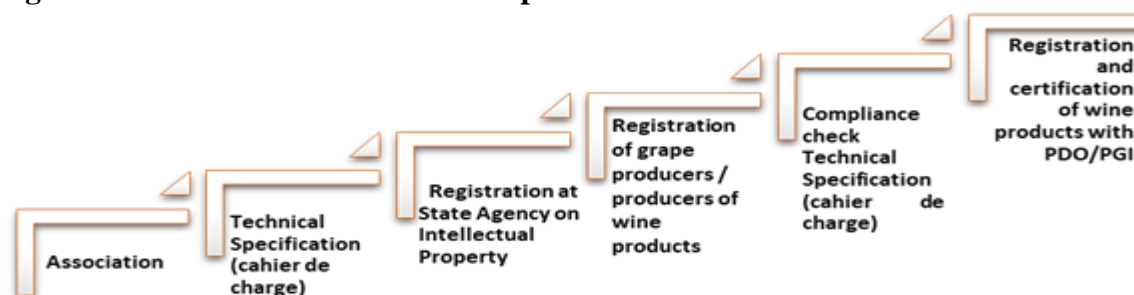
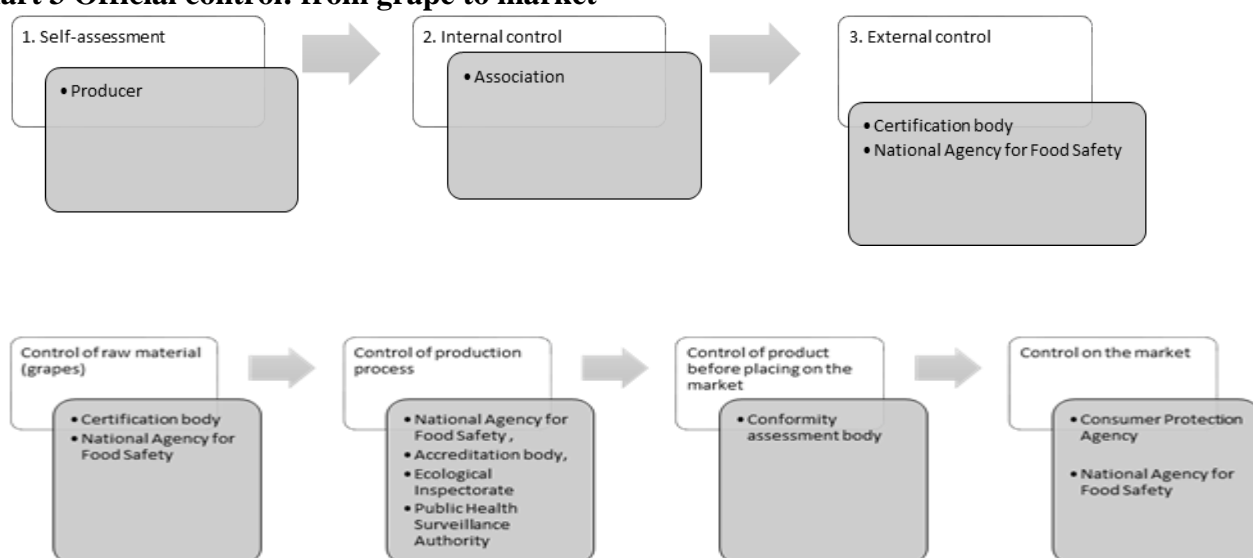


Chart 3 Official control: from grape to market



x) Floriculture:

- *Government Decision no. 390/2016⁸⁰ approving the requirements concerning the quality and placing of fresh cut flowers and fresh ornamental foliage on the market .*

⁸⁰ Government Decision no. 390/2016 approving the requirements concerning the quality and placing of fresh cut flowers and fresh ornamental foliage on the market, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=91864&lang=ro

The requirements for the quality and placing of fresh cut flowers and fresh ornamental foliage on the market apply to fresh cut flowers and flower buds for bouquets or other floral decorations, as well as for ornamental foliage: leaves, branches and other parts of fresh ornamental plants. The requirements do not apply to flowers and ornamental foliage intended for home use, nor to potted flowers, provided that they are not exposed to sale.

Harmonisation. The requirements for the quality and placing of fresh cut flowers and fresh ornamental foliage on the market transpose Part XIII "Live plants and floricultural products" of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007.

- *Government Decision no. 598/2012⁸¹ approving the Requirements regarding the quality and placing of the propagating material for ornamental plants on the market.*

The requirements for the quality and placing of propagating material for ornamental plants on the market set out minimum requirements for the quality and placing on the market of propagating material for ornamental plants which are applicable to both domestic and imported production. The requirements do not apply to propagating material whose products are not intended for ornamental purposes, if they fall within the scope of other regulations concerning the marketing of the materials concerned.

Harmonisation. The requirements for the quality and placing of propagating material for ornamental plants on the market establish the necessary framework for the application of Council Directive (EC) No. No 98/56/EC of 20 July 1998 on the marketing of propagating material of ornamental plants, Commission Directive 93/49/EEC of 23 June 1993 setting out the schedule indicating the conditions to be met by ornamental plant propagating material and ornamental plants pursuant to Council Directive 91/682/EEC, as well as Commission Directive no. 1999/66/EC of 28 June 1999 setting out requirements as to the label or other document made out by the supplier pursuant to Council Directive 98/56/EC.

⁸¹Government Decision no. 598/2012 approving the Requirements regarding the quality and placing of the propagating material for ornamental plants on the market, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114383&lang=ro

xi) Olive oil and table olives:

- *Government Decision no. 434/2010⁸² approving the Requirements “Edible vegetable oils”.*

The requirements for "Edible vegetable oils" set out the minimum quality requirements for the marketing of edible vegetable oils, specified in tariff headings 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510 00, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515 and 1804 00 000 of the Combined Nomenclature of Goods, approved by Law no. 172 of 25 July 2014, which are intended for human consumption, coming from both domestic production and imports. The requirements do not apply to products manufactured in individual households for own consumption.

Harmonisation. The technical regulation "Edible vegetable oils" establishes the necessary framework for the application of:

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1989/2003 of 6 November 2003 amending Regulation (EC) No 2568/91 on the characteristics of olive oil and olive-pomace oil and on the relevant methods of analysis,
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 of 22 October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation),
- Codex Alimentarius Commission normative documents: CODEX STAN 210 (amended in 2003, 2005, 2009), which lays down rules for vegetable oils bearing specific names,
- CODEX STAN 19–1981 (Revised 2–1999, amended in 2009) on codex rules for edible fats and oils not covered by the individual rules,
- CODEX STAN 33–1981 (Revised 2-2003, amended in 2009) on Codex rules for olive oils and olive pomace oils after first extraction,
- art. 118 and annex no. XVI of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 of 22 October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation),
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1019/2002 of 13 June 2002 on marketing standards for olive oil.

- *Government Decision no. 180/2010⁸³ approving the Technical Regulation "Table olives".*

⁸²Government Decision no. 434/2010 approving the Requirements “Edible vegetable oils”, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114303&lang=ro

⁸³Government Decision no. 180/2010 approving the Technical Regulation "Table olives", available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114301&lang=ro

The "Table Olives" technical regulation lays down minimum quality requirements which must be met by fruit from cultivated varieties of *Olea europaea sativa* Hoffg, properly treated or processed and which are offered for human consumption as table olives or which undergo processing, including repackaging on the territory of the Republic of Moldova (tariff headings 2001 90 650; 2005 70; 2005 70 100; 2005 70 900 in the Combined Nomenclature of Goods, approved by Law no. 172 of 25 July 2014). The Technical Regulations do not apply to products that are subject to processing in individual households for own consumption, nor to products that are in transit or are temporarily stored as goods transiting the country.

The technical regulation "Table olives" establishes the necessary framework for the application of the Codex Alimentarius standard: Codex Stan no. 66, 1981, rev.1, 1987, for table olives.

Harmonisation. No data on harmonisation.

xii) Sugar beet:

- *Government Decision no. 836/2011⁸⁴ approving the Requirements for the quality and marketing of fodder plant seeds.*

The requirements for the quality and marketing of fodder plant seeds apply to fodder plant seed and shall be complied with in the production and/or marketing of fodder plant seed. The requirements do not apply to seeds produced in unauthorised individual households, as well as to seeds of transit or temporary storage as transit products, unless they present a danger to human health and the environment.

Harmonisation. Requirements concerning the quality and marketing of fodder plant seed establish the necessary framework for the application of Council Directive 401 of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of fodder plant seed, as last amended by Commission Directive 2009/74/EC of 26 June 2009 amending Council Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 2002/55/EC and 2002/57/EC as regards the botanical names of plants, the scientific names of other organisms and certain Annexes to Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC and 2002/57/EC in the light of developments of scientific and technical knowledge, and the application of Council Directive 2002/54/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of beet seed, as last amended by Council Directive 2004/117/EC of 22 December 2004 amending Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 2002/54/EC, 2002/55/EC and 2002/57/EC as regards examinations carried out under official supervision and equivalence of seed produced in third countries.

⁸⁴Government Decision no. 836/2011[#] approving the Requirements for the quality and marketing of fodder plant seeds, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114351&lang=ro

9. Are there any producer groups or producer organisations regulated in the country? Are there any measures aimed at encouraging the organisation of different sectors (for example fruit and vegetable, wine, etc.)?

Law no.312/2013 on the producer groups and associations thereof and the Regulation regarding the approval of the procedure for the recognition of the producer groups⁸⁵ establishes the legal framework for the organisation, recognition and operation of agricultural producer groups. The mentioned law aims at ensuring capitalization of the production of group members, improving the efficiency of their activity, planning production, concentrating supply, organising the sale of agricultural products. Also, it establishes the conditions for financial support in the organisation and operation of producer groups.

The recognition of producer groups falls under the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and is applicable since 2015.

The status of agricultural producer groups recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (period 2015-2021) was granted to 45 producer groups, of which only 1 group requested a new recognition notice, as a result of the expiration of the previous term of validity of the recognition notice.

Out of the total number of recognized groups, 43 groups were recognized for the production of horticultural products (table grapes, apples, pears, cherries, plums, berries, vegetables, etc.), 2 groups, recognized in 2021, applied for recognition for animal products (honey and bee products), and for the third category of products, phyto technical products, no group was recognized.

The State supports the establishment and operation of agricultural producer groups, giving them opportunities to invest in infrastructure, increase the export of competitive agricultural products, increase the income from agricultural activities, promote cultivation technologies, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on the conditions, order and procedure for granting funds from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund (NARDF), approved by Government Decision no. 455/2017⁸⁶. Producer groups may obtain financial support from NARDF for the following sub-measures:

- *Sub-measure 1.6.* Stimulating investments for the development of post-harvest and processing infrastructure;
- *Sub-measure 1.7.* Stimulating the lending to agricultural producers by commercial banks and non-bank credit organisations for accessing investment loans;

⁸⁵ Law no.312/2013 on the producer groups and associations thereof, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122199&lang=ro

⁸⁶ Government Decision no. 455/2017# on the distribution of sources from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114080&lang=ro

- *Sub-measure 1.7.1.* Stimulating lending to agricultural producers by commercial banks and non-bank credit organisations when accessing working capital loans;
- *Sub-measure 1.8.* Stimulating the establishment and functioning of agricultural producer groups
- *Sub-measure 1.9.* Stimulating promotional activities.

The objective of Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project (MAC-P) financed by the World Bank and implemented by the Consolidated Agricultural Projects Management Unit (CAPMU) is to enhance the competitiveness of the country's agro-food sector by supporting the modernization of the food safety management system; facilitating market access for farmers; and mainstreaming agro-environmental and sustainable land management practices.

The Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project (MAC-P) became effective on September 20, 2012. The original Financing was ratified by the Parliament of Moldova by the Law no. 176 of July 11, 2012. Following the original financing, the project received three additional financings and a fourth one is expected to become effective by end of June 2022. The closing date of the project is December 31, 2024.

The project has as an objective to enhance the competitiveness of the country's agro-food sector by supporting the modernization of the food safety management system; facilitating market access for farmers; and mainstreaming agro-environmental and sustainable land management practices.

On food safety, the objective of the project was aligned to the country's policy priorities and reform agenda on adjusting it to modern SPS rigors that can ensure public health, maintain domestic market share, and enable growth of exports to both traditional and new markets. These reforms were implemented under the framework of a Food Safety Strategy for 2011-2015. The strategy envisaged the creation of a food safety and quality management system centred on the new National Food Safety Agency (NFSA) which would have ample and unique prerogatives in managing food safety and quality in Moldova. The NFSA became functional at the beginning of 2013.

In recognition of the important role of producer groups in enhancing small farmer access to markets and accelerated integration in supply chains, MAFI has been involved in preparing the legal basis that would give a jolt to the development of producer groups. The Law on producer groups was developed and was adopted in December 2013

The Project's grant delivery mechanism (across components) heavily relied on MAFI's Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture for disbursements, financial management and partially monitoring the grant implementation.

Fiduciary support for the project is provided by the CAPMU, which provides fiduciary backstopping for all components and for consolidation of financial management, disbursements, procurements, including monitoring and evaluation.

Within the project an Investment Grants Programme „Enhancing market access potential” was implemented. This Programme aimed at improving the performance of agricultural producers by creating producer groups, increasing the competitiveness of horticultural production and, finally, facilitating and diversifying access to markets.

Types of eligible investments for horticultural products:

- Packing houses and cold storage facilities for horticultural products, including:
- Architecture;
- Metal resistance structure;
- Refrigerated floated floor;
- Refrigerating machinery and equipment for pre-cooling/cooling, keeping regimes of temperature, humidity and controlled atmosphere (CO₂ or SO₂);
- Electrical facilities;
- Technological machinery and equipment for shipping, receiving, washing, sorting and packaging spaces;
- Technological machinery and equipment used in complex or separately for primary processing, including:
- Machinery for producing juice or juice concentrate of fruits, grapes and vegetables;
- Equipment and facilities for primary/final processing of nuts (walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds);
- Machinery and equipment for primary processing of potato;
- Technological machinery and equipment used in complex or separately for the drying of fruits, grapes and vegetables;
- Technological machinery and equipment used in complex or separately for freezing fruits, grapes, vegetables and potatoes.

