



## WE SUPPORT SERBIA



### TO REINFORCE REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE

The world's growing population is forcing us to find ways to optimise our food resources and come up with smart solutions for sustainable agriculture and rural development. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) in Serbia is working on developing new strategies and policies for various disciplines to respond to this alarming issue. We are helping the ministry to align its efforts and agencies with EU regulations and strengthen its responses at national and global level.



#### GETTING THE REQUIRED LEGISLATION IN PLACE



The first step in this nationwide reform initiative was to put relevant legislation in place and provide guidelines for the actors involved. We helped the ministry compile a set of policy documents as a platform for future steps, including the following documents, which are the most relevant for the accession negotiations in agriculture and rural development, food safety, and veterinary and phytosanitary policy:

- **Negotiation Positions for Chapter 11 and 12**
- **Action Plans for Chapter 11 and 12**
- **European Green Deal**
- **Impact Assessment of the Future Implementation of the EU Common Agricultural Policy**
- **Analysis Report on External Registers**
- **Functional Analysis of the MAFWM**

In addition to these documents, we helped national experts develop new pieces of legislation, including laws on:

- Law on State Aid in Agriculture
- Law on Seed and Planting Material,
- Law on Veterinary Matters
- Law on Food Safety
- Law on Official Control
- Law on Plant Health to name a few.



Thanks to these new pieces of legislation, policies and strategies, Serbia is not only strengthening its national legal framework but is also laying the ground for improved agricultural practices, further development of rural areas, safer food and better veterinary and phytosanitary applications.



#### NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN

These legislative documents and policies would be simply put away and forgotten without a trained force of people actually implementing what they mean in the field. With that in mind, we have organised a series of capacity-building events and materials to help grow the knowledge and skills of Serbian

workforce, who will be the people who actually make the real difference in these areas. This capacity building included study visits to other countries to learn from their experiences; on-the-job training for practical skills; workshops and conferences to inspire and foster peer-to-peer learning, and activities and materials to raise public awareness.

Over 2,000 people were trained and are now actively turning the legislation and policies into concrete actions and results.

#### • 13 ON THE JOB TRAININGS

More than 107 beneficiary staff attended on-the-job training in various EU member states, including Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Croatia and Slovenia.

#### • ROAD SHOWS AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES

We informed more than 200 local actors about the government's initiatives and funding opportunities to encourage local farmers in their region to apply for funding and to provide information about future support policies.

#### • 4 STUDY VISITS

Over 51 beneficiary staff visited their counterparts in Croatia, Lithuania and Bulgaria to hear and learn from their experiences.

#### • AWARENESS RAISING MATERIALS

We produced and distributed more than 42 000 brochures and leaflets to tell national, regional and local actors in Serbia about the new policies, legislation and opportunities. Promotional movies are also helping reach relevant actors right across the country.



#### PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Our experts prepared a set of recommendations for the ministry to help local farmers make better use of the funds available, such as the IPARD (Pre-Accession Assistance Rural Development). We also prepared reports on how the national framework could be further improved to align its regulations and implementation methods with those of the European Union.