



**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

Regional smart & creative growth



**AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

RURAL GROWTH

Overall Objective

Adherence to environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards in the agricultural sector

Project Description

In the framework of its Agricultural Sector, the Region aims to achieve greater agricultural growth and to improve the farmer's income stabilizing the food supply. The potential of food as an industry as well as a social, cultural and health commodity is enormous.

The competitiveness of the agricultural sector is influenced negatively by the small size of agricultural holdings. Albanian farming is predominantly subsistence-oriented and most of the agricultural products are destined for home consumption. There is a lack of traditions and limited willingness for co-operation between farmers. The number of producer groups and co-operatives is small despite efforts to encourage co-operation of farmers in supply and marketing activities.

The farming is labor intensive, with low levels of technological advancement. A high share of farms has obsolete mechanization, inadequate agricultural buildings and storage facilities. The low capital intensity of production is resulting in low productivity, relatively high production costs, low quality, losses and low profitability.

Project Implementation Modality:

Coordinating main driving force for Regional Agro Food Chain through mobilization of local areas and resources will be central governance, international donors and community support organization, which in cooperation with private sector and local/regional authorities will establish local strategies and implemented small scale initiatives for development of local communities, based on jointly prioritized objectives.

Components:

- 1. REGIONAL INTEGRATED AGRO FOOD 1. REGIONAL INTEGRATED AGRO FOOD CLUSTER AND VALUE CHAIN:** promoting food chain organization, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture; Developing regional value chain which offers a platform for joint actions by Albanian government, regional organizations, farmers and private agribusiness and development partners. Promote public-private partnerships at the Regional as well as local level.
- 2. AGRO TECH Center:** enhancing the viability /competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management; Center for Agricultural and Food Production Input and Sustainable Use of Resources. Main activities will be focused on: Production Inputs / Food Processing Industry / Standards for Food Safety





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3. "AGRAL" AGROBUSINESS AGENCY: acting as agri-business and economic development driver for an entire community. Virtual Food HUB / Food Market / Contract Farming / Access to Finance / Logistic and Distribution

4. REGIONAL FOOD HUB'S Network: promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors. Local and regional food hubs will improve market access for farmers and small producers by operating aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing services for local producers.

5. "AGRAL" AGRO LAB & COMPETENCE CENTER: Center of Excellence aiming to select the qualitative products that has a greater impact in the trade market. The centre will take this activities: fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas; Agricultural Research, Innovation, Education and Growth / Technology Transfer / Land Management / Agriculture and Climate Change / Biodiversity

6. "The FARM" VIRTUAL FOOD HUB: An online outlet for connecting efforts and opportunities for marketplace of food sourced locally, networking, sharing ideas, and collaborating on approaches to link regional food hub activities throughout the Region.

7. CITY FARM: promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. Will try to grow urban farms and farm entrepreneurs to strengthen sustainable, healthy food systems. / Biodiversity

Preliminary Impacts

From the project will benefit local community, rural areas, and farmers.

Required Inputs:

The initiatives can be established in two main forms: Private Public Partnership in the ownership and development aspects and Franchise Transferring Model in the unit managing, expansion and daily bases operation aspects.



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