

**Pilot Project - *Establishing an operational programme: supporting producer organisations to contribute to strengthening farmers' position in the agri-food supply chain and improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of farms***



## Project Objective:

DG AGRI's Pilot Project aims to:

- Evaluate the advantages of producer organisations for farmers in EU agriculture, including their impact on strengthening the position of farmers in the agri-food supply chain, improving the overall sustainability of farms, and safeguarding family farms
- Create a handbook on operational programmes in all official EU languages for stakeholders that examines how producer organisations can boost the overall sustainability of their members, focusing on the livestock and plant protein sectors
- Help policymakers and stakeholders better understand the role of producer organisations and the options available to strengthen the role of producer organisations in the agri-food supply chain

## Approach:

The Pilot Project is approached through two Themes:

- **Theme 1** evaluates how producer organisations strengthen their member producers' position in the agri-food supply chain and assesses the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of farms through membership in producer organisations.
- **Theme 2** identifies and analyses possible interventions implemented by producer organisations in the livestock and plant protein sectors through operational programs and assesses the impact of these interventions on the overall sustainability of their members

## Target Stakeholders:

The Pilot Project aims to target:

- Interested Producer Organisations
- Farmer representatives
- Other operators in the agri-food supply chain
- Academics
- Civil society representatives
- Officials from Member States

## Objectives and main outputs of the Pilot Project

### Theme 1

Does membership in a producer organisation (PO) improve the overall (economic, environmental and social) sustainability of farms and/or strengthen the position of its members in the agri-food supply chain?

### Objective

To deliver an analysis of the advantages that POs offer farmers with a quantitative assessment of the extent to which POs contribute to:

1. Strengthening farmers' position in the agri-food supply, and
2. Improving economic, social and environmental sustainability of farms



### Main Output

Technical Paper on farmer PO membership on sustainability

### Theme 2

How can producer organisations (POs) draw up operational programmes to implement sectoral interventions (improving the overall sustainability of their members)?

### Objective

To investigate how POs from four sectors (pig meat, beef meat, dairy, and plant protein) could establish operational programmes in the next CAP, to reinforce the overall sustainability of their members, with a focus on 17 types of interventions.



### Main Output

Handbook on Operational Programs for POs

## Conference Objectives:

- To present and disseminate validated results of the project, including the handbook and dissemination strategy
- Review new opportunities regarding Operational Programmes (OPs) and their implementation in "other sectors" by National Authorities and to discuss the standpoint of Producer Organisations regarding OPs in these sectors

## Structure – Three Sessions:

**Session 1:** Presentation of EU and National framework for planning and implementation of Operational Programmes in the new sectors:

- Introduction to the EU regulatory framework and national strategic plans: status quo and future perspectives, by **DG AGRI**.
- Presentation of CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs) by **National Authorities**, from Member States who opened the possibility to implement OPs in the other sectors to present their approach, potential good practices and also difficulties

**Session 2:** Presentation of the Pilot Project and PO perspectives by the **Consortium and POs**:

- Advantages that POs offer to farmers in order to:
  - Strengthen farmers' position in the agri-food supply chain; and
  - Improve the economic, social and environmental sustainability of farms.
- How POs can boost the overall sustainability of their members (economic, social and environmental), by establishing sectoral interventions through OPs, mirroring the existing model in the fruit and vegetables sector

**Session 3:** Presentation of handbook on operational programmes for producer organisations by the **Consortium**:

- The Handbook structure and content will be presented, underlining its usefulness and dissemination plan

# Agenda – Final conference

## 8.30-9.00 Registration

### Welcome to the conference

**9.00-9.10:** Welcome to the participants and presentation of objectives and agenda of the conference (**DG AGRI/EP**)

**9.10 – 9.20:** Introduction of interactive tool to participants – (**Consortium**)

### Session 1 – EU and National framework for the planning and implementation of Operational Programmes in the new sectors

**9.20-9.40:** Introduction to the EU regulatory framework (**DG AGRI**)

**9.40-10.25:** Presentation of CAP Strategic Plans by national authorities, from Member States who *have extended OPs to other sectors to present their approach, potential good practices and also difficulties* (**National Authorities**)

**10.25-10.55:** Q&A (including selected questions from online attendees)

## 10.55-11.20 Coffee break

### Session 2 - Presentation of the Pilot Project and PO perspectives

**11.20-11.35:** Presentation of the Pilot Project (**Consortium**)

**11.35-11.50:** Q&A (including selected questions from online attendees)

**11.50-12.15:** Presentation of the advantages that POs offer to farmers (**Consortium**)

**12.15-12.40:** Q&A (including selected questions from online attendees)

## 12.40-14.00 Lunch

**14.00-15.30:** OP development: *How POs can boost the overall economic sustainability of their members by establishing sectoral interventions through OPs* (**Consortium and Producer Organisations**)

- *Expectations of POs (in the new sectors) in terms of the new opportunities offered by OPs.*
- *PO (in the new sectors) interest in specific interventions, by sector*
- *Factors hindering the application of OPs by POs in new sectors (e.g., administrative burden)*
- *Good practices in managing OPs (approach to administrative tasks, including reporting), providing elements in relation to the experience of OPs in the F&V sector.*
- *How POs are organising to exploit the opportunities deriving from the OP*
- *Role of National Authorities in informing and supporting the POs*

**15.30-16.00:** Steering discussion (POs) and Q&A (including selected questions from online attendees)

## 16.00-16.20 Coffee break

### Session 3 - Presentation of the Handbook and final remarks

**16.20-16.40:** Presentation of the Handbook (**Consortium**)

**16.40-17.10:** Q&A (including selected questions from online attendees)

### Concluding remarks

**17.10- 17.30:** Concluding remarks (**EP and DG AGRI**)