For the livestock sector:

Machinery and equipment, including construction materials used in construction or renovation of facilities for primary/final processing, packaging and storage of milk and honey:

- Architecture and metal resistance structure;
- Refrigerated floated floor;
- Wastewater treatment plant and sewer system;

- Machinery and equipment for reception, cooling and storage of milk;
- Milk processing machinery and equipment;
- Machinery and equipment for primary/final milk processing;
- Machinery and equipment for milk and milk products packaging and storage;
- Technological machinery and equipment used in complex or separately for primary/final processing, packaging and storage of honey.

10. Do you have unfair trading practices rules that apply in the business-to-business context and that aim to protect farmers?

Article 21¹ of the Law no. 231/2010⁸⁷ internal trade regulates the contractual relations between the food supplier and the trader. This article penalises some unfair commercial practices in the relationship between the food trader and the supplier, by imposing certain prohibitions:

Thus, the trader is prohibited from:

- imposing the condition for the supplier not to sell the product to other traders at a lower price than the one at which he sells it to him;
- requesting the invoicing/re-invoicing of the services and/or the charging from the supplier payments that have not been included in the purchase cost of the products, except for the logistics services and the marketing/advertising actions/activities requested by the supplier;
- returning to the supplier foodstuffs that have been purchased in compliance with the quantitative and qualitative requirements stipulated in the product delivery contracts, but which have become non-compliant with applicable food regulations, including following the expiration of the expiry date/date of minimum durability thereof.

The article also imposes certain payment terms on the trader for the food contracted and delivered, as follows:

- the general payment term cannot be longer than 45 calendar days from the date of delivery of the products by the supplier.
- for contracted and delivered foodstuffs whose expiry date/date of minimum durability is up to 7 days, the general payment term is 7 calendar days from the moment of receipt of the products by the trader, and
- for contracted and delivered foodstuffs whose date of consumption/date of minimum durability is between 7 and 30 days inclusive, the term of

⁸⁷ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=127948&lang=ro

payment constitutes 30 calendar days from the moment of receipt of the products by the trader.

The Ministry of Economy initiated the draft law amending some normative acts aimed at the partial transposition into national law of Directive 2019/633 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain.

11. Do you have exceptions from competition law that would benefit farmers or their organisations?

The law No. 183/2012⁸⁸ on competition does not provide exceptions from its provisions to farmers or their organisations.

However, the provisions of the Law No. 257/2006⁸⁹ on the organisation and functioning of agricultural and agro-food markets include the derogations from the Competition Law.

This law provides for the establishment of product councils, whose duties include estimating the reference price for a range of products provided for in Article 21 of the Law (cereals and processed cereal products; oilseeds and processed products; sugar beet, sugar and processed products; potato and processed products; fresh and processed vegetables and fruits; grapes, wine, wine products and processed products; cereals for beer, hops, beer; swine, pork and processed products, etc.).

According to the legal definition, a reference price means a price estimated by the product council, used as a basis for negotiating sale-purchase prices by product or product group between the two parties - seller and buyer, without restricting competition.

Also, by derogation from the principles of competition, Article 19 of the Law no. 257/2006 provides for a series of instruments and measures for regulating the market for agricultural and agro-food products, as follows:

- the price on the domestic market;
- the indicative price, the basic price or the reference price;
- the intervention price;
- contracts entered into between agricultural producers and purchasers of agricultural raw materials for the achievement of the objectives of the professional agreements, which must include clauses regarding the obligations of the parties, conditions and terms of delivery, product

⁸⁸ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=128125&lang=ro

⁸⁹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107316&lang=ro

- quality, price, payment terms, methods of payment and payment guarantee, payment instruments and penalty clauses for breach of contract;
- initiation, organisation and launch of market interventions and any other similar measures, proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and coordinated with the product councils, in case of market disturbance caused by a surplus of products on the market, according to the regulations in force;
- market interventions in certain situations and for certain quantities, by setting up and storing intervention stocks and their subsequent placing on the market, in strict compliance with the procedures and destination requirements, within the amount of funds provided in the state budget;
- export premiums aimed at supporting prices and thus promoting and stimulating the export of agricultural and agro-food products;
- regulatory measures in case of lack of products on the market;
- other measures agreed by the institutional bodies responsible for market regulation.

Despite the existence of these rules, the instruments and measures to regulate the market for agricultural and agro-food products are not applied in the Republic of Moldova, mainly due to the lack of financial resources necessary for market intervention and qualified personnel for the application of such instruments.

12. Are there any kind of reporting requirements (on prices and volumes of agricultural products) for operators along the food supply chain to increase market transparency?

Article 19 paragraph (5) of the Law 257/2006 on the organisation and functioning of agricultural and agri-food markets provides that “Collection, registration, storage, consultation and dissemination of market information on stocks, production of goods, synthetic prices in the agro-food chain database are ensured through the Information System of the agricultural and agro-food markets, an integrated information system, organised, in accordance with the law, by the Product Council”.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry has taken some steps in recent years to set up a system for collecting information on prices and stocks along the supply chain, but since it entailed costs for businesses without any benefits through state intervention measures, it was not implemented.

The Law no. 27/2017 on the classification of carcasses of cattle, swine and ovine animals⁹⁰ provides in Article 8, the obligation for slaughterhouses to record and report to the supervisory and control authority, the information on prices for

⁹⁰ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=98613&lang=ro

classified carcasses. The same article sets out the terms for reporting prices and the details on how these prices should be calculated.

Article 9 of the said Law regulates the categories and classes of carcasses for which the registration and reporting of prices is mandatory.

The implementation of these two articles has not been ensured so far because of the lack of classifiers responsible for calculating and reporting prices for classified carcasses, authorised by the National Food Safety Agency.

13. For the wine sector, can you please confirm if there is a vineyard register (identification of vineyard parcels, harvest-production and stock declarations at the level of producers)?

The wine register in the Republic of Moldova was conceived in 2012 by including some general provisions in the Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006⁹¹, namely:

- For conducting at least one of the following activities: manufacture, storage, wholesale of wine, products derived from must and products derived from wine, production and marketing of grapes used as raw material in winemaking, economic operators must to be registered in the Vine and Wine Register kept by the National Office of Vine and Wine;
- Registration in the Vine and Wine Register is free of charge and is carried out on the basis of the application and the declaration on one's own responsibility regarding the compliance with the mandatory registration requirements;
- Within 10 days of the date of registration of the application, the economic operator shall be notified of the date and number of registration;

The Automated Information System of the Wine Register was put into operation in 2016 and the Vine and Wine Register became functional in 2017.

The Vine and Wine Register is an Automated Information System that provides secure user access based on the electronic signature, allows users to submit the applicable declarations online (the declaration on the harvest, production, stock), to apply for registration of parcels and wine establishments, generate extracts and reports.

The Vine and Wine Register is a departmental register, part of the state registers and represents a systematised set of data on:

⁹¹ Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126287&lang=ro

- wine-growing plots with a surface area of more than 0.15 ha with wine grape varieties and table grape varieties;
- wine establishments carrying out at least one of the activities of manufacture, storage and wholesale of wine, must derived products and wine derived products;
- traceability of wine products (declaration of harvest, declaration of production of wines, products derived from must and products derived from wine, declaration on the stocks of wines, of products derived from must and products derived from wine – in accordance with the provisions of the Government Decision No. 356/2015 approving the Technical Regulation “Organisation of the wine market”⁹².

The regulatory framework governing the activity of the Vine and Wine Register includes:

- Government Decision No. 292/2017 approving the Regulation on the keeping of the Wine Register of the Republic of Moldova⁹³;
- Government Decision No. 282/2016 approving the Technical Concept of the Automated Information System Vine and Wine Register⁹⁴.

⁹² Government Decision No. 356/2015 approving the Technical Regulation “Organisation of the wine market”, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114795&lang=ro

⁹³ Government Decision No. 292/2017 approving the Regulation on the keeping of the Wine Register of the Republic of Moldova, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114402&lang=ro

⁹⁴ Government Decision No. 282/2016 approving the Technical Concept of the Automated Information System Vine and Wine Register, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114826&lang=ro

III. DIRECT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS

14. Please describe the direct payments system applied and in particular provide information on the following:

a) Legal basis, their essential elements and objectives, most recent data setting out the budget, number of beneficiaries per scheme, duration and eligibility conditions;

For the first time, in 2021, livestock farmers in the Republic of Moldova were able to receive direct payments, the approval and granting of which is regulated by Government Decision No 836/2020. Thus, pursuant to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture No 27 of 15 February 2021, from 1 April to 4 June 2021, AIPA began the process of receiving applications for direct payments per capita of animals.

a) The legal basis of the system of financial support granted by the State in the form of direct payments per animal is regulated by **Article 21 of Law 276/2016** on the principles of subsidy⁹⁵ and the **Regulation on the granting of direct payments per animal, approved by Government Decision No 836/2020**⁹⁶.

The implementation of the support system, by which livestock farmers in the Republic of Moldova are able to receive direct payments per animal, started in 2021.

The direct payment per animal is provided once a year to owners of cattle, sheep and goats through the Agency for Intervention and Payments for Agriculture (AIPA) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, within the limits and under the conditions set by the Regulation.

Direct payments are granted to farmers who keep registered animals on livestock farms, located outside the village - females aged at least 12 months, with the minimum herd as follows:

- 10 head of cows and heifers;
- 50 head of ewes and ewe lambs for milk production;
- 30 head of ewes and ewe lambs for meat production;
- 30 head of female goats and goatlings.

The amount of the budget allocated for direct payments per animal in 2021 was 150.0 million MDL (7,65 m EURO) or 10% of the NARDF.

⁹⁵ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130238&lang=ro

⁹⁶ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=128697&lang=ro

The amount of direct payment granted to a farmer per head of animal is determined according to the species and category of animal:

- cows of specialised breeds for milk production and mixed breeds – 7 000 MDL (357 EURO);
- cows of specialised breeds for meat production - 7 000 MDL (357 EURO);
- heifers over 12 months - 5 000 MDL (255 EURO);
- ewes of specialised breeds for milk production and mixed breeds - 500 MDL (25.5 EURO);
- ewes of specialised breeds for meat production - 500 MDL (25.5 EURO);
- ewes over 12 months - 300 MDL (15.3 EURO);
- female goats – 500 MDL (25.5 EURO);
- goatlings – 300 MDL (15.3 EURO);

For purebred animals of the breed for which the breeding farms have been certified and which are subject to zoo-technical records in accordance with the relevant instructions, the amount of the direct payment is increased by 50%.

Eligible criteria for getting direct payments/animal premiums:

- owns and keeps animals of the cattle, ovine and caprine species, which:
 - are registered in the State Register of Animals in accordance with the provisions of Law No 231/2006 on the identification and registration of animals;
 - belong to the breeds included in the Nomenclature of breeds, types and crosses of animals, homologated (by districts) in the Republic of Moldova, approved by Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry No 36 of 3 March 2014, including cross-breeds with these breeds;
 - are insured under the terms of Law No 243/2004⁹⁷ on subsidised insurance against production risks in agriculture;
- the farm is approved for veterinary purposes in accordance with the provisions of Law No 221/2007⁹⁸ on veterinary activity;
- is not in arrears with the payment of taxes and charges to the national public budget at the date of submission of the application for direct payments per animal;
- belongs to one of the agricultural producer associations with a branch profile;

⁹⁷ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107559&lang=ro
¹⁰⁴ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122826&lang=ro

- is a legal holder of real estate and movable property that is the object of stimulation through the mechanism of direct payments per head of animal, the term of lease / bailment of real estate cannot be less than five years, registered according to applicable provisions;
- is not included in the list of prohibited beneficiaries of subsidies and is not in the process of insolvency or liquidation.

In the first call, held in 2021, AIPA received **416** applications for direct payments per head of animal, of which **197 - for cattle keepers, 128 - sheep and 91 - goat keepers**. (More info available in Romanian at: <https://bit.ly/3y0j1da>).

Submission of payment application:

Applications for direct payments are submitted during the calls announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, based on the order of the Minister. The duration of each call, when the applications can be submitted, is 45 working days. The application file is submitted to AIPA's territorial subdivisions. Once received, applications for direct payments per head of animal are immediately entered in the manual register of the respective territorial subdivision of the AIPA and in the database of the information system for the registration of applicants and beneficiaries of direct payments. Within 20 working days of the closing date of the call for applications, the application files are forwarded by AIPA's territorial subdivisions to AIPA office in charge of examining applications for direct payments, based on a handover-receipt document.

b) The management and control system applied to each scheme (in particular, registration of farmers' and their agricultural areas in a national farm register/land register, registration of animals, procedure for lodging applications and registration of such applications, any other registers in use for agricultural holdings/products/trees and vineyards, data to be submitted, administrative and on-the-spot controls to be performed (including extent as percentage of total controlled applications per scheme and procedures), sanctions to be applied);

The management and control system as executed by AIPA:

AIPA verifies if all eligibility conditions are met by the applicant according to the approved internal procedures. The applicant has to be registered in the national business register, and shall not have unpaid taxes, etc. The first administrative verification is carried out by AIPA Territorial Offices (first level verification) and later on at the central level of AIPA (second verification, project approval, on the spot control, autorisation and execution of payment). All applications are registered and processed in an electronic database electronic system. During on-the-spot control all applications are verified in terms of identification of the

applicant, physical existence of the project's objects, the identification of animals and land as mentioned in the application. Currently on-the-spot controls are performed in 100% of applications for the post investment projects. Only for animal premiums the selection of holdings for on-the-spot control is based on a risk analysis (40% of applications of which 20% are randomly selected and 20% are risk based).

