

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR EUROPEAN UNION IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA (NCEU-MK)

#### First Session of Working Group 1 - Agriculture and Rural Development (Chapter 11)

##### Second cycle

##### *Arrangement of agricultural markets*

- Market-price measures should be applied only in cases of market disruption. The focus must be on **income support, investment and structural measures** (this can be included in the next Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2021-2027).
- It is essential that the relevant ministry provides an appropriate framework for supporting the **Association of Producers** (horizontally and vertically), which will strengthen their market position production planning, through supply concentration, improving product quality, sales contracts, product promotion, purchase of inputs, etc.
- **Measures** are needed to **stimulate contractual relations and their consistent implementation** (regulated by the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development), especially before the start of the season, which would regulate supply and demand for fresh produce and raw materials for the processing industry.
- Strengthening **inspection supervision** in all segments of the chain, continuous training of inspectors and manufacturers for proper implementation of legal regulations and standards. A useful example from Slovakia is when inspectors provide direct training to producers.
- It is necessary to **harmonise the companies registered for trade** (import-export) that purchase agricultural products, but are not registered as purchasers in the Register of Purchasers of MAFWE, and participate in the purchase unregistered as buyers and affect the violation of market price.
- To adopt bylaws for the application of some of the **measures to encourage the consumption** of fresh fruits and vegetables, and milk and dairy products (Law on Agriculture and Rural Development, Article 45).
- **The Agricultural Market Information System** within the MAFWE must be continuously upgraded, maintained and updated.