

**Annex III Consultation with Partners of the  
Common Agricultural Policy  
2023-2027**

## Consultation Process

Malta is committed to ensuring that the principles of partnership and multi-level governance are adhered to. In this regard, various key stakeholders within Government and non-governmental organisations were involved in the consultation process leading to the formulation of the CAP SP to ensure the participation of social partners and civil society organisations in the identification of needs and priorities as well as the delivery of measures to be supported by this Plan.

In 2019, a high-level, cross-ministerial, CAP Post-2020 Task Force was established to provide inputs for the development of the Plan. This task force included representatives from the Managing Authority, Paying Agency, the Ministry responsible for Environment, the Economic Policy Division and the Ministry responsible for EU Funds. Other experts were also brought on board on an ad hoc basis, whilst the EAFRD Monitoring Committee was also kept abreast as necessary with developments on the formulation of the Plan. The outcomes of these meetings were taken into consideration in the drafting of the CAP SP.

A series of consultative meetings were held between 2019 and 2021 with various stakeholders including farmers' cooperatives and NGOs active within different sub-sectors, Local Action Groups, environmental entities and agricultural regulatory authorities, as outlined in Table 1. Experts discussed their research findings on the development challenges, sectorial investment needs in the different thematic areas, and a technical overview on EU funding and the regulatory framework was provided. This was followed by discussions and other follow-up engagements as necessary with a view to soliciting feedback, insights and opinions of participants on the different themes. A wider consultation exercise was carried out with the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development which is the formally established structure in Malta representing the main employer bodies, trade unions and civil society as well as the Government. The outcome of these meetings was taken into consideration in the finalisation of a public consultation document on the CAP SP.

<b>Relevant public authorities, including authorities at regional and local level, as well as competent authorities for environmental and climate issues; economic and social partners</b>	
Water resources	The Energy and Water Agency (EWA)
Local Action Groups	Majjistral Action Group Foundation
	Grupp Azzjoni Lokali Xlokk
	Gozo Action Group Foundation
Health Ministry	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate
Pillar 1 Implementation	Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA) - Pillar 1 Team
Pillar 2 Implementation	EAFRD Managing Authority - Pillar 2 Team
Agriculture Policy	Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate (MESDC, now MAFA)
	Diversification and Competitiveness Directorate (MAFA)
	Agriculture Directorate (MAFA)
<b>Economic and social partners</b>	
Diary cooperative	Koperattiva Produtturi tal-Halib (KPH)
Pig meat cooperative	Koperattiva ta' min Irabbi il-Majjali (KIM)
Arable land farmers' cooperative	Farmers' Central Cooperative (FCCS)

Arable land farmers representatives	Għaqda Bdiewa Attivi
Sheep and goats' representatives	Għaqda tan-Nagħaġ u Mogħoż
Rabbit sector	Organizzazzjoni Produtturi Laħam tal-Fenek Malti
Poultry sector	Għaqda Produtturi tat-Tigieġ
Beekeeping	Malta Beekeepers Association
Wine	Two local wine producers
Educational Institution	MCAST Institute of Applied Sciences; Centre of Agriculture, Aquatics & Animal Sciences
<b>Relevant bodies representing civil society and where relevant bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, gender equality and non-discrimination.</b>	
Environmental NGO	Friends of the Earth

The public consultation process was launched in November 2021 and was addressed at stakeholders active within the sector and at the general public. More than sixty (60) submissions were received from a broad range of stakeholders including farmers, farmers' representatives, businesses, LAGs, public entities, other stakeholders and the general public. The outcome of the consultative meetings held between 2019 and 2021 and that of the public consultation served as the basis for the finalisation of the CAP SP. Additional public consultation sessions were carried out during the 'Agrifair', held in May 2022, whereby local stakeholders and beneficiaries had an opportunity to discuss the needs associated with animal welfare and organic farming.

### **Summary of Results and Main Outcomes of the Public Consultation and consultation with Partners**

Following the closure of the consultation process, a thorough analysis of the feedback provided was undertaken in the finalisation of the CAP SP. The main challenges identified which may be mitigated through CAP SP support relate to difficulties encountered by young farmers to enter or remain within the sector, the need for further support to invest in energy efficient machinery, limited promotion and traceability of local agricultural produce, loss of knowledge transfer and limited knowledge on the shift to new technologies, low basic income support rates, administrative burden in applying for funding, limited focus on the needs of agricultural sectors which may require more tailored approaches and support mechanisms and limited access to new water in some areas, the continued need for support for the planting of trees and other soil preservation measures, and the need for a better and shorter supply chain in certain sectors, amongst others. To this end, the new CAP SP upholds a new thrust towards balancing Pillar I and Pillar II initiatives, with a focus on generational renewal, fostering competitiveness and knowledge, promoting local products through targeted measures, enhancing conservation and biodiversity and promoting environmental schemes, amongst others.