Currently there is no sanctioning system in place. Payments are only done for items which can be verified by AIPA.

The registration of animals is done in the State Register of Animals according to the regulation by the National Agency for Food Safety (Government Decision no. 700/2018 https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108834&lang=ro). In the Republic of Moldova the parcels can be identified on the Information Portal of the Real Estate Cadastre "E-Cadastre", managed by P.I. Public Service Agency (<https://www.cadastru.md/ecadastru/f?p=100:1:3213078837734268>).

Apart from paper based proving documents, the following electronic registers are consulted during the application process depending on the specific subsidy scheme, verifying the identity of applicants, animals, plots, holdings etc.:

- State Business Register
- State Livestock Register (Animal Register)
- National Cadaster (e-cadaster)
- Vineyard register
- Fiscal service.

IV. RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

15. Describe the institutional framework for rural development in your country; policy structure and responsibilities. Information should be provided on all publicly funded rural development activities, whether they are implemented as part of integrated programmes, or as stand-alone schemes. Rural development activities may include, but are not limited to:

Regulatory framework for rural development:

The national strategy for agricultural and rural development for the years 2014-2020⁹⁹, approved by Government Decision no. 409/2014, (Chapter II General Objective no.3. Improving the standard of work and living in rural areas)

Government Decision no. 785/2018¹⁰⁰ regarding the approval of amendments for the National Strategy for agricultural and rural development 2014-2020

Government Decision no. 742/2015¹⁰¹ for the approval of the Action Plan regarding the implementation of the National Strategy for agricultural and rural development 2014-2020

Law no. 276/2016¹⁰² on subsidy principles for agricultural and rural development (Priority III art. 17 Improving living standards and working conditions in rural areas);

Law no. 50/2021¹⁰³ on Local Action Groups Regulation on the conditions, order and procedure for granting the means to the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Environment, approved by Government Decision no. 455/2017¹⁰⁴ (Measure 4. Improving and developing rural infrastructure).

⁹⁹ Government Decision no. 409/2014 for the approval the national strategy for agricultural and rural development for the years 2014-2020, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=76222&lang=ro

¹⁰⁰ Government Decision no. 785/2018 regarding the approval of amendments for the National Strategy for agricultural and rural development 2014-2020, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108950&lang=ro

¹⁰¹ Government Decision no. 742/2015 for the approval of the Action Plan regarding the implementation of the National Strategy for agricultural and rural development 2014-2020, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=89085&lang=ro

¹⁰² Law no. 276/2016 on the principles of subsidies in the development of agriculture and rural environment, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105787&lang=ro

¹⁰³ Law no. 50/2021 on Local Action Groups, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126245&lang=ro

¹⁰⁴ Government Decision no. 455/2017# on the distribution of sources from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130889&lang=ro#

Government Decision no. 507/2018¹⁰⁵ for the approval of the Regulation on the conditions and procedure for granting advance payments for start-up projects from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Development

Government Decision no. 476/2019¹⁰⁶ for the approval of the Regulation on granting subsidies for the improvement of living and working conditions in rural areas from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas.

In order to monitor the subsidy process, the report on the effective management of FNDAMR, the reports¹⁰⁷ on the management of the FNDAMR, is prepared and published annually on the official website of the Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture, outlining the findings, conclusions and recommendations for improving state policies in the field of subsidizing agriculture and the rural environment.

During the year the sectorial departments within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry organize consultations with the representatives of the profile associations, business environment in order to discuss the policy implementation results as well as the opportunities for improvement.

All submitted proposals for the improvement of state policies are examined by a group of experts within the Ministry and published on the official website (www.maia.md) as well as on the website of the State Chancellery (www.particip.gov.md) for public consultations.

Policy structure and responsibilities:

Rural Development Policy and Programs Directorate (hereinafter - RDPPD) is an internal subdivision within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, which is subordinated to the State Secretary of the Ministry.

The mission of the RDPPD is to ensure the process of planning, elaboration, promotion, implementation and monitoring of rural development policies, as well as their integration in the national public policy system, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public policies in the areas of activity.

¹⁰⁵ Government Decision no. 507/2018 for the approval of the Regulation on the conditions and procedure for granting advance payments for start-up projects from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Development, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129512&lang=ro#

¹⁰⁶ Government Decision no. 476/2019 for the approval of the Regulation on granting subsidies for the improvement of living and working conditions in rural areas from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118590&lang=ro

¹⁰⁷ <http://aipa.gov.md/ro/rapoarte>

a) Increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector by supporting investment and restructuring, including investments in farms and forests, support for processing and marketing, improving irrigated land and water management, early retirement, vocational training, providing advisory and extension services; the establishment of producer groups, as well as the establishment and operation of quality schemes for agricultural products;

Law no. 276/2016¹⁰⁸ on the principles of subsidisation in the development of agriculture and rural environment.

This law establishes the general principles of state policies on the encouragement and stimulation of agricultural activities and rural development, the priorities for the use of financial means for the development of agriculture and the rural development.

This law aims to support the modernization of the agro-industrial sector and rural development by:

I increasing the competitiveness of the agro-industrial sector by modernising and restructuring the market;

II ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources in agriculture;

III improving the standard of living in rural areas.

The State support is directed to:

- modernization of the agri-food chain in order to comply with the requirements of the European Union on food safety and quality requirements;
- facilitating access to capital markets, inputs and outputs for farmers;
- reforming the system of education, scientific research and rural extension services in the agro-industrial sector and creating the Integrated Agricultural Information System;
- implementation of modern practices for agricultural land and water management;
- implementation of environmentally friendly production technologies, ecological products, as well as maintaining biodiversity;
- adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects on agricultural production;
- allocation of investments for the development of physical and service infrastructure in rural areas;

¹⁰⁸ Law no. 276/2016 on the principles of subsidies in the development of agriculture and rural environment, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105787&lang=ro

- increasing employment opportunities in non-agricultural fields and increasing incomes in rural areas;
- involvement of the local community in rural development.

Government Decision no. 455/2017¹⁰⁹ on the distribution of funds of the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas.

The Regulation lays down support measures/sub-measures, as well as the conditions, order and procedure for granting funds from the Fund, including the mandatory conditions for obtaining the funds, eligibility criteria, annual amount, maximum amount of financial support allocated, eligibility criteria, inspection, authorization, accounting for payments.

Potential beneficiaries could be agricultural producers, groups of producers who have made the investment in accordance with the requirements:

- a business plan that demonstrates the efficiency of the project carried out for applications for subsidies exceeding 500 thousand MDL (25.500 EURO);
- purchased goods subject to eligible investment from suppliers and distributors;
- they do not have debts to the national public budget;
- should belong to one of the associations of agricultural producers with a general or branch profile;
- prove through the confirmatory documents, the realisation of the investment (invoices, payment orders, deeds of commissioning);
- are not included in the Prohibition List of grant beneficiaries and are not in the process of insolvency or liquidation;
- are legal owners of the real estate in / on which the investment is made and owners of the movable goods that constitute the object of the investment.

The amount of financial support granted to a beneficiary within a subsidy year, cumulatively on all support measures / sub-measures, may not exceed the amount of **5.0 million lei (255,000 EURO) per beneficiary**, except for cow's milk producers, for which the maximum ceiling is **7,0 million lei (357,000 EURO)**, and for the *producer groups and entrepreneurial cooperatives the value of the financial support is increased by 50% of the value of the authorised subsidy*.

¹⁰⁹ Government Decision no. 455/2017[#] on the distribution of sources from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114080&lang=ro

Priority I. Increasing competitiveness agrifood sector through restructuring and modernization

The amount of support granted is calculated in the form of compensation up to 50% from the eligible costs with a ceiling per each measure.

Title of the support measures:

- Stimulating investments for the production of vegetables, fruits and herbs, spices and medicines on protected land (greenhouses, solariums, tunnels).
- Stimulating investment for the establishment, modernization and deforestation of perennial plantations, including vineyards and orchards
- Stimulating investments for the purchase of conventional agricultural machinery and equipment
- Stimulating investments for the development of post-harvest and processing infrastructure
- Stimulating promotional activities

Allocation of financial means to support agricultural producers, producer groups, including through professional associations in the field of agriculture, for participation and organization of exhibitions, fairs, competitions, agri-food profile, including in foreign trade networks, in order to increase competitiveness and the promotion of local agricultural and agri-food products, for expenses incurred for:

- Compensation for the costs of participation and organization in exhibitions, fairs, agri-food competitions, including in the marketing networks on the foreign market, except for the expenses covered by other institutions and development partners:
 - The rental expenses of the exhibition space;
 - The construction expenses of the presentation stands, banners, panels;
 - The costs of participation fees;
 - The costs of the samples used in the promotion process;
 - The acquisition of media space for the dissemination of information for the promotion of agricultural and agri-food products;
- Reimbursement of expenses for the registration of products with a protected geographical indication, designation of origin of products and a traditional specialty guaranteed;
- Compensation of certification costs to HACCP, GlobalGap, GMP, ISO standards.

Allocated post-investment grants:

| Title of Support Measure | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Stimulating investment on protected land, lei | 7.151.381,00 | 10.106.633,00 | 10.972.778,00 |
| Stimulating investment for the establishment, modernization and deforestation of perennial plantations, including vineyards and orchards, lei | 168.144.705,00 | 163.995.515,00 | 104.488.121,00 |
| Stimulating investments for the purchase of conventional agricultural machinery and equipment, lei | 204.853.241,00 | 198.410.944,00 | 261.887.874,00 |
| Packing houses and refrigerators for storing fruit, grapes and vegetables, lei | 200.190.477,00 | 171.891.960,00 | 71.430.282,00 |
| Processing, drying and freezing of fruit, grapes, vegetables (including mushrooms), potatoes, including processing, drying and packaging of aromatic, spicy and medicinal plants, lei | 60.857.990,00 | 61.123.146,00 | 28.059.017,00 |
| Processing, drying and packaging of cereals, oilseeds, sunflowers and soybeans, lei | 65.725.698,00 | 59.331.663,00 | 57.144.328,00 |
| Stimulating promotional activities, lei | 109.993,00 | 46.908,00 | 27.029,00 |

Advance payments

Government Decision no. 507/2018¹¹⁰ for the approval of the Regulation on the conditions and procedure for granting subsidies in advance for start-up projects from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The annual allocations for the advance payments are not less than **5%** of the total value of the Subsidy Fund.

The allocation of the grant in advance under this Regulation aims to encourage the creation of small businesses by young farmers, women farmers and returned migrants, to improve their economic performance, to create new jobs, to increase investment in innovative technologies.

The wine sector

The state supports the wine sector through various policies.

¹¹⁰ Government Decision no. 507/2018 for the approval of the Regulation on the conditions and procedure for granting advance payments for start-up projects from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Development, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129512&lang=ro#

Subsidy policy, the priority objectives being set in the National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development 2014-2020 (General Objective 1: Increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, by restructuring and modernizing the market).

Thus, in the Regulation approved by Government Decision no. 455/2017¹¹¹ post-investment sub-measures have been established.

Title measure: Stimulating investment for the establishment, modernization and deforestation of perennial plantations, including vineyards and orchards. Support is provided for:

- the establishment of vineyards carried out in the spring-summer period, depending on the category of plantations, the group of varieties and the density of planting;
- deforestation of vineyards;
- installation of modern support systems and modernization of support systems in fruit plantations;
- installation of anti-hail and anti-freeze systems.

Title measure: Stimulating investments for the development of post-harvest and processing infrastructure. Support is provided for partial compensation for the purchase of new technological equipment and machinery, including construction materials intended for the construction of cold storage warehouses and packing houses; primary/finished processing, processing, drying and freezing of grapes.

The amount of the subsidy is calculated in the form of compensation in the amount of 50%, calculated from the value of the investment, but not more than 5.0 million lei per beneficiary.

Allocations from the subsidy fund for the wine sector: year 2018 - about 50 million lei; year 2019 - about 105 million lei; year 2020 - about 65 million lei; year 2021 - about 80 million lei.

Supporting activities related to the creation, maintenance, development and management of the Vinicultural Genetic Fund for the maintenance of traditional local varieties, adopted in environmental conditions, for the creation of new varieties, new hybrids, resistant and productive, without the use of pesticides and insecticides. Public (scientific) institutions have the right to create genetic funds for agricultural crops.

¹¹¹ Government Decision no. 455/2017# on the distribution of sources from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114080&lang=ro

Government Decision no. 480/2019¹¹² on the approval of the Regulation on the creation, maintenance, development, management and financing of the genetic fund of agricultural crops.

Supporting actions to promote products in the wine sector implemented by the National Office of Vine and Wine (see point 8, ix) wine). Promotional expenditure is financed by the Vine and Wine Fund, formed on the basis of public-private partnership (the annual allocation from the state budget is equal to the amount of contributions made annually by the sector - 50/50).

The funds of the Vine and Wine Fund are used in strict accordance with the annual budget of the National Office of Vine and Wine and its activity plan, approved by the Coordinating Council, for: promoting the export of wine products, research and analysis of markets; implementation of viticulture and winemaking development programs; elaboration and implementation of projects, investment programs and technical assistance in the wine sector (and other activities prescribed in national regulations).

- *Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006¹¹³.*

Livestock sector:

The state supports the establishment and development of livestock farms by partial compensation from the cost of new technological equipment, for the endowment and modernization of livestock farms, including construction /reconstruction of livestock farms (Government Decision no. 455/2017¹¹⁴ on the distribution of National Fund Agricultural and Rural Development.

Title of the measure: Stimulating investments for the equipment and technological renovation of livestock farms. The state support is up to 50% from the eligible costs of the new technological equipment, intended for the endowment and modernization of the livestock farms, including the construction / reconstruction of the livestock farms:

- constructions for raising and maintaining animals in halls, including equipped with spaces for walking animals,
- constructions for raising and maintaining animals outdoors,

¹¹² Government Decision no. 480/2019[#] on the approval of the Regulation on the creation, maintenance, development, management and financing of the genetic fund of agricultural crops, available in Romania at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112726&lang=ro

¹¹³ Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=131005&lang=ro#

¹¹⁴ Government Decision no. 455/2017[#] on the distribution of sources from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114080&lang=ro

- instructions for sanitary-veterinary service,
- feed storage facilities, sections for the production and storage of fodder and compound feed, incubators,
- constructions for the storage of the obtained production,
- construction for manure storage and processing,
- constructions for the storage and processing of animal by-products not intended for human consumption,
- constructions for ensuring biosecurity, including control point, sanitary filter for personnel, including design work.

At the same time, in order to have an appropriate level of productivity, the State supports farmers in the procurement of breeding animals.

As a result of the extremely difficult working conditions in the livestock sector, the State grants increased subsidies to agricultural producers in the livestock sector:

+20% of the subsidy amount for producers of cow's, sheep's and goat's milk;

+10% of the amount of the subsidy for other agricultural producers in the livestock sector.

Title of the measure: Stimulating investments for the development of post-harvest and processing infrastructure. Under this support measure, farmers are encouraged to set up their own production processing units established on the livestock farms.

**The degree of financing of the livestock sector in the period of 2017-2021
(authorised sums in lei):**

| Support measure | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Nr. Of beneficiaries | Authorised sums (Lei) | Nr of beneficiaries | Authorised sums (Lei) | Nr of beneficiaries | Authorised sums (Lei) | Nr. Of beneficiaries | Authorised sums (Lei) | Nr. of beneficiaries | Authorised sums (Lei) |
| Stimulating investments for the equipment and technological renovation of livestock farms. | 161 | 45 749 | 187 | 45 197 | 185 | 57 929 | 167 | 48 917 | 262 | 73 596 |
| Stimulating the procure | 71 | 25 047 | 56 | 10 332 | 52 | 16 101 | 50 | 17 468 | 77 | 33 389 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| ment of breeding animals and maintaining their genetic background) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stimulating investments for the development of post-harvest and processing infrastructure | - | - | 21 | 14 314 | 27 | 10 339 | 26 | 28 691 | 32 | 24 360 |

Direct payments, as a form of support for the revitalization of the livestock sector in the context of rural development, the purpose and mechanism for granting them are described in **question 14**.

Land improvement, irrigation and water management:

One of the most effective ways to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources in agriculture is to use innovative agricultural land and water management practices. Support is needed for land consolidation and the use of modern land cultivation practices through crop rotation and diversification of agricultural products. Investments in irrigation services are also of great importance, along with better access to modern irrigation infrastructure and equipment.

In this regard, the state provides advance and post-investment subsidies for investment projects for land improvements

Advance payments:

Regulatory framework:

The land improvement program for ensuring the sustainable management of soil resources for the years 2021-2025 and the Action Plan for the years 2021-2023 on its implementation, approved by Government Decision¹¹⁵ no. 864/2020

Regulation¹¹⁶ on the conditions and procedure for granting advance payments for investment projects of land improvements for the implementation of the Land Improvement Program in order to ensure the sustainable management of soil resources 2021-2025, approved by Government Decision no. 864/2020

Subsidy measures:

Title measure „Implementation of measures to prevent and combat soil erosion (wind and water)”

Title measure „Application of chemical improvement measures for soil (salted)”

Title measure „Application for conservation and increase of soil fertility.” (implementation of land use planning projects, crop rotations, etc.).

Applicants/beneficiaries: The advance payment is awarded to legal / natural persons and first-level administrative-territorial units.

Objective and description of criteria:

The objective of the support is to ensure the sustainable management of soil resources by carrying out works to prevent and combat soil erosion (wind and water) on agricultural land affected by surface and deep erosion, chemical improvement of soils on agricultural land with saline-solonized soils (semihydromorphic and hydromorphic) and the conservation and enhancement of soil fertility.

Criteria: the ownership of the land/possession or use, during the project implementation period and 5 years after the investment, should apply measures for conservation and increase of soil fertility of agricultural lands according to the investment project.

Post-investment measures

Regulatory framework:

Government Decision no. 455/2017¹¹⁷ on the distribution of the funds of the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Development

¹¹⁵ [legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125027&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125027&lang=ro)

¹¹⁶ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125168&lang=ro

¹¹⁷ Government Decision no. 455/2017# on the distribution of sources from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114080&lang=ro

The support measures are as follows:

- Support for investments in agricultural land consolidation
- Support for investments in the purchase of irrigation equipment
- Support measure to compensate for irrigation costs

Vocational training, provision of counselling and extension services:

According to the provision of *Measure 5 “Consultancy and training services”* of the Regulation on the conditions, order and procedure for granting the means to the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government Decision No. 455/2017. In order to obtain the subsidies, the training and professional training of the administrator or of an employee with a management position, for the categories of medium and large producers (diplomas of agricultural, economic, legal studies) or, as the case may be, the training certificate of at least 24 hours, issued by a consulting company.

Until April 2022, the consulting companies were selected based on a competition, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry based on the Regulation on the organization and conduct the competition for the selection of consultants and training of agricultural producers, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Order¹¹⁸ no. 62/2019.

Service providers that have acquired the right to provide consultancy and training services to agricultural producers under Measure 5 were included in the Register¹¹⁹ of Service Providers / Consulting Companies.

In order to simplify the acquisition of initial knowledge by agricultural producers and the opportunity to individually select their consulting company, in April 2022, or made changes to Government Decision No. 455/2017. Thus, the direct beneficiaries of subsidies under Measure 5 became agricultural producers.

Information on consulting and extension services can be found in Section I, point 1, letter g).

Establishment of producer groups and establishment and operation of quality schemes for agricultural products:

Information on the formation of agricultural producer groups can be found in Section II, point 9.

Conditions of establishment and object of activity of producer groups:

¹¹⁸ <https://maia.gov.md/sites/default/files/Regulament%20m%C4%83sura%205.pdf>

¹¹⁹ <https://maia.gov.md/ro/content/maia-desemnati-prestatorii-de-servicii-de-consultanta-%C8%9B%C4%83-%C8%99i-formare-produc%C4%83torilor-agricoli>

- A group of producers may be constituted in one of the legal forms of organization provided by the legislation in force, being composed of at least 5 members, agricultural producers, none of whom may hold more than 20% of the votes at the general assembly.
- A group of producers is considered constituted and acquires legal personality from the date of state registration in accordance with the provisions of Law¹²⁰ no. 220/2007 on state registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs.
- The quality of member of a group of producers can be acquired by any agricultural producer who declares in writing his intention to pay the contribution established according to the statute of the group, as well as to sell, quantitatively and in value, a product or a group of products, own, through that group, as follows:
 - minimum 50% - in the first year of activity;
 - minimum 60% - in the second year of activity;
 - minimum 75% - in the third and in the following years of activity.
- The object of activity of the producer groups consists in:
 - identifying the sales markets and planning the production of its members according to the market demand, in quality conditions and in accordance with the marketing requirements in force;
 - placing on the market the products obtained by the members of the group;
 - application of unitary production quality rules for all members of the group;
 - reduction of production costs and stabilisation of producer prices;
 - promoting the use of cultivation practices, production techniques and waste management that do not harm the environment;
 - other activities that do not contravene the legislation in force.
- A member of a producer group may not become a member of another producer group recognized for the same product or group of products.

The procedure for recognizing producer groups falls within the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and it is done directly starting with 2015.

Status of agricultural producer groups recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (period 2015-2021), obtained 45 producer groups, of which only **1 group** applied for a new recognition notice, as a result of the expiry of the previous period of validity of the acknowledgment of recognition.

¹²⁰ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=131041&lang=ro#

Agricultural producer groups are recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry for a period of five years. Producer groups may apply for recognition for a product or group of products, as follows:

- horticultural products:
- fruits and vegetables;
- fruits and berries;
- fruits;
- vegetables;
- potatoes;
- grapes;
- nuts, almonds and hazelnuts;
- horticultural products for processing;
- seeds, seedlings and flowers;
- phytotechnical products:
- cereals;
- medicinal and hetero-oil plants;
- sugar beet;
- fodder plants;
- rape;
- industrial hemp;
- animal products:
- beef, beef, milk and dairy products;
- sheep and goats, meat, milk and milk products of sheep and goats, wool and skins;
- pigs and pork;
- rabbits and other animals for meat and fur;
- poultry, poultry and eggs;
- bee honey and bee products;
- fish and other aquaculture species.
-

Producer groups set up and recognized in accordance with that legislation shall be eligible for subsidies on:

- accessing agricultural loans from commercial banks and non-bank lending organizations for investment loans and working capital;
- making investments for the development of post-harvest and processing infrastructure;
- establishment and operation of groups of agricultural producers - for the marketing of production through the group.

In order to comply with EU requirements on food quality and safety, in order to obtain subsidies Agricultural producer groups shall present a copy of the HACCP certificate or, as the case may be, of GlobalGap, GMP or ISO or of the contract concluded and prepaid with one of the specialized companies, for the purpose of certification according to the mentioned standards. in case of two or more applications, more than 1 million lei, with the assumption by the agricultural producer of the obligation to be certified in the next two years from the moment of obtaining the subsidy and to maintain the conditions that were the basis for granting the certification;

By supporting product quality schemes, the aim is to improve the living conditions in rural areas by raising the living standards of the rural population, at the same time in addition to the social aspect and the economic aspect because quality schemes such as organic products or those with protected names contribute in the marketing and promotion of those products. With the increase in farm incomes and a wider range of quality products, the unemployment and migration rate of the rural population will decrease.

Support for the development and promotion of organic production is provided through two schemes:

- for exceeding the conversion period where the payment is granted per hectare of crop;
- for the maintenance of organic farming practices, by 20% for products marketed domestically and exported.

The support for the protected names is granted for the reimbursement of the certification costs, according to support measure “Stimulation of promotion activities”.

b) Improving the environment and rural areas by supporting sustainable land management, including supporting agriculture in mountainous or other areas with special constraints, biodiversity, habitat and landscape protection schemes, supporting ecological agricultural and forestry methods, afforestation, measures that aims at mitigating and adapting to climate change, water management (quality protection and quantity saving), soil protection and conservation of genetic resources in agriculture;

Although it has fertile soils and a favourable climate for agricultural production, the Republic of Moldova faces several environmental challenges. Therefore, adapting to climate challenges is a priority. Addressing this issue should include improving farmers' access to new drought-resistant varieties, non-destructive farming technologies, research and training in innovative water and soil management, and access to climate information (especially on extreme events). Risk management tools in agriculture need to be evaluated and developed,

including insurance against natural risks in agriculture and the application of hail systems.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures

Through the subsidy policy, the state grants subsidies for some measures that come in the context of the adaptation of the agricultural sector to climate change.

Government Decision no. 455/2017 on the distribution of the funds of the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Development

Title of the measure: Stimulating investments for the purchase of no-till and mini-till equipment.

The amount of support granted is calculated in the form of compensation in the proportion of 30% of the cost per unit, but not more than 500 thousand lei per beneficiary, for new agricultural equipment, purchased in the current year of subsidy from suppliers / distributors in the country or imported directly by the agricultural producer, with the year of production starting with the second year preceding the year of receipt of the subsidy application.

Conservation of genetic resources in agriculture

By Law no. 94/2015¹²¹ the Republic of Moldova has acceded to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and agriculture.

At the same time, the creation, maintenance, development, management and financing of the genetic fund of agricultural crops are approved by Government Decision¹²² no. 480/2019.

The Regulation establishes the manner of establishment, operation, protection, conservation, financing and rational use of the genetic fund of field crops, vegetables, orchards, nuts and vines.

At the same time, the draft Government Decision for approving the requirements for the equivalence of conservation selection controls, marketing of local varieties / primitive and agricultural varieties, adapted to local conditions and vegetable

¹²¹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=77425&lang=ro

¹²² Government Decision no. 480/2019 on the approval of the Regulation on the creation, maintenance, development, management and financing of the genetic fund of agricultural crops, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118386&lang=ro

varieties that are threatened by genetic erosion, has been developed and is in the promotion stage.

These Requirements partially transpose Commission Directive 2008/62 / EC of 20 June 2008 laying down certain derogations for the acceptance of local varieties and agricultural varieties naturally adapted to local and regional conditions and threatened by genetic erosion and for the marketing of seed and seed potatoes. these local varieties.

Conservation of animal genetic resources

Regarding the conservation of animal genetic resources, in the Republic of Moldova operates a state-owned enterprise, named Republican Center for Animal Breeding and Reproduction (100% state share, subordinated to the Public Property Agency), specialising in the storage of bull semen and the implementation of artificial insemination of cattle of all breeds, maintained on farms of all forms of organization, including households.

c) Improving the quality of life in rural areas and promoting the diversification of economic activities, including the provision of basic services (roads, electricity, water, sewerage, internet / broadband coverage, municipal buildings / village authorities, etc.) for the rural population, renovation and village development, development of new economic activities for the diversification of the rural economy including rural tourism and support of local development and social inclusion activities).

Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of the rural economy is an important part and a major priority in ensuring that rural areas remain attractive as a place to live and work. Increasing the attractiveness of rural areas by improving the social and cultural aspects of local services and developing infrastructure for rural communities is of particular importance.

In order to implement the rural development policy, according to General Objective no.3. "Improving the standard of work and living in rural areas" of the National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development for the years 2014-2020, approved by Government Decision no. 409/2014¹²³, and specific objectives:

- specific objective 3.1. facilitating investments in rural physical and service infrastructure;

¹²³ Government Decision no. 409/2014 for the approval the national strategy for agricultural and rural development for the years 2014-2020, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=76222&lang=ro

- specific objective 3.2. increasing employment opportunities in the non-agricultural sector and increasing incomes in rural areas;
- specific objective 3.3. Stimulating the involvement of the local community in rural development,

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry has developed and approved several normative acts for the implementation of public rural development policies.

In view of the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Environment (hereinafter - FNDAMR), the state provides post-investment grants and advance grants for the development of start-up projects for young farmers and women farmers, returned migrants, as well as for improving the standard of living and working in rural areas.

The measure "Improvement and development of rural infrastructure" targets improving and developing rural infrastructure. The objectives of this measure are to create optimal conditions for increasing the quantity and quality of agricultural production, increasing access to infrastructure, natural and technical resources, and improving the sanitary conditions associated with agricultural production and contributing to the production of increased value-added production throughout the value chain.

In this respect, the improvement and development of the rural infrastructure, through the subsidy Fund, financial means are allocated for:

- construction and rehabilitation of roads and access bridges to agricultural holdings;
- construction and rehabilitation of gas, water supply and sewerage systems for agricultural holdings;
- power lines and equipment;
- construction and rehabilitation of water storage basins for irrigation, as well as their related hydro-technical constructions (dams, drainage systems);
- investments made in the construction of renewable energy production systems;
- construction / reconstruction and renovation of rural farm houses;
- creation or extension of craft units - woodworking workshops, handicraft making, pottery making, tailoring, embroidery, knitting, weaving, blacksmithing, leather processing etc.

The table below reflects the financial resources allocated from FNDAMR for the improvement and development of rural infrastructure for 2017-2021 (in million lei).

| Domeniul de acțiune | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>1. Construction / reconstruction / renovation of infrastructure related to agricultural holdings</i> | <i>54</i> | <i>96</i> | <i>107</i> | <i>139</i> | <i>165</i> |
| <i>2. Construction / reconstruction and renovation of rural agritourism pensions</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>3. Construction / reconstruction and renovation of craft units.</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>1</i> |
| Investment projects | 65 | 101 | 115 | 149 | 170 |
| Financial sources allocated from FNDAMR, mil lei | 8,9 | 13,1 | 18,7 | 29,1 | 48,3 |

In 2021, **165** agricultural producers applied for subsidies, 3.4 times more than in 2017, and the value of accessed subsidies increased 5.4 times.

Starting with 2018, for the first time, the payment scheme "advance grants" was implemented, a measure that supports young and women farmers who are launching for the first time in economic activity. Since 2021, a new category of advance grant applicant has been identified in the grant policy, namely - returned migrant.

Projects falling under the following support measures benefit from advance grants:

- stimulating investments for the production of vegetables and fruits on protected land (winter greenhouses, solariums and tunnels);
- stimulating investments for the establishment, modernization of perennial plantations, including vineyards and orchards;
- stimulating investments for the renovation and technological equipment of livestock farms;
- stimulating the procurement of breeding animals and maintaining their genetic background;
- stimulating investments for the development of post-harvest and processing infrastructure.

The annual allocations from FNDAMR to finance start-up projects constitute not less than 5% of the total value of FNDAMR.

Since the launch of this program, seven calls have been made, 162 projects have been selected for payment, the payment in advance was 89.1 million lei. The implementation of investment projects contributed to the creation of over 400 new jobs.

For the first time, since 2020, based on Government Decision no. 476/2019¹²⁴ from FNDAMR sources, were allocated payments in advance to improve the standard of living and work in rural areas. The financial sources are directed towards the implementation of local infrastructure development projects but also the diversification of non-agricultural activities, and the subjects of advance subsidies are both local public authorities and non-agricultural economic entities. The annual allocation of financial resources from FNDAMR to finance projects to improve living and working in rural areas is 15% of the value of FNDAMR.

The areas eligible under the 3 rural development measures are:

Title Measure 1. Improving and developing rural public economic infrastructure

- 1) Construction / rehabilitation / modernization of local public roads and bridges which ensures access to goods of the public domain of local interest, which make a connection between local roads;
- 2) Extension / rehabilitation / modernization of water supply, water purification and sewerage systems, intended for public objectives of local interest.

Title Measure 2. Renovation and development of the rural locality

- 1) the creation, improvement and extension of basic local services for the rural population, including leisure and culture, as well as the related structure;
 - a) renovation / rehabilitation of public buildings, areas for organising markets, fairs, exhibitions;
 - b) rehabilitation of local pedestrian streets, installation of public lighting;
 - c) installation of energy production and supply systems using renewable resources;

¹²⁴ Government Decision no. 476/2019 for the approval of the Regulation on granting subsidies for the improvement of living and working conditions in rural areas from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118590&lang=ro

- d) development of social services for vulnerable groups (childcare centres, the elderly and people with special needs);
 - e) construction / reconstruction of kindergartens, including their endowment;
 - f) purchase of vehicles and snow removal equipment, maintenance of green spaces;
 - g) the establishment and arrangement of leisure areas for the rural population;
 - h) construction / reconstruction of water storage lakes as recreational areas for the rural population;
- 2) conservation / restoration of the built historical heritage and of the rural natural landscape;
- a) historical centres of the localities or fragments / areas of historical rural structure;
 - b) rural cultural and natural landscapes and natural sites of high value;
 - c) places of historical and cultural memory (places related to significant historical or cultural events, the life of remarkable personalities), including related socio-economic aspects;
 - d) rural museums (buildings and exhibition objects with historical, natural, traditional, educational, agricultural value, which represent the respective rural locality), as well as zoos and botanical gardens.
- 3) restoration / rehabilitation / conservation of monuments / historical structures specific to traditional rural architecture in a certain area, intended for public purposes, including public monuments (old wineries, mills, mansions), with emphasis on the development of rural tourism;
- 4) preservation of the intangible heritage and the own traditions of the local community, such as:
- a) music and dance;
 - b) the elements of folklore and ethnography;
 - c) traditional professions;
- 5) creation of visitor centres in protected areas and touristic routes;
- 6) restoration of high value natural areas, including natural ecosystems.

Title Measure 3. Diversification of the rural economy through non-agricultural activities

1) projects on the diversification of the rural economy by increasing the number of micro and small enterprises in the non-agricultural sector, which will contribute to the development of services and the creation of new jobs in rural areas:

a) the establishment and renovation of the maintenance workshops of the technique and the equipment, of the shoemaking workshops;

b) the acquisition of non-agricultural systems, machines, equipment and machinery, including systems for the production and supply of energy using renewable resources;

c) creation and modernization of veterinary services;

d) training and education centers (for hobbies or personal development, sports and recreation, educational support services, rest camps for children, information technology centers);

e) construction / modernization / endowment of cinemas, local television and radio stations;

f) equipment for processing / processing / packaging and direct marketing of traditional specialties guaranteed: meat, milk, fruit, vegetables, cereals, milling and bakery products, honey, medicinal herbs, oilseeds and hetero-oilseeds, spices, local alcoholic beverages, liqueurs from local fruits and drinks;

g) the construction / reconstruction and equipment of the direct marketing points only of the food and non-food products of own / local manufacture, including the traditional guaranteed specialties exposed at let. f);

h) development of social services for vulnerable groups (childcare centers, the elderly and people with special needs).

2) projects regarding the preservation, development and diversification of traditional handicrafts and crafts:

a) creation or extension of craft units - workshops for woodworking, making handicrafts, making ceramic articles, tailoring, embroidery, knitting, weaving, blacksmithing, leather processing, rushes and wickerwork;

b) construction, modernization and extension of operational buildings and utilities related to craft units;

c) the acquisition of equipment, tools and devices, including hardware and software, for the processing, packaging and marketing of handicraft products;

3) projects regarding the development and promotion of rural tourism services and activities, as well as outdoor activities:

a) construction / modernization / endowment / arrangement of tourist reception structures;

b) endowment and arrangement of places intended for the provision of leisure services and recreational activities for tourists, outdoor activities (horseback riding, cycling, mountaineering, ski slopes, water recreation centers, inland water sports, sport fishing and hunting).

So far, three calls have been launched to receive applications for an advance grant to improve living and working in rural areas, in which they have been selected and accepted for funding.¹⁷⁸ investment projects, and the amount of the advance subsidy to be allocated is 190.9 million lei.

Advance subsidies for rural development measures contribute to increasing the attractiveness of rural areas, by implementing projects to develop public infrastructure and services provided to the rural population, creating businesses in non-agricultural fields and generating new jobs.

Local development through the implementation of the LEADER Program

The implementation of the LEADER (LEADER approach - a method of developing rural communities, which involves local actors in developing and implementing local development strategies and which works on the basis of the following principles: territorial approach, local partnerships, bottom-up approach, integrated and multisectoral actions , innovation, networking and cooperation) Program in the Republic of Moldova comes in response to the priorities and objectives established in the public policy documents of the agricultural sector and rural development, mentioned both in the National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development for 2014-2020 and in the draft National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development 2022-2027.

In order to implement the LEADER Program in the Republic of Moldova, Law no. 50/2021 on local action groups¹²⁵, and made amendments to Law no. 276/2016 on the principles of subsidies in the development of agriculture and the rural environment¹²⁶ and Law no. 436/2006 on local public administration.

The objectiveThe mainstay of the LEADER Program and the work of the Local Action Groups (hereinafter - LAG) is the economic development of LAG-covered territories, raising living standards and facilitating the reduction of social exclusion

¹²⁵ Law no. 50/2021 on Local Action Groups, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/search/getResults?doc_id=126245&lang=en

¹²⁶ Law no. 276/2016 on the principles of subsidies in the development of agriculture and rural environment, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/search/getResults?doc_id=125183&lang=en

by a wide range of stakeholders, including local public authorities, business and civic representatives.

The Government is currently approving the Regulation on the granting of subsidies in advance for local development through the implementation of the LEADER Program, which establishes the mechanism for allocating financial resources with a value of up to 5% of the National Fund for Agriculture and Environmental Development. rural development, for the functioning of the LAGs and to support the implementation of the Local Development Strategies (2 financial support measures). This project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- creating new sustainable earning opportunities;
- creating and maintaining permanent and temporary or seasonal jobs;
- strengthening the capacities and skills of the representatives of the public, entrepreneurial and civic sectors in the areas covered by the LAGs;
- economic development of the territory covered by LAGs;
- implementation of at least 2000 investment projects.

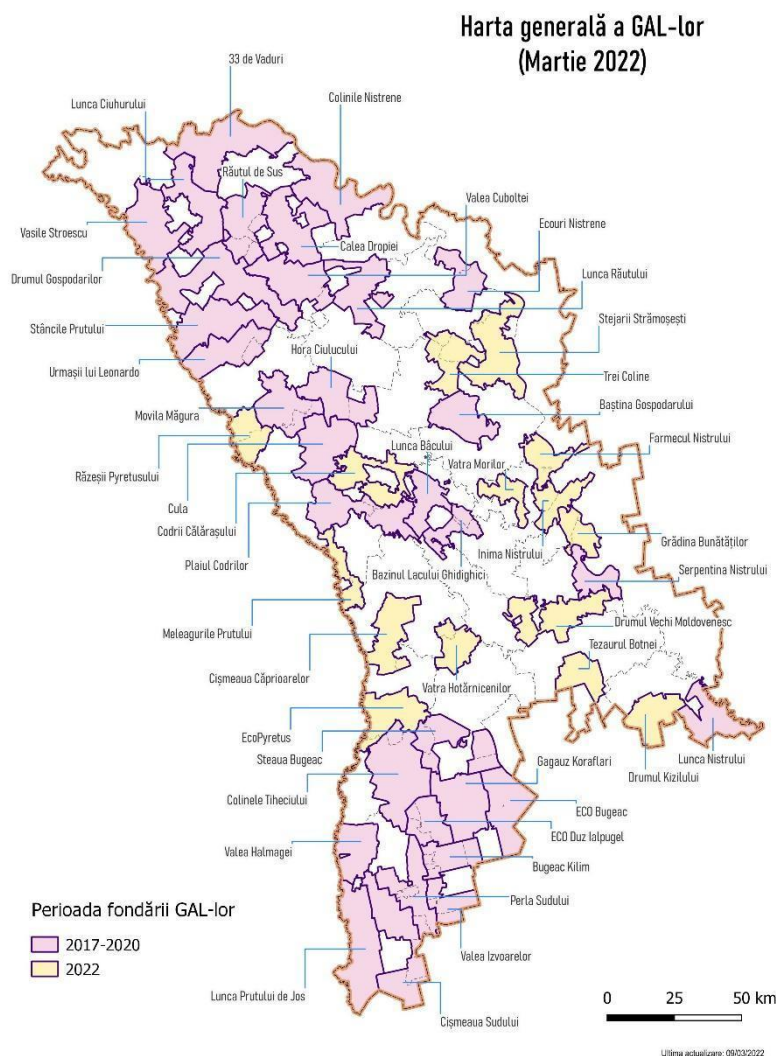
The LEADER approach has been implemented in the Republic of Moldova since the end of 2015 with the support of development partners (European Union, Poland, Switzerland, USA, UK, Romania, Estonia, Czech Republic, and others) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry. Food (hereinafter - MAFI).

Currently, there are 45 LAGs in the Republic of Moldova (those marked in yellow were established in the period 2021-2022), which involve about 438 administrative-territorial units (732 localities / 45% of the rural area, covering 1,007 million inhabitants) out of a total of 901 administrative-territorial units, all

LAGs are now in the process of registering as legal entities according to Law no. 50.

In the period 2018-2021, the LAGs managed to implement about 1,000 micro-projects with a total co-financing budget of about 60 million MDL from sources Europe Aid, USAID, Polish Aid, Embassy of Great Britain. Particular emphasis is placed on the economic development of the LAG (at least 50% of the funding is for economic development).

The implementation experience shows that the funding from the LAGs stimulated an important impetus for the economic development of the localities covered by the LAG. The budget for the beneficiaries' own contribution is 2 times higher than the funding obtained from the LAG. In other words, each MDL invested by LEADER is multiplied by the local contribution, ensuring a sustainable economic development, as well as a contribution to the improvement of the living conditions of the rural population.



16. Detail and describe any links between your rural development policy and other sectoral and territorial policies.

Rural Development policies and programs linked with other sectoral and territorial policies:

The **Ministry of Economy** develops and promotes effective public policies regulating the economy, businesses and small and medium enterprises, and the

most relevant policies in terms of ensuring sustainable socio-economic rural development are implemented through the Public Institution ODIMM (Organization for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises), namely:

- *Government Decision no. 973/2018 approving the Program "START for YOUTH: a sustainable business at home"*¹²⁷.

The program aims at integrating young people from the Republic of Moldova into the economic circuit by facilitating the launch and development of sustainable businesses. To achieve this goal, several specific objectives of the Program have been defined, including increasing the number of active enterprises and jobs in rural areas.

- *Government Decision no. 1064/2016 approving the "Women in Business" Program*¹²⁸.

The Program aims at providing financial and non-financial support by providing investment grants and services relevant to women's business development.

The program is designed for women planning to start or expand their businesses, in particular in rural areas, and will support women entrepreneurs at 3 different stages of business development.

- *The program for attracting remittances into the economy "PARE 1 + 1", approved by Government Decision no. 972 of 18.10.2010*¹²⁹.

The program is intended for migrant workers and/or their first-degree relatives who wish to invest in the launch and/or development of their own business. A priority of the "PARE 1 + 1" Program is launch and development of businesses in rural areas.

¹²⁷ Government Decision no. 973/2018 approving the Program "START for YOUTH: a sustainable business at home https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126473&lang=ro#

¹²⁸ Government Decision no. 1064/2016 approving the "Women in Business" Program https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118431&lang=ro#

¹²⁹ The program for attracting remittances into the economy "PARE 1 + 1", approved by Government Decision no. 972 of 18.10.2010 https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129478&lang=ro

- *Small and Medium Enterprises Greening Program (approved by Government Decision no. 592/2019¹³⁰).*

The Program is implemented by ODIMM and aims at promoting, supporting and developing the capacity of SMEs to adopt practices for greening the processes of production and provision of services.

- *Government Decision no. 439 of July 1, 2020 approving the Program for supporting businesses with high potential for growth and internationalization¹³¹.*

The program aims at contributing to sustainable economic growth by attracting investment, increasing the competitiveness and productivity of SMEs in the Republic of Moldova, as well as their internationalization.

- *The Credit Guarantee Fund for small and medium enterprises is an instrument for supporting small businesses and is implemented by Government Decision no. 828 of 2018 approving the CGFSME¹³².*

The mission of the Guarantee Fund is to implement the state policy on supporting the development of the small and medium enterprises sector in the Republic of Moldova, in order to facilitate access to finance for small and medium enterprises that do not have enough collateral, by issuing financial guarantees in favour of entities in the financial sector, in order to guarantee loans/borrowings.

According to the Government Decision no. 690/2017 on the organization and functioning of the **Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development**, following the amendments by Government Decision no. 142/2021, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development becomes the central public authority responsible for developing effective public policies, monitoring the quality of policies and regulations and proposing justified state interventions to provide

¹³⁰ Small and Medium Enterprises Greening Program (approved by Government Decision no. 592/2019 https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119235&lang=ro)

¹³¹ Government Decision no. 439 of July 1, 2020 approving the Program for supporting businesses with high potential for growth and internationalization https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122195&lang=ro

¹³² The Credit Guarantee Fund for small and medium enterprises is an instrument for supporting small businesses and is implemented by Government Decision no. 828 of 2018 approving the CGFSME https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108997&lang=ro

effective solutions, ensuring the best ratio of expected results and expected costs in the following areas:

- communications infrastructure;
- constructions and urbanism;
- transport;
- transport infrastructure;
- energy security and energy efficiency;
- regional development.

In February 2022, the Parliament approved the Law establishing the National Fund for Regional and Local Development (NFRLD)¹³³, as a source for financing programs and projects aimed at achieving the regional and local development objectives.

Thus, NFRLD resources are granted primarily to the first level public administration authorities **for regional and local development projects**, which will be allocated based on a Single Program Document - policy document developed, in the medium term, for the implementation of the National Regional Development Strategy, which includes all investment projects approved for financing from NFRLD sources. The budget for 2022 will be 750 million lei.

According to Government Decision no. 152/2022 approving the Regulation on the management of financial resources allocated to the National Fund for Regional and Local Development¹³⁴, the financial resources of the NFRLD are used according to the following **areas of intervention**:

- Within the regional development programs:
 - enhancing competitiveness and employment in developing regions;
 - urban development, economic and social revitalization of cities;
- improving the regional technical and municipal infrastructure;
- within the local development programs:
 - improving the technical-municipal infrastructure;
 - construction and innovation of social infrastructure;
 - co-financing of projects implemented from foreign assistance sources.

Thus, the sustainable rural development measures initiated by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development can be considered no. 1 and 3 of the

¹³³ Law establishing the National Fund for Regional and Local Development
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130108&lang=ro

¹³⁴ Government Decision no. 152/2022 approving the Regulation on the management of financial resources allocated to the National Fund for Regional and Local Development, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130345&lang=ro

regional development programs, and all 3 measures in the category of local development programs; local public authorities are the primary beneficiaries of investment projects.

V. QUALITY POLICY

17. Please confirm that your country has policy and legislation in place for the recognition, control and protection of geographical indications and traditional specialties guaranteed.

The protection of geographical indications and traditional specialties guaranteed on the territory of the country is regulated by Law no. 66/2008 on the protection of geographical indications, designations of origin and traditional specialties guaranteed¹³⁵.

The law provides for registration procedures, requirements for specifications and protection of geographical indications, designations of origin and traditional specialties guaranteed. The law also entrusts the competent authorities (Ministries) to develop rules concerning the assessment of product conformity with the specifications.

Agricultural and food products

MAFI Order no. 149/2015 on the procedure for approval of specifications for agro-food products with designations of origin, geographical indications and traditional specialties guaranteed (Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova, 2008, no. 291-295 art. 2158)¹³⁶ provides for the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group that examines requests from producer groups and proposes to the Ministry the approval of the specifications or the rejection of the request, as applicable. In addition, MAFI Order no. 149/2015 provides for the responsibility of the certification bodies accredited according to the standard SM EN ISO/CEI 17065 “Conformity assessment. Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services” by the National Accreditation Body (MOLDAC) and authorized by MAFI to assess the conformity of products with the approved specifications

MAFI approves the following specifications:

- TSG Prunes stuffed with walnut kernels
- PGI Special Plums of Lalova
- PGI Pistil from Valea Rautului
- PGI Dolna Honey Mousse

¹³⁵ Law no. 66/2008 on the protection of geographical indications, designations of origin and traditional specialties guaranteed, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107008&lang=ro

¹³⁶ MAFI Order no. 149/2015 on the approval procedure of product specifications agri-foodstuffs with designations of origin, geographical indications and specialties traditional guaranteed, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=113954&lang=ro#

- PGI Honey from Codrii Moldovei
- PGI Kaurma de Bugeac
- PGI Magura Cheese
- PDO Marinici Gooseberry
- PGI Calarasi rose petal jam
- PGI Apricot brandy from Nimoreni
- PDO Popeasca Cheese
- PGI Zabriceni

Wine sector:

Grapes and wine are the oldest tradition of the Republic of Moldova, while the designation with quality signs - protected designations of origin (PDO) and protected geographical indications (PGI) is a new tradition.

Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006¹³⁷ provides general data on PGI and PDO: the conditions of organization and activity of associations producing wine products with PGI or PDO; production management, state supervision and control, liability for infringement of PGI and PDO etc.

Government Decision no. 356/2015 approving the Technical Regulation “Organization of the wine market”¹³⁸, harmonized with community framework (see point 8) regulates the organization of the production and marketing of wine products with PGI and PDO, the method of developing and approving the specifications, the requirements for labelling and traceability of production, as well as the procedures for assessing their conformity.

The location of the vine varieties included in the Catalogue of Plant Varieties by regions and vine and wine centres, as well as the directions for the use of grapes, in terms of wine area, are developed by specialized scientific institutions, in consultation with the associations of producers of PDO or PGI wine, and approved by National Office of Vine and Wine. Vine varieties intended for planting or replanting for the purpose of producing PDO wines must belong to the species *Vitis vinifera*, and those intended for the production of PGI wines of the species *Vitis vinifera* or a cross between *Vitis vinifera* and other species of the genus *Vitis*. The technology of cultivation of vines intended for the production of PDO and PGI wines is regulated by specifications for the respective products.

- The stages of organizing the manufacture and marketing of PDO and PGI wine products are the following:

¹³⁷ Law of the vine and wine, no. 57/2006, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126287&lang=ro

¹³⁸ Government Decision no. 356/2015 approving the Technical Regulation “Organization of the wine market”, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114795&lang=ro

- the establishment of the association (group) of producers;
- drafting and homologation of the specifications regarding the manufacture of PDO or PGI products;
- submission of the application and registration of the PDO or PGI by the producer association at the State Agency for Intellectual Property;
- registration of producers of grapes intended for the manufacture of wine products with PDO or PGI and producers of PDO or PGI wine products;
- checking compliance of specifications with the provisions of the Law on protection of geographic indications, designations of origin and traditional specialties guaranteed. Conformity of specifications with the relevant requirements and conditions is verified in coordination with the National Office of Vine and Wine;
- registration and certification of wine products with PDO and PGI. The certification of the conformity of the product with the PDO or PGI shall be carried out for each batch of product by the designated certification bodies.

The following indications in the wine sector are registered and protected in the Republic of Moldova, this protection also extending to the EU:

| Indication | Name of the indication | Date of registration | Class according to Nice classification |
|------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| PDO | Romanesti | 1998-11-09 | 33, red wine |
| PDO | Ciumai | 1999-10-13 | 33, red dessert wine, natural red dry wine |
| PGI | Stefan Voda | 2013-12-13 | 33, wines |
| PGI | Codru | 2013-07-14 | 33, wines |
| PGI | Valul lui Traian | 2013-11-01 | 33, wines |
| PGI | Divin | 2013-08-05 | 33, spirits distilled from wine |

VI. ORGANIC FARMING

18. Do you have any area under organic farming? If so, please describe the sector and its organisation with statistical data including farm structure, production, number of holdings, number of livestock, number of operators, processors, trade (export/import). Please provide details and in particular information on:

According to information submitted by control bodies, the area in organic farming was 28547.45 ha in 2020, with a number of 152 operators in the sector.

At the same time, it is important to mention that organic agri-food production is certified by "national" control bodies, which are authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, according to national legislation but are not recognized according to the Implementing Regulation (EU) no. 2021/2325 establishing, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the list of third countries and the list of control authorities and control bodies that have been recognized and "international" control bodies which are not authorized by the Ministry but are recognized in accordance with the mentioned Regulation.

The "national" control bodies are:

- SC „Certificat Eco” SRL
- SC „Control Union Dnjestr” SRL
- The "international" control bodies according to the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2325 are:
- „A CERT European Organization for Certification S.A.”
- „Agreco R.F. Göderz GmbH”
- „Albinspekt bio.inspecta”
- „Bio.inspecta AG”
- „CCPB Srl”
- „CERES Certification of Environmental Standards GmbH”
- „Ecocert SA”
- „Istituto Certificazione Etica e Ambientale”
- „Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH”
- „Letis S.A.”
- „Organic Standard”
- „SIA «Sertifikācijas un testēšanas centrs»”
- „Bioagricert s.r.l.”
- „EKO-CONTROL SK s.r.o.”
- „ORSER”

In the Republic of Moldova, organic farming has its beginnings since 2003, when 11 operators with an area of 80 ha were registered, based on the National Concept of organic farming, manufacturing and marketing of organic and genetically modified food products approved by Government Decision 863/2000 .

Since 2005, organic agro-food production and the labelling thereof is regulated by Law no. 115 of 09.06.2005 on organic agro-food production ¹³⁹.

The competent authority for organic farming is the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, which authorises inspection and certification bodies (term used in the EU - control bodies), accredited under standard SM EN ISO/IEC 17065 “Conformity assessment. Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services” by the National Accreditation Body (MOLDAC).

Authorised inspection and certification bodies carry out checks on operators and issue certificates of conformity.

The inspection and certification bodies transmit to the Ministry, according to the Government Decision no. 149/2006, until December 31 of each year, the annual report on the activity carried out, as well as other complementary statistical data on the means of production and processing and the quantities of certified organic products, according to a form developed and approved by the Ministry.

a) The legislative basis (name and reference of the relevant legal act) and the objectives and general description of the scheme

The foundations of the legislative-normative framework in the Republic of Moldova were laid by the adoption of Law no. 115 of 09.06.2005 on organic agro-food production (¹⁴⁰, implemented by the following normative acts:

- Government Decision no. 149/2006 on the implementation of the Law on organic agri-food production ¹⁴¹;
- Government Decision no. 1078/2008 approving the Technical Regulation “Organic agri-food production and labelling of organic agri-food products” ¹⁴²

¹³⁹ Law no. 115/2005 on organic agri-food production available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=115169&lang=ro

¹⁴⁰ Law no. 115/2005 on organic agri-food production, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=115169&lang=ro

¹⁴¹ Government Decision no. 149/2006 for the implementation of the Law on the organic agri-food production, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114152&lang=ro

¹⁴² Government Decision no. 1078/2008 on the approval of the Technical Regulation "Organic agri-food production and labeling organic agri-food products", available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114208&lang=ro

- Government Decision no. 884/2014 approving the Regulation on the use of the national trademark "Organic Agriculture - Republic of Moldova"¹⁴³;
- MAFI Order no. 16/2010 approving the Rules on the registration of economic operators in organic agro-food production¹⁴⁴;
- MAFI Order no. 49/2015 establishing line commission, the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the line commission on the examination of applications for application and use of the national trademark "Organic Agriculture-Republic of Moldova"¹⁴⁵;
- MAFI Order no. 9 of 19.01.2010 establishing the authorization commission, the Regulation of the authorization commission of the inspection and certification bodies¹⁴⁶.

Law no. 115/2005 regulates the social relations occurring in obtaining of organic agri-food products without the use of synthetic chemicals, as well as the marketing of organic products of plant and animal origin, namely: a) unprocessed primary products; b) processed products, intended for human consumption, prepared from one or several ingredients of plant or animal origin; c) feed and raw materials that are not included in letter a).

Objectives and general description of the Law no. 115/2005.

The law has the following objectives:

- implementation of a balanced, sustainable and diversified agroecosystem that ensures the protection of natural resources, health and life of consumers;

¹⁴³ Government Decision no. 884/2014 for the approval of the Regulation on the use of the national trademark "Organic Agriculture - Republic of Moldova", available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114734&lang=ro

¹⁴⁴ MAFI Order no. 16/2010 approving the Rules on the registration of economic operators in organic agro-food production, available in Romanian at:

<https://maia.gov.md/ro/content/legisla%C5%A3ia-na%C5%A3ional%C4%83-%C3%AEn-agricultura-ecologic%C4%83>

¹⁴⁵ MAFI Order no. 49/2015 on the establishment of the profile commission, the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the profile commission on the examination of applications for application and use of the national trademark "Organic Agriculture-Republic of Moldova, available in Romanian at:

<https://maia.gov.md/ro/content/legisla%C5%A3ia-na%C5%A3ional%C4%83-%C3%AEn-agricultura-ecologic%C4%83>

¹⁴⁶ MAFI Order no. 9/2010 Regarding the establishment of the authorization commission, the Regulation of the authorization commission of the inspection and certification bodies, available in Romanian at:

<https://maia.gov.md/ro/content/legisla%C5%A3ia-na%C5%A3ional%C4%83-%C3%AEn-agricultura-ecologic%C4%83>

- non-admission of the application of any polluting technologies, restrictive regulation of the use of synthetic chemicals and potentially destructive agricultural practices;
- protection and enhancement of diversity by choosing the types of crops and species, as well as the methods of livestock husbandry that can contribute to the harmonisation of organic agri-food production with the natural limits of the soil;
- application of production structures and balanced crop rotations, where varieties and breeds with a high degree of adaptation and increased genetic resistance to diseases and pests would play the main role;
- application of modern technologies, both for crop production and for animal husbandry, meeting the needs of varieties and breeds;
- continuous maintenance and enhancement of the natural fertility of the soil, and integration of the crop production system with the livestock husbandry system;
- application of mechanisms of spatial location of the organic farming that ensure a balanced and sustainable agroecosystem and allow the structuring of the geographical configuration so as to enhance the natural processes of self-purification and revitalization of the soil, reduce the concentration of pollutants in the soil and avoid their transfer from soil to plants, to water and air, keeping the sources of pollution under control;
- development of voluntary entrepreneurship in organic agro-food production.

The law establishes the general and specific principles, basic methods of organic agro-food production, conversion period, labelling of organic products, duties of economic agents, inspection and certification, import and export of organic agro-food products, stimulating organic farming and liability for violation of the law.

The Law no. 115/2005 on organic agro-food production (Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova, 2005, no. 95 - 97, art. 446) transposes Regulation (EEC) no. 2092/91 and EC Regulation No 834/2007.

b) Area in organic farming (indicating the year / years in question);

Pursuant to Law no. 115/2005 on organic agro-food production, a single register (Excel format) of organic producers and processors, traders of organic products was introduced. The register is kept on the basis of the annual reports on the certificates issued which are sent to the Ministry by the competent bodies.

The number of economic operators and land areas in organic farming is higher than the officially registered, as the Ministry does not have access to data on producers whose production is certified by control bodies outside the country that are not authorized by the Ministry. Although MAFI requests foreign bodies to present information on the activity carried out on the territory of the country, not

all of them present it. Another factor that influences the correctness of the statistical data on organic farming is the double certification, i.e. the obtaining by one and the same producer of a certificate issued by an inspection and certification body authorized by MAFI in order to obtain subsidies and a certificate issued by a body outside the country to export production.

Thus, the dynamics of surface development in organic farming fluctuated constantly, however there has been a steady increase.

| The year | Area (ha) |
|----------|-----------|
| 2003 | 80.0 |
| 2004 | 169.0 |
| 2005 | 250.0 |
| 2006 | 715.0 |
| 2007 | 7346.0 |
| 2008 | 11766.0 |
| 2009 | 16585.0 |
| 2010 | 19740.0 |
| 2011 | 22102.0 |
| 2012 | 61644.0 |
| 2013 | 45326.0 |
| 2014 | 2978.0 |
| 2015 | 25500.0 |
| 2016 | 30001.0 |
| 2017 | 75686.0 |
| 2018 | 20584.0 |
| 2019 | 28547,45 |
| 2020 | 29352.06 |

According to the information provided to the Ministry by the inspection and certification bodies, the area registered in organic farming in 2019 was 28547 ha, of which in the conversion period 6086 ha and ecologically certified 22461 ha; in 2020 the total area was 29351 ha, of which 7273 ha in the conversion period, the ecologically certified area being 22078 ha.

| Production plant | In conversion, ha | | Organic status, ha | | Total, ha | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Orchards | 301.1 | 460.8 | 5337.75 | 5355.84 | 5638.8 | 5816.6 |
| Fruit bushes | 53.3 | 131.5 | 96.05 | 50.12 | 149.3 | 181.6 |
| Vines | 13.4 | 35.46 | 4.24 | 5.64 | 17.64 | 41.1 |
| Strawberry | 2.14 | 2.1 | 0 | 0 | 2.14 | 2.1 |
| Medicinal and oil plants | 330 | 141.6 | 690.8 | 258.2 | 1020.8 | 399.8 |
| Field crops | 5367 | 5837 | 15971 | 16218 | 21338 | 22055 |
| Pastures and hayfields | 17 | 174 | 18 | 13 | 35 | 187 |
| Vegetables | 0 | 0 | 22 | 83 | 22 | 83 |
| Fallow ground | 1 | 491 | 322 | 95 | 323 | 586 |
| Total, ha | 6086 | 7273 | 22461 | 22078 | 28547 | 29351 |
| | | | | | | |
| Beekeeping, no. of producers | - | - | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 |

In 2016, the scheme to support the development and promotion of organic production was improved, so grants are awarded for the following:

- payment per hectare, for the period of conversion to organic farming methods, the value of which depends on the type of crop;
- for the marketing of products on the internal and external market - by 20% for the maintenance of organic farming practices.

The requirements for supporting the development of organic production are laid down by the Regulation on the conditions, order and procedure for granting financing from the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund approved by Government Decision no. 455/2017 on the distribution of the funds from the National Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, sub-measure 2.5, points 101-104, which also specifies the necessary documentation to be submitted. Compliance with the requirements for the granting of subsidies is verified by the inspectors of the competent inspection and certification bodies who draw up records of the inspection of organic production.

| Grant year | Authorized files | Authorized amount million lei |
|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2016 | 12 | 0.596026 |
| 2017 | 30 | 1,590 |
| 2018 | 69 | 7,251 |
| 2019 | 67 | 7,845 |
| 2020 | 63 | 6,220 |
| 2021 | 29 | 3,786 |

c) Description of administrative and enforcement arrangements (including resources, human, financial and infrastructure and, if possible, administrative organisation chart).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry is the competent authority that develops and implements the organic farming policy.

The Organic Production and Designation of Origin Service of the Ministry oversees the performance of delegated tasks by authorised inspection bodies, keeps records of organic production, registers economic agents that notify their activity to the Ministry, authorises the use of conventional reproductive material and participates in the granting of derogations from organic production rules.

Control organisations, as independent legal entities, shall carry out activities to determine whether the requirements for the determination of organic production have been met, monitor the application of the statutory method for organic production and issue certificates for products resulting from organic production methods. Currently in the Republic of Moldova these activities are carried out by two control organisations authorised by the Ministry.

1. SC „Certificat- Eco ”SRL

A- vegetable primary products

D - processed agricultural products intended for food use

Legal address and location address: MD 2009, Chisinau mun., Sos. Hincesti 43, office 210

e-mail: ecocertificare@gmail.com

web: www.certificat-eco.md

2. SC „Control Union Dnjestr” SRL

A- vegetable primary products

D - processed agricultural products intended for food use

Legal address: MD 2028, mun. Chişinău, str. Negreşteni, 9, of.11

e-mail: gdaraban@controlunion.com

web: www.controlunion.com

Pursuant to Law 115/2005 on organic agro-food production (Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova, 2005, no. 95 - 97, art. 446), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry delegates control and certification tasks in organic production to legal entities, i.e. inspection and certification bodies, which must be authorized

by the Ministry to carry out the inspection of economic agents and the certification of production.

The authorization is issued for a period of three years provided that it is endorsed annually by the Ministry.

An authorized inspection body shall perform control and certification tasks in a manner that ensures objectivity, impartiality, efficiency, professionalism, consistency and quality and excludes conflicts of interest.

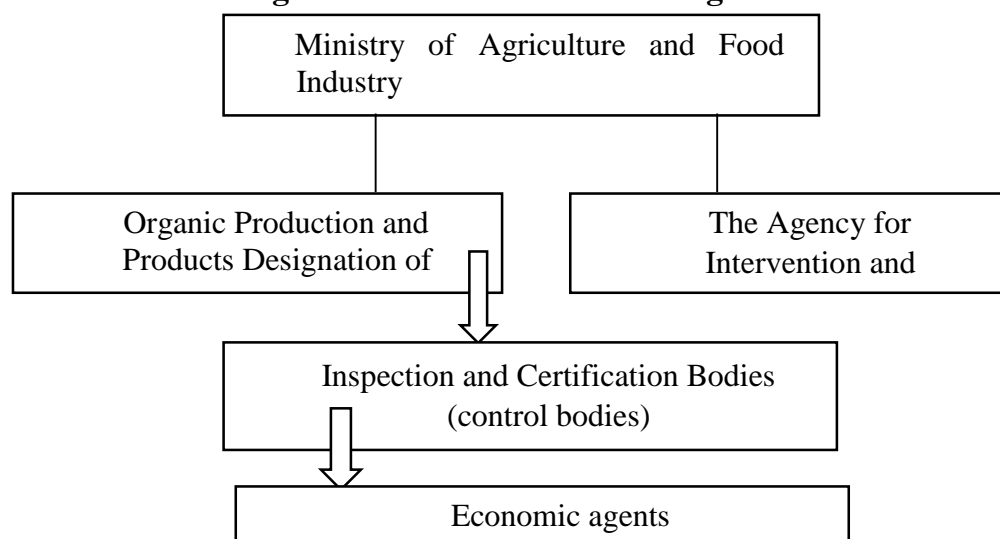
Producers start organic production by submitting an application to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry after which they conclude an agreement (contract) with an authorized inspection and certification body.

The agreement defines the type of organic production in which the producer is engaged; duration of the conversion period; the rights and obligations of the contracting parties; the fee of the authorized body; qualification requirements and the procedure applicable for obtaining a certificate; guarantees in case of non-compliance with the agreement.

Authorized bodies shall carry out physical inspections of the production units, installations, premises and documentation of the manufacturer at least once a year. When a producer starts organic production, an inspector from the approved body shall carry out the first inspection and draw up a report stating compliance with the requirements for the start of organic production and describing the situation observed. At each subsequent inspection a report shall be drawn up on the inspection carried out, on the basis of which a decision shall be taken on the certification of organic products and a certificate of conformity of the product or production process shall be issued.

The competent bodies keep records of organic production which include the data provided by law and submit to the Ministry half-yearly records and, at the beginning of each year, the annual report on organic production for the previous year

Diagram of administrative arrangements:



19. Please describe the accreditation and certification system for organic farming including the control system in place as well as its relevance for import/export.

Organic agri-food products in the Republic of Moldova can be certified only by inspection and certification bodies accredited according to the standard SM EN ISO/CEI 17065 “Conformity assessment. Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services” by the National Accreditation Body (MOLDAC) and authorized by MAFI.

Once authorized for the required areas, inspection and certification bodies are required to carry out the conformity assessment of organic products, through on-site inspections, to keep track of these assessments and to issue certificates of conformity.

The National Accreditation Body (MOLDAC) is part of the EA-MLA's multilateral recognition of European Accreditation Agreement.

The Republic of Moldova is not on the EU list of third countries. Procedures for applying for recognition as a compliant country are being developed. To initiate this process, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry is promoting a new draft law harmonizing Regulation (EU) 848/2018 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

For imported products certified by the competent bodies in the country of origin, the authorized body shall issue a "recertificate" which already confirms the existing certification.

Regarding exports of organic products according to Regulation (EU) 848/2018 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products, Moldova will have access to export information only after concluding the trade agreement with the EU as a country with equivalent system.

VII. AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

20. Please provide a brief description of the organisational structure and responsibilities for statistical data collection and monitoring, underlining the co-operation between the Ministry of Agriculture and central/local statistical offices concerning agricultural statistics.

The activity of collecting and producing statistical information on agriculture is carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Moldova "On official statistics" and on the basis of the Statistical Works Program, approved annually by the Government. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry is the main user of this data, it presents proposals for the development of the Statistical Works Program, the inclusion or exclusion of some works, reports or indicators. MAFI jointly with NBS participated in the preparation and conducting of General Agricultural Census - 2011.

21. Please provide an overview of the results of the last census in the area of agriculture (year, coverage) and explain when next agriculture census is planned.

The first General Agricultural Census was conducted in 2011 and involved the enumeration of over 900,000 holdings with some agricultural activity. The vast majority of the holdings in Moldova are small, with over 85% producing for own consumption only and, in terms of size, around 71% having less than 1 hectare of agricultural land, which is considerably lower than the international recommendation. The inclusion of such a large number of small holdings in the census was necessary because of their importance in terms of their share in overall agricultural production.

The census was conducted in line with EU Regulation 1166/2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods, and also in accordance with the FAO recommendations for the 2010 round of agricultural censuses worldwide. The results of the census were published in a number of detailed reports that provide a comprehensive picture of agricultural activity in Moldova at national and territorial levels (in accordance with Classifier of Administrative-Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova (CUATM - Clasificatorul unităților administrativ-teritoriale al Republicii Moldova in Romanian), approved by Moldova Standard Decision No. 1398-ST dated 03.09.2003; in force since 03.09.2003.). The census results were also used as the basis for developing a statistical register of agricultural producers.

Next General Agricultural Census is planned to be held in the FAO 2020 world round as part of the Population and Housing Census in 2024.¹⁴⁷

22. Please describe whether and how you collect data and provide statistics in the following areas:

- a) Structure of agricultural holdings**
- b) Agricultural production**
- c) Agricultural prices and price indices**
- d) Economic accounts for agriculture**
- e) Organic farming**
- f) Structure of orchards and vineyards**
- g) Agriculture and environment**
- h) Agriculture trade**
- i) Rural Development**

Farm structure survey

The farm structure survey has not been conducted.

Standard Output coefficients (SO) were developed and typology of agricultural producers was performed after the Agricultural Census.¹⁴⁸

<https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&id=5151&idc=352>

Typology on big and medium producers was calculated based on current statistics for 2020.

<https://statistica.gov.md/category.php?l=ro&idc=129&>¹⁴⁹

Obstacles: insufficient of human and financial resources for conducting of Farm Structure Survey between two censuses.

Crops statistics

Area covers statistical data on:

- sown areas and obtained production (average yield per hectare and gross harvest) by the main agricultural crops (cereals and leguminous; technical crops; potatoes, vegetables, melons and gourds, fodder crops) and perennial plantations (orchards, vineyards, nut trees, and fruit trees);

¹⁴⁷ <https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=352&>

¹⁴⁸ <https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&id=5151&idc=352>

¹⁴⁹ <https://statistica.gov.md/category.php?l=ro&idc=129&>

- information regarding the holders of agricultural land plots;
- establishment of perennial plantations and production of planting material;

The statistical data regarding the sown areas and gross harvest of agricultural crops by categories of agricultural producers and establishment of perennial plantations and production of planting material are obtained and presented by:

- enterprises producing agricultural production (or agricultural enterprises) and farms with an area of agricultural land of 10 ha and over – based on their exhaustive survey (by submission of statistical reports);
- farms with agricultural land plots of up to 10 ha and individual auxiliary households – based on the sample statistical survey of small agricultural producers.

Statistical data on:

- crop harvesting, of agricultural cultures is collected 3 times per year: in July, October and December; generalized data are available on 27th day after reporting period;
- establishment of perennial plantations and production of planting material is collected 2 times per year: in June and December, generalized data are ready on 15th day after reporting period.

Data for the plant sector are available:

- by whole country,
- by territorial profile in accordance with Classifier of Administrative-Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova, approved via the Moldova Standard Decision No. 1398-ST dated 03.09.2003; in force since 03.09.2003.¹⁵⁰

Metadata and data link:

https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Fitotehnia_en.pdf

<https://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774>.

Balances of food resources and their use

The balances of food resources and their use are calculated on 27 agricultural crops, for the total calendar year, by country, in accordance with the Methodological Principles on the Elaboration of Annual Balances of Food Resources and their use, approved by the NBS Board in accordance with the

¹⁵⁰ https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Fitotehnia_en.pdf

<https://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774>

Methodological Recommendations of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the development of resource balances food and their use (2001).¹⁵¹

Metadata and data link:

https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/Balanta_resurse_alimentare.pdf

<https://statistica.gov.md/category.php?l=en&idc=129&>

Livestock statistics

The livestock statistics cover the statistical data on:

- number of animals and poultry, including:
 - livestock of animals by species;
 - live born;
 - animal mortality;
- animal production, including:
 - animal productivity;
 - production (sale) of cattle and poultry;
 - production (growth) of cattle and poultry;
 - production of milk of all types;
 - production of eggs of all types;
 - production of eggs for incubation;
 - production of wool;
 - production of other types of products.

The statistical surveys in this area cover the agricultural producers which have animals and produce animal agricultural production.

The statistical data regarding the livestock sector by categories of agricultural producers are obtained and presented by:

- enterprises producing agricultural production (or agricultural enterprises) and farms which have animals and/or poultry on their balance sheet, based on their exhaustive survey (by submission of statistical reports);
- households – based on the sample statistical survey of small agricultural producers.

¹⁵¹ https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/Balanta_resurse_alimentare.pdf
<https://statistica.gov.md/category.php?l=en&idc=129&>

Statistical data regarding number of animals and volume of production are collected 4 times per year quarterly. Generalized data are available on 27th day after reporting period.

Data for the livestock sector are available:

- by whole country,
- by territorial profile in accordance with Classifier of Administrative-Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova, approved via the Moldova Standard Decision No. 1398-ST dated 03.09.2003; in force since 03.09.2003.¹⁵²

Metadata and data link:

https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Zootehnia_en.pdf

<https://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774>

Balances of food resources and their use

The balances of food resources and their use are calculated on 8 animal products, for the total calendar year, by country, in accordance with the Methodological Principles on the Elaboration of Annual Balances of Food Resources and their use, approved by the NBS Board in accordance with the Methodological Recommendations of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the development of resource balances food and their use (2001).

Metadata and data link¹⁵³

Agricultural prices and price indices

The statistical survey “Agricultural Production Sale” is the information source for the average prices and calculating of price indices for the agricultural products. The coverage area of the statistical survey includes exhaustively the economic units with legal entity status: agricultural enterprises and organizations which produce agricultural products (including the farms with an agricultural land area of 50 ha and over), regardless of the organizational-legal form and ownership type. The report reflects the volume and value of the products sold on all sales channels.

Statistical data regarding sales volume and prices are collected 4 times per year quarterly. Based on this survey, price indices are calculated (Laspeyres formula)

¹⁵² https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Zootehnia_en.pdf
<https://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774>

¹⁵³ https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/Balanta_resurse_alimentare.pdf
<https://statistica.gov.md/category.php?l=en&idc=129&>

individual agricultural products price indices and aggregated agricultural products price indices. Generalized data for I-III quarter are available on 35th day after reporting period, generalized data for IV quarter are available on 4th day after reporting year.¹⁵⁴

Metadata and data link:

https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Preturi_Agricultura_en.pdf

<https://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774>

Economic accounts for agriculture

Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) are not elaborated. The production account is calculated for the calculation of GDP for agriculture and hunting, forestry and fishery.

Organic farming

Organic farming is not related to statistics, the statistical data being reported by the certification bodies directly to the Ministry.

Thus, the Ministry publishes on the website the Atlas of Organic Agriculture of the Republic of Moldova, developed by the NGO "ECOVISIO", which contains information on organic producers, crops, areas, status, for the years 2019-2020.

<https://maia.gov.md/ro/content/informa%C8%9Bii-utile-privind-agricultura-ecologica>

Structure of orchards and vineyards

According to statistical data in 2021, in the structure of fruit plantations the areas of seed fruit orchards was 58.2% (apples - 54.1%, pears – 2.9%, quinces – 1.2%) and areas of stone fruit orchards was 41.8% (cherry – 9.9%, apricots – 4.5%, peaches and nectarines – 5,7%, plums – 21,6%, other – 0.1%).

In 2021 in the structure of vineyards the area of technical grapes was 84.8%, area of vineyards of table grapes was 15.2%.

¹⁵⁴https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Preturi_Agricultura_en.pdf
<https://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774>

Agriculture and environment

This area covers statistical data on:

- use of plant protection chemical products (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, biological products for phytosanitary use, other),
- use of chemical fertilizers (nitrogenous, phosphatic, potassium) and natural fertilizers.

Data are obtained and presented by agricultural enterprises and farms with agricultural land of 50 ha and over – based on their exhaustive survey (by submission of statistical reports);

Statistical data are collected annually. Generalized data are available on 17th of January.

Data are available:

- by whole country,
- by territorial profile in accordance with Classifier of Administrative-Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova, approved via the Moldova Standard Decision No. 1398-ST dated 03.09.2003; in force since 03.09.2003.¹⁵⁵

Metadata and data link:

Agriculture trade

This area covers statistical data on:

sale of agricultural products (quantity, value, price) by large and medium agricultural producers. Data are obtained and presented by agricultural enterprises and farms with agricultural land of 50 ha and over – based on their exhaustive survey (by submission of statistical reports). Statistical data regarding sales volume and prices are collected 4 times per year quarterly. Generalized data for I-III quarter are available on 35th day after reporting period, generalized data for IV quarter are available on 4th day after reporting year.

procurement of agricultural products (). Data are obtained and presented by enterprises and organizations which procure agricultural products (exhaustive

¹⁵⁵ https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/Metadate/en/Fitotehnia_en.pdf
<https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=263&id=2193>
<https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=3242&idc=350>

survey on procurement of agricultural products). Data are collected annually, generalized data are available on 29th of March.

Rural Development

AIPA ensures the process of collecting data on the field of rural development. Based on the data submitted by subsidies applicants (first level local public authorities and non-agricultural economic entities), AIPA accumulates the main indicators which are subsequently reflected in the reports issued by the institution. Thus, from the investment project and the request for financial support, AIPA collects the following indicators:

The amount of the investment project;

The amount of the eligible investment project;

The amount of grant requested;

The amount of the grant approved by the Evaluation and Selection Committee;

Financial contribution of the applicant;

Name of the investment project and the result of the project impact;

Number of beneficiaries under the project implementation.

It is necessary to be mentioned that the applicant for grants is responsible for the accuracy of the data but also for their quality.

The data collected by AIPA are provided, upon request, to the central and local public authorities. The current regulatory framework does not require AIPA to provide information to the National Bureau of Statistics.

23. The request for this point is made in point 22 for each sub-point.

24. In the following table, please provide an overview of the agricultural sector based on available statistics:

| | 2011 ¹⁵⁶ RGA | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total agricultural area (1000 ha) | 2188,5 | 1882,8 | 1879,1 | 1891,9 | 1896,3 | 1937,5 | 1898,5 |

¹⁵⁶ Data of the General Agricultural Census (except for the territory of the administrative-territorial unit on the left bank of the river Dniester and of the municipality of Bender). Data on the livestock by status on 1 March

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| • Arable land | 1595,0 | 1603,9 | 1608,3 | 1614,6 | 1619,5 | 1622,9 | 1633,6 |
| • Grassland | 324,3 | 9,0 | 3,2 | 4,7 | 7,5 | 51,7 | 8,3 |
| • Permanent crops | 269,2 | 269,9 | 267,6 | 272,6 | 269,3 | 262,9 | 256,6 |
| Agricultural holdings (number) ¹⁵⁷ | | | | | | | |
| • total | 902214 | 4464 | 4552 | 5055 | 5212 | 5370 | 5570 |
| • smaller than 5 ha | 884596 | 185 | 180 | 183 | 170 | 175 | 180 |
| • ≥ 10 ha | 17618 | 4100 | 4372 | 4872 | 5042 | 5195 | 5380 |
| • ≥ 50 ha | 3029 | 2173 | 2449 | 2582 | 2729 | 2847 | 2995 |
| • ≥ 100 ha | 2412 | 1558 | 1762 | 1838 | 1910 | 1973 | 2046 |
| Farmers (number) (1000 pers.) | | | | | | | |
| • total | | 49,4 | 49,8 | 48,7 | 47,5 | 46,0 | |
| • male | | 34,8 | 35,6 | 34,6 | 33,897 | 33,231 | |
| • female | | 14,6 | 14,2 | 14,1 | 13,603 | 12,769 | |
| • younger than 40 years | | | | | | | |
| • older than 65 years | | | | | | | |
| Livestock (heads) ¹⁵⁸ (1000) | 206 | 186 | 182 | 167 | 145 | 124 | 109 |
| • Cattle | 138 | 128 | 123 | 113 | 97 | 81 | 71 |
| • of which dairy cattle | 441 | 453 | 439 | 406 | 397 | 397 | 340 |
| • Pigs | 769 | 869 | 870 | 843 | 770 | 677 | 617 |
| • Sheep & goats | 2718 | 4008 | 4351 | 4524 | 3624 | 4094 | 3263 |
| • Poultry ¹⁵⁹ | | | | | | | |
| Main crops (1000 ha) ¹⁶⁰ | | | | | | | |
| • Cereals | 804,1 | 927,0 | 902,0 | 932,9 | 910,6 | 925,1 | 940,0 |
| • Oilseeds | 341,1 | 420,5 | 447,8 | 435,2 | 434,7 | 440,7 | 448,8 |
| • Protein crops | 92,2 | 63,7 | 68,6 | 69,2 | 77,5 | 61,0 | 53,9 |
| • Root crops | 33,4 | 31,3 | 30,9 | 29,2 | 32,5 | 38,6 | 36,9 |
| • Sugar beets | 23,3 | 20,9 | 23,6 | 19,8 | 15,3 | 13,5 | 15,9 |

¹⁵⁷ From 2016 data from current statistics on all agricultural enterprises and farms with an area of agricultural land of 10 ha and over (except for the territories of the administrative-territorial unit on the left bank of the river Dniester and Bender municipality)

¹⁵⁸ Livestock as of January 1

¹⁵⁹ Data are presented by holdings and farms

¹⁶⁰ Sown area in all categories of producers (except the territories of the administrative-territorial unit on the left bank of the river Dniester and the municipality of Bender)